

WESSEX MUSEUMS TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1171104

Details

Other names	WESSEX MUSEUMS PARTNERSHIP
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2017-01-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	TC Group Waverley House 115-119 Holdenhurst Road Bournemouth BH8 8DY
Phone	07515586734
Email	hello@wessexmuseums.org.uk
Website	www.wessexmuseums.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE: (I) TO SUPPORT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE BUILDING, ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ACCREDITED MUSEUMS IN DORSET AND WILTSHIRE, THEIR ARTEFACTS, ART, SPECIMENS, DOCUMENTS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED MATERIAL, INCLUDING THE COLLECTION, STORAGE, RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OF ALL SUCH MATERIAL; AND (II) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC (IN PARTICULAR BUT WITHOUT LIMITATION TO THOSE LIVING IN DORSET AND WILTSHIRE AND THOSE GEOGRAPHIC, ETHNIC, DISABLED AND OTHER COMMUNITIES WHO DO NOT TRADITIONALLY ATTEND MUSEUMS) IN PARTICULAR (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE HISTORY, HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF DORSET AND WILTSHIRE AND SUPPORT TO THE PROVISION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE FACILITIES, COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, PUBLIC EVENTS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING IN DIGITAL FORM, AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN MUSEUMS IN DORSET AND WILTSHIRE AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES OF DORSET AND WILTSHIRE AND ACROSS THE INTERNET.

Activities: The major museums that tell the story of Wessex (Dorset Museum, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum, Swindon Museums and Wiltshire Museum) working in partnership to support the museum services, activities and facilities of accredited museums in Dorset and Wiltshire.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Dorset
- Poole
- Swindon
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£487,531	£560,013	-	-
2024-03-31	£546,674	£385,404	£183,362	5
2023-03-31	£101,203	£136,795	-	-
2022-03-31	£97,625	£78,496	-	-
2021-03-31	£56,638	£21,772	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ADRIAN XAVIER THOMAS GREEN		2017-01-13
Caledonia Jessica Quigley		2025-10-23
Claire Dixon		2023-09-21
DAVID WILLIAM DAWSON		2017-01-13
Emily Dunbar		2023-09-21
Frances Yeo		2023-06-22
Jaine Fitzpatrick		2026-05-07
Jennifer Dyer		2023-09-21

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1171104

Wessex Museums Trust

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Wessex Museums Trust

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Wessex Museums Trust

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in its constitution and are summarised as follows:

To support for the benefit of the public the building, establishment and maintenance of accredited museums in Dorset and Wiltshire, their artefacts, art, specimens, documents and other associated material, including the collection, storage, research and conservation of all such material; and to advance the education of the public (in particular but without limitation to those living in Dorset and Wiltshire and those geographic, ethnic, disabled and other communities who do not traditionally attend museums) in particular (but not limited to) by providing information about the history, heritage and culture of Dorset and Wiltshire and support to the provision and improvement of the facilities, collections, exhibitions, formal and informal learning opportunities, public events and other educational activities, including in digital form, available to the public in museums in Dorset and Wiltshire and within the communities of Dorset and Wiltshire and across the internet.

The Wessex Museums Trust is a thriving partnership of the five leading museums/museums services across the counties of Dorset and Wiltshire: Poole Museum, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, The Salisbury Museum, Swindon Museums and Wiltshire Museum.

Wessex Museums exists to build the resilience and relevance of the museums in our partnership and others across the region. Our mission is to support museums to connect, inspire and add value to people's lives

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

The achievement and performance of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in our Annual Impact Report for 2024/25 (Appendix A).

Financial review

During the year the charity generated income of £487,531 (2024 - £546,674) from a combination of grants, sponsorship, donations and sale of merchandise. Against this there were costs for the operation of the charity, as well as programme and project delivery costs. The deficit in the year of £72,482 (2024 – surplus of £161,270) included a deficit of £85,577 for restricted funding and a surplus of £13,095 for unrestricted funding, leaving closing reserves at the year end of £56,652 unrestricted funds (2024 - £43,557) and £43,557 of restricted funds (2024 - £139,805).

Wessex Museums Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Policy on reserves

Wessex Museums Trust is particularly aware of the need to cover contingency liabilities such as gaps in funding streams, cash flow and meeting the cost of redundancy payments to staff in the event that the organisation were forced to close. It achieves this by aiming to hold enough free reserves to cover these contingencies.

The level of free reserves has been set by Trustees taking into account the following:

The need to secure ongoing core funding from sale of charitable activities and grants, plus ensuring that if payment is late in arriving, we have funds to cover running costs. Project funding is often short term and at risk of changes to funding programmes. Additionally, in-kind support currently received may not be available in the future. Sufficient funds should be readily available to provide working capital to enable the organisation to bid for additional funding streams, which may be paid in arrears. Working capital, i.e., project funding to continue short-term projects or start new ones, although at that point it could be made a designated fund (an amount decided each year). Funds should be available in order to build capacity and contribute to improved productivity and sustainability of the organisation. Funding should also be available to deal with contingencies which might arise in the day-to-day running of the organisation, including contingency costs (an amount decided each year), sickness cover, maternity/paternity leave, and recruitment costs, as well as the smooth running of the charity.

It is anticipated that 3-6 months would be a required level of reserves, which at the current level of expenditure would equate to £34k - £68k. Current reserves are £110,880 and are being accumulated towards the desired level.

Wessex Museums Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The Wessex Museums Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in January 2017 (No. 1171104). The Trust is governed by its constitution last updated in March 2023.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board consists of five nominated and five appointed trustees. The five nominated trustees are nominated, one each, by the five nominated bodies (Poole BCP Council – Poole Museum, Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust, Swindon Borough Council – Swindon Museums, Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society). Nominated trustees are appointed for a three year term. The three appointed trustees are independent and selected on the basis of the skills, knowledge and experience they can bring to the effective administration of the Trust Board. The three appointed by the trustees serve for a term of three years.

Trustees are elected at a meeting of the Trustee Board, usually the AGM.

A charity trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a fourth consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year.

The charity trustees are responsible for managing the affairs of the CIO. They also oversee the management and delivery of the Wessex Museums Partnership's National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme funded by Arts Council England (ACE). The funding agreement for the NPO is between ACE and Wessex Museums Trust.

The day-to-day operations of the Trust are managed by the CEO and a team of two further central staff members who work across the consortium: a Marketing & Digital Officer and Finance & Admin Assistant. All three posts are funded by a combination of the consortium's NPO grant and partner museum contributions made to the Trust. All staff are employed by Wessex Museums Trust.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board meets 7 times per year. The Board invites an 'observer trustee' from the meeting host when held on site in a partner museum, to ensure engagement with the partner museums' boards. The minutes of the Wessex Museums Trust Board meetings are also distributed to and form a regular agenda item on the boards of each of the partner museums.

Trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or financial benefits.

The Wessex Museums Partnership maintains a risk register in respect of delivery of its NPO programme and the charity's affairs. This includes organisational risks in respect of the Wessex Museums Trust as the governance and management body of the NPO. The risk register is reviewed at every Board meeting.

Wessex Museums Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Registration Number: 1171104

Principal Office: 4 Cedar Park
Cobham Road
Ferndown Industrial Estate
Wimborne
Dorset
BH21 7SF

Independent Examiner: TC Group
10 Bridge Street
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 1EF

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

- S E Wills
- A X T Green
- C Dixon
- D W Dawson
- E Dunbar
- F Yeo
- G Coy (resigned 23 May 2024)
- G Smith (resigned 6 February 2025)
- J Dyer
- M Haque (appointed 5 December 2024)
- M Spender (resigned 23 May 2024)

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 19.12.2025 and signed on its behalf by:



M Haque
Trustee

Wessex Museums Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

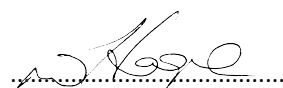
The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial 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 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

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

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 19.12.2025 and signed on its behalf by:



M Haque
Trustee

Wessex Museums Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Wessex Museums Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wessex Museums Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Wessex Museums Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Wessex Museums Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

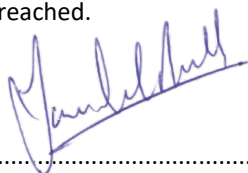
Independent examiner's statement

Since Wessex Museums Trust'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 ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Wessex Museums Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



.....
I M Rodd BSc FCA FCCA
ICAEW

10 Bridge Street
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 1EF

Date: 9 January 2026

Wessex Museums Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	<u>27,500</u>	<u>460,031</u>	<u>487,531</u>	<u>546,674</u>
Total income		<u>27,500</u>	<u>460,031</u>	<u>487,531</u>	<u>546,674</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	<u>(14,405)</u>	<u>(545,608)</u>	<u>(560,013)</u>	<u>(385,404)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(14,405)</u>	<u>(545,608)</u>	<u>(560,013)</u>	<u>(385,404)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>13,095</u>	<u>(85,577)</u>	<u>(72,482)</u>	<u>161,270</u>
Net movement in funds		13,095	(85,577)	(72,482)	161,270
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>43,557</u>	<u>139,805</u>	<u>183,362</u>	<u>22,092</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u><u>56,652</u></u>	<u><u>54,228</u></u>	<u><u>110,880</u></u>	<u><u>183,362</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 15.

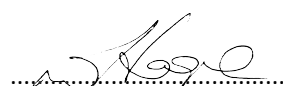
The notes on pages 9 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Wessex Museums Trust

(Registration number: 1171104) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	963	-	963	2,377
Current assets					
Debtors	11	1,500	4,521	6,021	-
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>77,486</u>	<u>49,707</u>	<u>127,193</u>	<u>198,643</u>
		78,986	54,228	133,214	198,643
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(23,297)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(23,297)</u>	<u>(17,658)</u>
Net current assets		<u>55,689</u>	<u>54,228</u>	<u>109,917</u>	<u>180,985</u>
Net assets		<u>56,652</u>	<u>54,228</u>	<u>110,880</u>	<u>183,362</u>
Funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds					
Restricted funds				54,228	139,805
Unrestricted income funds					
Unrestricted funds				<u>56,652</u>	<u>43,557</u>
Total funds	15			<u>110,880</u>	<u>183,362</u>

The financial statements on pages 7 to 19 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 19.12.2025... and signed on their behalf by:



 M Haque
 Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Legal form

Wessex Museum Trust is a registered CIO in the UK. The entity is for the public benefit and is bound by its constitution. The principal address can be found on page 4 of these statements.

2 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Wessex Museums Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

All Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income. The valuation of donated services is not quantified within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Donations and legacies

Donation income is received by way of general grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Investment income

Investment income is included when receivable.

Charitable activities

Income from charitable activities is recognised when the activity that lead to the income takes place.

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability incurred. All expenditure is gross of VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as a part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. Direct costs are allocated to such activities and support costs are apportioned as appropriate to delivering charitable activities.

Government grants

Government grants are accounted for when unconditionally due and reasonable assurance can be gained that it will be received. Where funds are received in advance, for a specified period, these funds are deferred and recognised in the period to which they relate. Where funds have not been received in a specific period, these funds will be accrued in debtors and recognised in the period to which they relate. Not all grants received have conditions and performance indicators attached, where this is the case, the income is included within donations. Performance related grants are included within Charitable Activities income.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Donated Services

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), unpaid volunteer time is not recognised in the financial statements.

Fixed assets

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:-

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	3 year straight line

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Creditors

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 recognised at their settlement amount. Deferred income is included when the charity has not met the criteria for recognition of the income.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are amounts that have been received with a restriction applied on their use by the donor.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies;		
Donations from individuals	6,000	10,000
Gift aid reclaimed	1,500	-
Grants, including capital grants;		
Government grants	435,379	479,737
Grants from other charities	44,652	56,937
	<u>487,531</u>	<u>546,674</u>

Grants were received from the following funders:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Partner Museum contributions	20,000	15,000
NLHF Grant	24,652	39,125
NPO Grant	435,379	435,379
BCP Council funding	-	44,358
AUB - project underspend	-	2,812
	<u>480,031</u>	<u>536,674</u>

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Project costs		165,930	39,824
Charitable activities		275,516	178,953
Staff costs	7	112,348	158,842
Governance costs	5	6,219	7,785
		<u>560,013</u>	<u>385,404</u>

5 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	2,700	720
Other fees paid to examiners	1,171	3,539
Legal fees	<u>2,348</u>	<u>3,526</u>
	<u>6,219</u>	<u>7,785</u>

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

During the year ended 31 March 2025 three trustees were reimbursed for expenses relating to travel and subsistence totalling £318 (2024: £184).

During the year ended 31 March 2025 one trustee received training paid for by the charity totalling £90 (2024: nil).

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	97,744	138,085
Social security costs	5,242	10,575
Pension costs	9,362	10,182
	<u>112,348</u>	<u>158,842</u>

In the prior year, costs totalling £145,815 relating to contributions to other museums within the charity's partnership were included within the charity's wages expenses. These costs do not relate to payroll expenses of the charity and have therefore been reclassified in the current year to remove them from staff costs and include them in charitable activities cost to more accurately reflect the nature of the expenditure. This change does not impact any figures on the charity's comparative statement of financial activities.

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Head count	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

7 Staff costs (continued)

The key management personnel of the charity is considered to be the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits (includes gross pay, employer national insurance and employer pension) of the key management personnel of the charity was £55,805 (2024 - £57,600).

The charity operates both a defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes. The charge to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year is shown above.

Contributions totalling £924 (2024: £2,214) were payable to the schemes at the year end are included in creditors. Further details of the defined benefit pension scheme are given in note 14.

8 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

9 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		62,170	484,504	546,674
Total income		62,170	484,504	546,674
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities		(31,028)	(354,376)	(385,404)
Total expenditure		(31,028)	(354,376)	(385,404)
Net income		31,142	130,128	161,270
Net movement in funds		31,142	130,128	161,270
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		12,415	9,677	22,092
Total funds carried forward	15	43,557	139,805	183,362

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	4,240	4,240
At 31 March 2025	4,240	4,240
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	1,863	1,863
Charge for the year	1,414	1,414
At 31 March 2025	3,277	3,277
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	963	963
At 31 March 2024	2,377	2,377

11 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Accrued income	1,500	-
Other debtors	4,521	-
	6,021	-

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank	127,193	198,643

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	17,601	8,924
Other taxation and social security	1,532	2,059
Other creditors	1,464	3,195
Accruals	2,700	3,480
	<u>23,297</u>	<u>17,658</u>

14 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £9,362 (2024 - £10,182).

Defined benefit pension schemes

In 2023 an employee was subject to a TUPE arrangement from Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) to the Wessex Museum Trust and the employee was part of a defined benefit pension on this transfer. In October 2024, the employee retired on ill health grounds, and this was the last employee in the scheme for Wessex Museum Trust.

An actuarial valuation was independently carried out at the date of cessation on 28th October 2024 to estimate the net liabilities on cessation. The valuation estimated liabilities of between £545,000 and £1,298,000 depending on ongoing or full cessation.

BCP has agreed in principle to take on these pension liabilities as guarantor of the TUPE transfer, in particular the pension liabilities and so no liability is recognised in these financial statements.

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General Funds	30,408	7,500	(1,920)	35,988
<i>Designated</i>				
Partner Museum Contributions	13,149	20,000	(12,485)	20,664
Total unrestricted funds	<u>43,557</u>	<u>27,500</u>	<u>(14,405)</u>	<u>56,652</u>
Restricted funds				
ACE NPO	107,371	435,379	(494,451)	48,299
National Lottery Heritage Fund	22,434	24,652	(45,770)	1,316
Trusts & Foundations - Swire	10,000	-	(5,387)	4,613
	<u>139,805</u>	<u>460,031</u>	<u>(545,608)</u>	<u>54,228</u>
Total funds	<u><u>183,362</u></u>	<u><u>487,531</u></u>	<u><u>(560,013)</u></u>	<u><u>110,880</u></u>

Wessex Museums Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

15 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General Funds	11,664	47,170	(28,426)	30,408
<i>Designated</i>				
Partner Museum Contributions	751	15,000	(2,602)	13,149
Total unrestricted funds	<u>12,415</u>	<u>62,170</u>	<u>(31,028)</u>	<u>43,557</u>
Restricted funds				
ACE NPO	8,221	435,379	(336,229)	107,371
National Lottery Heritage Fund	1,456	39,125	(18,147)	22,434
Trusts & Foundations - Swire	-	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>9,677</u>	<u>484,504</u>	<u>(354,376)</u>	<u>139,805</u>
Total funds	<u><u>22,092</u></u>	<u><u>546,674</u></u>	<u><u>(385,404)</u></u>	<u><u>183,362</u></u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Partner Museum Contributions - contributions from partner museums to support agreed programmes.

ACE NPO - Arts Council England grant funding to support agreed partnership programme, including staff costs, operational costs, exhibitions, training & development, etc.

National Lottery Heritage Fund - grant funding for the Bridging the Gap programme to support inclusive engagement practice across the partnership. Includes staff costs, training & development, public programming and evaluation.

Trusts & Foundations - Swire - Funding towards the Un/Common Folk Exhibition.

16 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year ending 31 March 2025, nor the prior period year ending 31 March 2024.

Wessex Museums Trust

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

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<i>Donations and legacies</i>		
UK Government grants	435,379	479,737
Appeals and donations	6,000	10,000
Grants - other agencies	44,652	56,937
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	1,500	-
	<u>487,531</u>	<u>546,674</u>
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Artistic and cultural spend	(43,413)	(8,677)
Bridging the gap	-	(304)
Connecting with communities	(22,309)	(10,012)
Environmental responsibility	(460)	(110)
Lost and found	(88,076)	(16,736)
Museum opportunities stipend	(72)	(85)
Virtual collections	(4,600)	(3,900)
Collections & Interpretation	(7,000)	-
Staff entertaining (allowable for tax)	(139)	(274)
Depreciation of office equipment	(1,414)	(1,413)
Insurance	(811)	(805)
Postage and stationery	(50)	(131)
Advertising	(6,613)	(3,523)
Licenses and subscriptions	(696)	(470)
Consulting	(1,560)	(8,605)
Staff training	(9,204)	(5,005)
Travel and subsistence	(1,571)	(4,658)
Evaluation	(5,500)	(2,500)
IT setup and annual support costs	(7,049)	(2,958)
Contributions to museums	(238,849)	(145,815)
Sundries	(2,060)	(2,796)
Wages and salaries	(97,744)	(138,085)
Staff NIC (Employers)	(5,242)	(10,575)
Staff pensions (Employers)	(9,362)	(10,182)
Examination of the financial statements	(2,700)	(720)
Other fees paid to examiners	(1,171)	(3,539)
Legal fees	(2,348)	(3,526)
	<u>(560,013)</u>	<u>(385,404)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Accounts

Wessex Museums Trust

Unaudited Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Charity Registered in England and Wales Number: 1171104

Wessex Museums Trust
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For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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Wessex Museums Trust
Reference and Administrative Details
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Trustees

D Dawson
C Dixon
E Dunbar
J Dyer
A Green
G Smith
S Wills
F Yeo

Chief Executive Officer

K Broughton

Registered Charity Number

1171104

Registered Office

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Independent Examiner

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Bankers

Barclays plc
Leicester
LE87 2BB

The Trustees of the Wessex Museums Trust present their report and the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the charity's constitution, 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 (SORP FRS 102).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Wessex Museums Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in January 2017 (No. 1171104). The Trust is governed by its constitution last updated in March 2024.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board consists of five nominated and five appointed trustees. The five nominated trustees are nominated, one each, by the five nominated bodies (Poole BCP Council – Poole Museum, Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust, Swindon Borough Council – Swindon Museums, Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society). Nominated trustees are appointed for a three year term. The five appointed trustees are independent and selected on the basis of the skills, knowledge and experience they can bring to the effective administration of the Trust Board. The five appointed by the trustees serve for a term of three years.

Trustees are elected at a meeting of the Trustee Board, usually the AGM.

A charity trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a fourth consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year.

The charity trustees are responsible for managing the affairs of the CIO. They also oversee the management and delivery of the Wessex Museums Partnership's National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme funded by Arts Council England (ACE). The funding agreement for the NPO is between ACE and, Wessex Museums Trust.

The day-to-day operations of the Trust are managed by the CEO and a team of three (2.2 FTE) further central staff members who work across the consortium: a Fundraising & Development Manager, Marketing & Digital Officer and Finance & Admin Assistant. All three posts are funded by a combination of the consortium's NPO grant and partner museum contributions made to the Trust. All staff are employed by Wessex Museums Trust.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board meets 5 times per year. The Board invites an 'observer trustee' from the meeting host when held on site in a partner museum, to ensure engagement with the partner museums' boards. The minutes of the Wessex Museums Trust Board meetings are also distributed to and form a regular agenda item on the boards of each of the partner museums.

Trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or financial benefits.

The Wessex Museums Partnership maintains a risk register in respect of delivery of its NPO programme and the charity's affairs. This includes organisational risks in respect of the Wessex Museums Trust as the governance and management body of the NPO. The risk register is reviewed at every Board meeting.

Trustees

G Coy	(Resigned 23 May 2024)
D Dawson	
C Dixon	(Appointed 21 September 2023)
E Dunbar	(Appointed 21 September 2023)
J Dyer	(Appointed 21 September 2023)
A Green	
E Selby	(Resigned 21 September 2023)
G Smith	
M Spender	(Resigned 23 May 2024)
S Wills	
F Yeo	(Appointed 22 June 2023)

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in its constitution and are summarised as follows:

- To support for the benefit of the public the building, establishment and maintenance of accredited museums in Dorset and Wiltshire, their artefacts, art, specimens, documents and other associated material, including the collection, storage, research and conservation of all such material; and
- To advance the education of the public (in particular but without limitation to those living in Dorset and Wiltshire and those geographic, ethnic, disabled and other communities who do not traditionally attend museums) in particular (but not limited to) by providing information about the history, heritage and culture of Dorset and Wiltshire and support to the provision and improvement of the facilities, collections, exhibitions, formal and informal learning opportunities, public events and other educational activities, including in digital form, available to the public in museums in Dorset and Wiltshire and within the communities of Dorset and Wiltshire and across the internet.

The Wessex Museums Trust is a thriving partnership of the five leading museums/museums services across the counties of Dorset and Wiltshire: Poole Museum, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, The Salisbury Museum, Swindon Museums and Wiltshire Museum.

Wessex Museums exists to build the resilience and relevance of the museums in our partnership and others across the region. Our mission is to support museums to connect, inspire and add value to people's lives.

Achievements and performance

The achievement and performance of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in our Annual Impact Report for 2023/24 (Appendix A).

Financial review

During the year the charity generated income of £546,674 (2023 - £101,203) from a combination of grants, sponsorship and donations. Against this there were costs for the operation of the charity, as well as programme and project delivery costs. The surplus in the year of £161,270 (2023 – deficit £38,375) included a surplus of £130,128 for restricted funding and a surplus of £31,142 for unrestricted funding, leaving closing reserves at the year end of £43,557 unrestricted funds (2023 - £12,415) and £139,805 of restricted funds (2023 - £9,677).

Reserves policy

Wessex Museums Trust are particularly aware of the need to cover contingency liabilities such as gaps in funding streams, cash flow and meeting the cost of redundancy payments to staff in the event that the organisation were forced to close. It achieves this by aiming to hold enough free reserves to cover these contingencies.

The level of free reserves has been set by Trustees taking into account the following:

- The need to secure ongoing core funding from sale of charitable activities and grants. Plus ensuring that if payment is late in arriving, we have funds to cover running costs.
- Project funding is often short term and at risk of changes to funding programmes. Additionally, in-kind support currently received may not be available in the future.
- Sufficient funds should be readily available to provide working capital to enable the organisation to bid for additional funding streams which may be paid in arrears.
- Working capital i.e., project funding to continue short term projects or start new ones, although at that point it could be made a designated fund. (An amount decided each year)
- Funds should be available in order to build capacity and contribute to improved productivity and sustainability of the organisation.
- The smooth running of the charity.
- Funding should also be available to deal with contingencies which might arise in the day to day running of the organisation including: Contingency costs (An amount decided each year), sickness cover, maternity/paternity leave, recruitment costs.

It is anticipated that 3-6 months would be a required level of reserves, which at the current level of expenditure would equate to £96k - £192k. Current reserves are £183,362 and are being accumulated towards the desired level.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with 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).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 income and expenditure of the charity for that period. 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 judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. 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.

Approved by the board on 03/10/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

G Smith
Chair

Wessex Museums Trust

Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Wessex Museums Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wessex Museums Trust ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and 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 charity'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 material 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: 16/10/2024

Wessex Museums Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrest- ricted Funds £	Restrict- ed Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrest- ricted Funds £	Restrict- ed Funds £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and grants	2	62,170	484,504	546,674	22,739	78,464	101,203
Total income		62,170	484,504	546,674	22,739	78,464	101,203
Expenditure on:							
Charitable expenditure	3	31,028	354,376	385,404	17,122	122,456	139,578
Total expenditure		31,028	354,376	385,404	17,122	122,456	139,578
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		31,142	130,128	161,270	5,617	(43,992)	(38,375)
Transfer between funds	8	-	-	-	(100)	100	-
Net movement in funds		31,142	130,128	161,270	5,517	(43,892)	(38,375)
Reconciliation of funds							
Fund balances at 01 April 2023		12,415	9,677	22,092	6,898	53,569	60,467
Fund balances at 31 March 2024	8	43,557	139,805	183,362	12,415	9,677	22,092

Wessex Museums Trust
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	6	2,377	3,790
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		198,643	24,875
		<u>198,643</u>	<u>24,875</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(17,658)	(6,573)
Net current assets		<u>180,985</u>	<u>18,302</u>
Net assets excluding pension liabilities		<u>183,362</u>	<u>22,092</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liabilities)	10	-	-
Total net liabilities including pension liabilities		<u>183,362</u>	<u>22,092</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	8	30,408	11,664
Designated funds	8	13,149	751
		<u>43,557</u>	<u>12,415</u>
Restricted funds	8	<u>139,805</u>	<u>9,677</u>
Net assets		<u>183,362</u>	<u>22,092</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees for issue on 03/10/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

G Smith
Chair

Wessex Museums Trust
Statement of cashflows
As at 31 March 2024

		2024 £	2023 £
	Notes		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net expenditure for the year		161,270	(38,375)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items:			
Depreciation and amortisation	6	1,413	450
		162,683	(37,925)
Working capital adjustments			
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	7	11,085	6,573
		173,768	(31,352)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(4,240)
		-	(4,240)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		173,768	(35,592)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		24,875	60,467
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		198,643	24,875
Cash & Cash equivalents reconciliation:			
Cash at bank		198,643	24,875
Total cash & cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		198,643	24,875

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 General information and basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The charity previously prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis. For the year ended 31 March 2024 the limit for receipts and payments accounts was breached and therefore these accounts are prepared on the accruals basis. The accounts (including comparatives) have been prepared as if the accruals basis had always been applied.

1.2 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income. The valuation of donated services is not quantified within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Donation income is received by way of general grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Income from charitable activities is recognised when the activity that lead to the income takes place.

Investment income is included when receivable.

1.3 Government grants

Government grants are accounted for when unconditionally due and reasonable assurance can be gained that it will be received. Where funds are received in advance, for a specified period, these funds are deferred and recognised in the period to which they relate. Where funds have not been received in a specified period, these funds will be accrued in debtors and recognised in the period to which they relate. Not all grants received have conditions and performance indicators attached, where this is the case, the income is included within donations. Performance related grants are included within Charitable Activities income.

1.4 Donated services

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), unpaid volunteer time is not recognised in the financial statements.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. All expenditure is gross of VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. Direct costs are allocated to such activities and support costs are apportioned as appropriate to delivering charitable activities.

1.6 Fixed assets

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:-

Computer equipment	- 33.33% straight line
--------------------	------------------------

Fixed assets are valued at cost less depreciation.

1.7 Debtors

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Accrued income comprises amounts due from funders and is recognised when the charity is entitled to the grant, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

1.9 Creditors

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 recognised at their settlement amount.

Deferred income is included when the charity has not met the criteria for recognition of the income.

1.10 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is therefore not liable to corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applied to the charitable objectives of the charity.

1.11 Pension contributions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. Contributions are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

In addition, the company holds a Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) managed by Dorset County Council, which is closed to new entrants.

This is a funded defined benefit schemes where the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate Trustee administered funds. Typically defined benefit plans define an amount of pension benefit that an employee will receive on retirement, usually dependent on one of more factors such as age, years of service and compensation.

The liability recognised in the Balance Sheet in respect of defined benefit pension plan is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date minus the fair value of the plan assets. The defined benefit obligation is measured using the projected unit credit method. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is determined by discounting the estimated future payments by reference to market yields at the reporting date on high-quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms to maturity approximating to the terms of the related pension liability.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

The net liability in the scheme at the date of the transfer of the employees from the council is shown as a separate item in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are amounts that have been received with a restriction applied on their use by the donor.

1.13 VAT

The charity is not VAT registered and therefore all costs are inclusive of VAT.

1.14 Financial instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument

1.16 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 10, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2 Donations and general grants

	Unre- stricted funds £	Restrict- ed funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted funds £	Restrict- ed funds £	Total 2023 £
Donations	-	10,000	10,000	7,739	1,273	9,012
Partner Museum contributions	15,000	-	15,000	15,000	-	15,000
NLHF Grant	-	39,125	39,125	-	33,240	33,240
Art Fund	-	-	-	-	2,495	2,495
NPO Grant*	-	435,379	435,379	-	41,456	41,456
BCP Council funding*	44,358	-	44,358	-	-	-
AUB - project underspend	2,812	-	2,812	-	-	-
	62,170	484,504	546,674	22,739	78,464	101,203

*Denotes government grants

Income from government grants comprises grants made by local authorities or other government bodies to fund the principal activities and objectives of the charity via core funding and funding for specific projects. See above for more information, including the amount and source of these grants. There are no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies attached to these amounts.

Wessex Museums Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3 Charitable expenditure

	Unre- stricted funds £	Restrict- ed funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted funds £	Restrict- ed funds £	Total 2023 £
Salary and contractor costs	18,421	286,236	304,657	-	48,463	48,463
NPO Fundraising maternity cover	-	-	-	-	1,556	1,556
NPO Conference	-	-	-	-	1,215	1,215
NPO Partnership Exhibition						
Development	-	-	-	-	4,559	4,559
Fundraising regulator	-	-	-	-	50	50
Training	-	5,005	5,005	-	1,505	1,505
Workplacements	-	-	-	-	759	759
Evaluation	-	2,500	2,500	-	6,531	6,531
Legal support	3,526	-	3,526	6,469	-	6,469
Insurance	805	-	805	723	-	723
HR fees	-	-	-	1,722	-	1,722
IT setup and annual support costs	2,310	648	2,958	2,487	891	3,378
Subscription	-	470	470	666	-	666
Stripe refunds	-	-	-	216	-	216
Xero fees	-	-	-	39	-	39
Operational costs	20	2,907	2,927	45	-	45
Depreciation	1,413	-	1,413	450	-	450
Advertising	-	3,523	3,523	-	-	-
Travel and subsistence	-	4,658	4,658	-	-	-
Consulting	-	8,605	8,605	-	-	-
Entertainment - business	274	-	274	-	-	-
Project costs:						
Hardy exhibition	-	-	-	-	56,528	56,528
Learning showcase	-	-	-	-	399	399
Bridging the gap	-	304	304	-	-	-
Lost and Found	-	16,736	16,736	-	-	-
Artistic and cultural spend	-	8,677	8,677	-	-	-
Virtual collections	-	3,900	3,900	-	-	-
Connecting with communities	-	10,012	10,012	-	-	-
Museum opportunities stipend	-	85	85	-	-	-
Environmental responsibility	-	110	110	-	-	-
Governance costs:						
Accountancy fees	3,539	-	3,539	3,621	-	3,621
Independent examiner fees	720	-	720	684	-	684
	<u>31,028</u>	<u>354,376</u>	<u>385,404</u>	<u>17,122</u>	<u>122,456</u>	<u>139,578</u>

4 Net incoming resources before transfers

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	1,413	450
Independent examiners remuneration - accountancy fees	3,539	3,621
Independent examiners remuneration - examination fees	720	684
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

5 Employees and employment costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	294,475	47,939
Pension contributions	10,182	524
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>304,657</u>	<u>48,463</u>

No individual employee was paid over £60,000 (2023: none).

One Trustee was reimbursed for general expenses during the year of £184 (2023: none).

The key management personnel of the charity is considered to be the Chief Executive Officer. The total costs to the charity of employee benefits (includes gross pay, employer national insurance and employer pension) for the key management personnel was £57,600 (2023: nil).

The average monthly head count was 5 (2023: 2).

The charity operates both defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes. The charge to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year is shown above.

Contributions totalling £2,214 (2023: £175) were payable to the schemes at the end of the year and are included in creditors. Further details of the defined benefit pension scheme are given in note 10.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
As at 01 April 2023	4,240	4,240
As at 31 March 2024	4,240	4,240
Depreciation		
As at 01 April 2023	450	450
Charge for year	1,413	1,413
As at 31 March 2024	1,863	1,863
Net book value		
As at 31 March 2024	2,377	2,377
As at 31 March 2023	3,790	3,790

7 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	8,924	4,733
Accruals	3,480	1,665
Tax and social security	2,059	-
Pension creditor	2,214	175
Other creditors	981	-
	17,658	6,573

8 Statement of funds

	Balance 01.04.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31.03.24 £
Restricted funds					
ACE NPO	8,221	435,379	(336,229)	-	107,371
National Lottery Heritage Fund	1,456	39,125	(18,147)	-	22,434
Trusts & Foundations - Swire	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Total restricted funds	9,677	484,504	(354,376)	-	139,805
Unrestricted funds					
General	11,664	47,170	(28,426)	-	30,408
Designated funds					
Partner Museum Contributions	751	15,000	(2,602)	-	13,149
Total unrestricted funds	12,415	62,170	(31,028)	-	43,557
Total funds	22,092	546,674	(385,404)	-	183,362

8 Statement of funds- prior year

	Balance 01.04.2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31.03.2023 £
Restricted funds					
Art Fund/Weston Loans	22,269	2,495	(24,864)	100	-
ACE NPO	31,300	41,456	(64,535)	-	8,221
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	33,240	(31,784)	-	1,456
Thomas Hardy Society	-	1,273	(1,273)	-	-
Total restricted funds	53,569	78,464	(122,456)	100	9,677
Unrestricted funds					
General	6,898	7,739	(2,873)	(100)	11,664
Designated funds					
Partner Museum Contributions	-	15,000	(14,249)	-	751
Total unrestricted funds	6,898	22,739	(17,122)	(100)	12,415
Total funds	60,467	101,203	(139,578)	-	22,092

8 Statement of funds

Purpose of material funds:

- Designated funds – contributions from partner museums to support agreed programmes.
- NPO – Arts Council England grant funding to support agreed partnership programme, including staff costs, operational costs, exhibitions, training & development, etc.
- Art Fund/Weston Loans – grant funding to support external loans of works of art and associated costs to conserve, frame and mount the work for inclusion in the Hardy's Wessex exhibition.
- NLHF – grant funding for the Bridging the Gap programme to support inclusive engagement practice across the partnership. Includes staff costs, training & development, public programming and evaluation.
- Thomas Hardy Society – grant for programme of talks linked to the Hardy's Wessex exhibition.

9 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unre- stricted funds £	Restrict- ed funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted funds £	Restrict- ed funds £	Total 2023 £
Tangible assets	2,377	-	2,377	3,790	-	3,790
Current assets	58,838	139,805	198,643	15,198	9,677	24,875
Current liabilities	(17,658)	-	(17,658)	(6,573)	-	(6,573)
	<u>43,557</u>	<u>139,805</u>	<u>183,362</u>	<u>12,415</u>	<u>9,677</u>	<u>22,092</u>

10 Defined benefit pension scheme

On the 1 April 2023 two employees transferred to the charity from Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council, under TUPE rules.

They are therefore part of a closed defined benefit pension scheme. The scheme is fully funded at a rate of 19.4%.

The value of assets and liabilities at the year end are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Ongoing fund position		
Assets	225	-
Liabilities	(225)	-
Total		

The assumptions adopted in calculating the liability are as follows:

	2024	2023
	% p.a.	% p.a.
Calculation assumptions		
Discount rate	5.0	-
Rate of pay increases	3.6	-
Rate of pension increased (CPI)	2.6	-

**Wessex
Museums**

Impact Report

2023-24

Introduction to Wessex Museums

Wessex Museums is a thriving partnership of museums across Dorset and Wiltshire – Dorset Museum, Lydiard House Museum, STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum, Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, and Wiltshire Museum.

We believe that by working together we can...

- Strengthen the cultural offer of our museums and our region.
- Push out of our comfort zones to do things in new ways.
- Share important stories from across our region from a range of perspectives.
- Share and learn from successes and mistakes, build relationships, and enhance our reputation with partners and stakeholders.
- Increase our organisational resilience.

Our charity, the Wessex Museums Trust (WMT), exists to build the resilience and relevance of the museums in our partnership and across the region.

Our mission is...

To support museums to connect, inspire and add value
to people's lives.

Our vision is...

Museums thriving through collaboration.

A Message from our Chair, Gill Donnell

It is a real privilege to be the Chair of this partnership and as such, I continue to be hugely proud of the achievements of our staff within the partnership, as well as the many volunteers working in the partner museums and for the Trust.

Significantly, this year, we have achieved our very, long-term aim of becoming a fully independent charity, which together with continued funding from the Arts Council, creates great opportunities to build on the success of previous years. Nevertheless, there have been significant complications in achieving the ambitious aims we set out, not least due to partner museums' closures, albeit for exciting redevelopment projects.

I continue to believe, however, that our strength is in this partnership and **together** we can plot a course through these challenges, continuing to deliver our vision for the people of Wessex.



Reflections from our CEO, Kristina Broughton

2023/24 marked the first year of Wessex Museums Trust (WMT) operating as a fully-fledged organisation after achieving our long-term ambition to externalise from BCP Council. This coincided with the start of our new National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme, helping to stabilise the charity during a period of continued financial uncertainty and change for both our partners and the sector as a whole.

With three of our partner museums closed, or partially closed during the year for capital redevelopments, it has been a challenge to hold space for the work of the partnership. However, despite the challenges around resource capacity, recruitment and museum closures, Wessex Museums continued to deliver its mission to *support museums to connect, inspire and add value to peoples' lives*.

Particular highlights of 2023/24 were three temporary exhibitions and their associated programming with underserved audiences – *Lest We Forget* at Wiltshire Museum, *Fashioning our World* at The Salisbury Museum, and *Elisabeth Frink: A View from Within* at Dorset Museum & Art Gallery – all supported by WMT. All three exhibitions were successful for their respective museums for different reasons, whether to engage new, more diverse audiences, co-curate with communities, or create home grown blockbusters and grow visitor numbers – they demonstrate the breadth and depth of the partner museums' offer, which WMT aims to enhance through the additional support and economies of scale we can provide by working in partnership.

The economic, physical and political disruptions experienced across the partnership have necessitated flexibility in terms of what exactly the support provided by WMT to our partner museums looked like this year. This 'flex' has also allowed the partnership to recheck progress and reset ambitions in important areas of our work together such as equity, diversity and inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

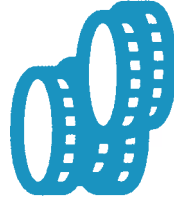
I am proud of the way the partners have come together to navigate through adversity and in the process find compromise and new solutions – not to mention keeping the show on the road during major redevelopments! This, coupled with the unwavering support from Arts Council England for our NPO programme, and other funders who continue to see the value in our work as a partnership, has underlined the value of the Wessex Museums partnership in the most challenging of times.



2023/24 Key Achievements



Carbon Literacy Training
delivered to the first partnership cohort. All participants achieved certification.



Wessex Museums Trust secures more than £70k for the Folk exhibition through fundraising.



Wessex Museums supports 3x exhibitions and associated community programmes across the partnership – *Elizabeth Frink: A View from Within, Lest We Forget and Fashioning our World.*



57 new objects from the partner museums' collections selected by staff, volunteers and local communities as part of *Wessex in 100*



Two new trustees from under-represented groups joined the WMT Board.



Wessex Virtual Collection launched on the Wessex Museums website.

Our Funding & Income

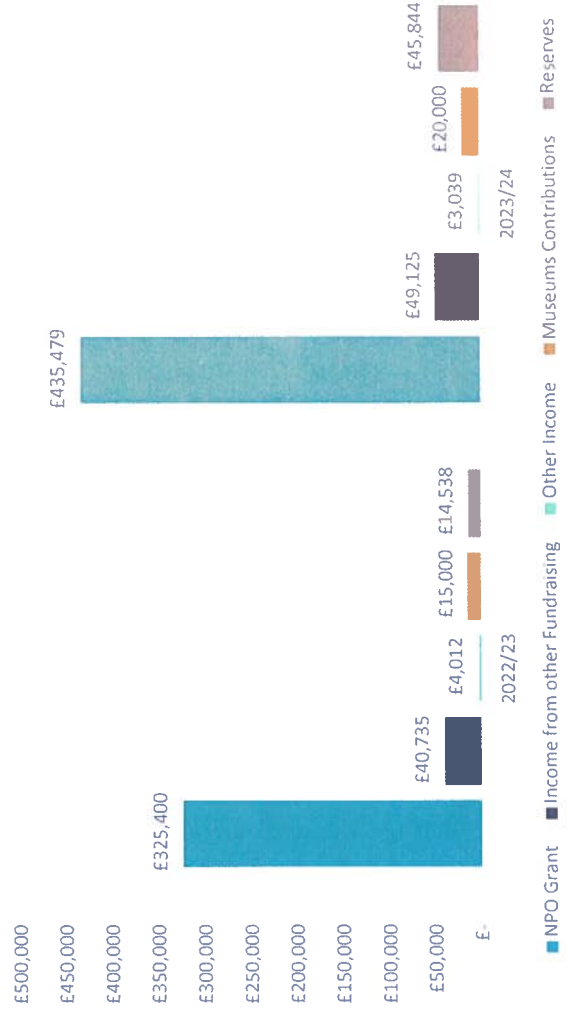
2023/24 marked the first year of Wessex Museums Trust managing all the partnership’s funding, including the funding agreement with Arts Council England (ACE) for the National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) grant for 2023-26.

In 2023/24, Wessex Museums Trust’s **turnover** (excluding match funding and in-kind support) was:

£553,487

This represents a **28% increase from the previous financial year**, mainly due to the funding uplift secured for the new NPO period, successful fundraising related to the planned folk exhibition, and the transfer of residual partnership funding from BCP Council which has resulted in WMT’s reserves more than trebling from the previous year.

Wessex Museums Trust Funding Profile



Summary of Fundraising & Income Generation for the Year

During 2023/24, Wessex Museums achieved more than **£49k in fundraising**, in addition to the NPO, including a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).

NPO funding continues to be the partnership's main source of funding and accounted for 90% of our total funding profile in 2023/24 and represents critical core funding for Wessex Museums Trust to continue to operate effectively as an independent charity.

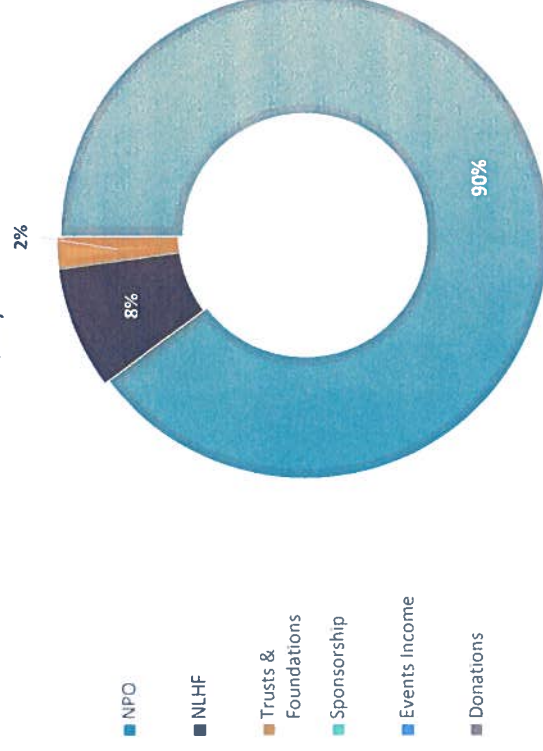
Sponsorship, events income and donations were all down on the previous year, as WMT were not directly delivering programmes in 2023/24.

Diversifying the charity's income is an on-going priority.

Sources of income in 2023/24 have included:

- **£39k from NLHF** (total grant award £62k) for the Folk exhibition
- **£10k from trusts and foundations** for the Folk exhibition.

WESSEX MUSEUMS FUNDRAISING & INCOME GENERATION
2023/24

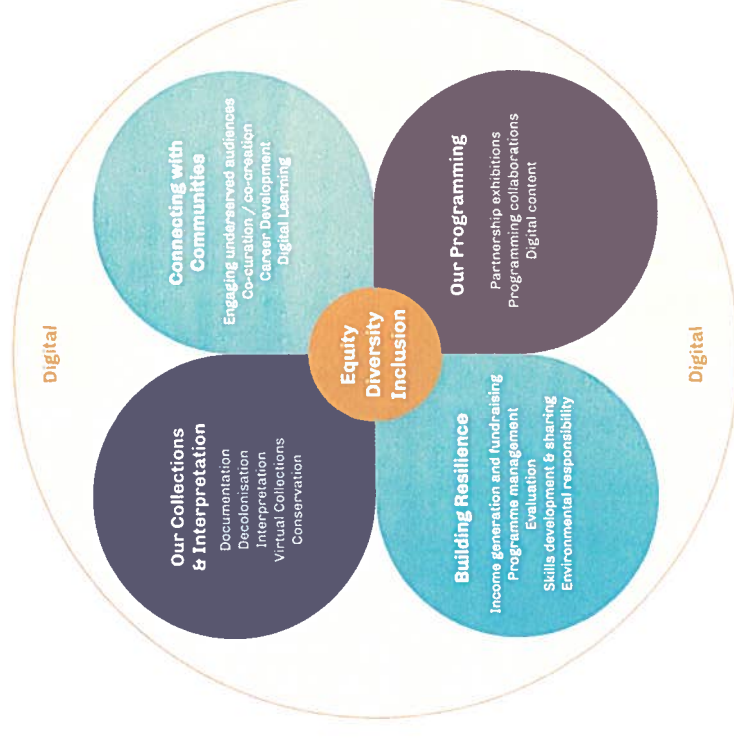


Delivering our Strategic Plan

Wessex Museums started the year with a new three-year strategic plan and NPO grant funded programme. The four strategic aims for the work we do together through the partnership remain unchanged and continue to form the basis for our collaborative programme.

Our focus was on:

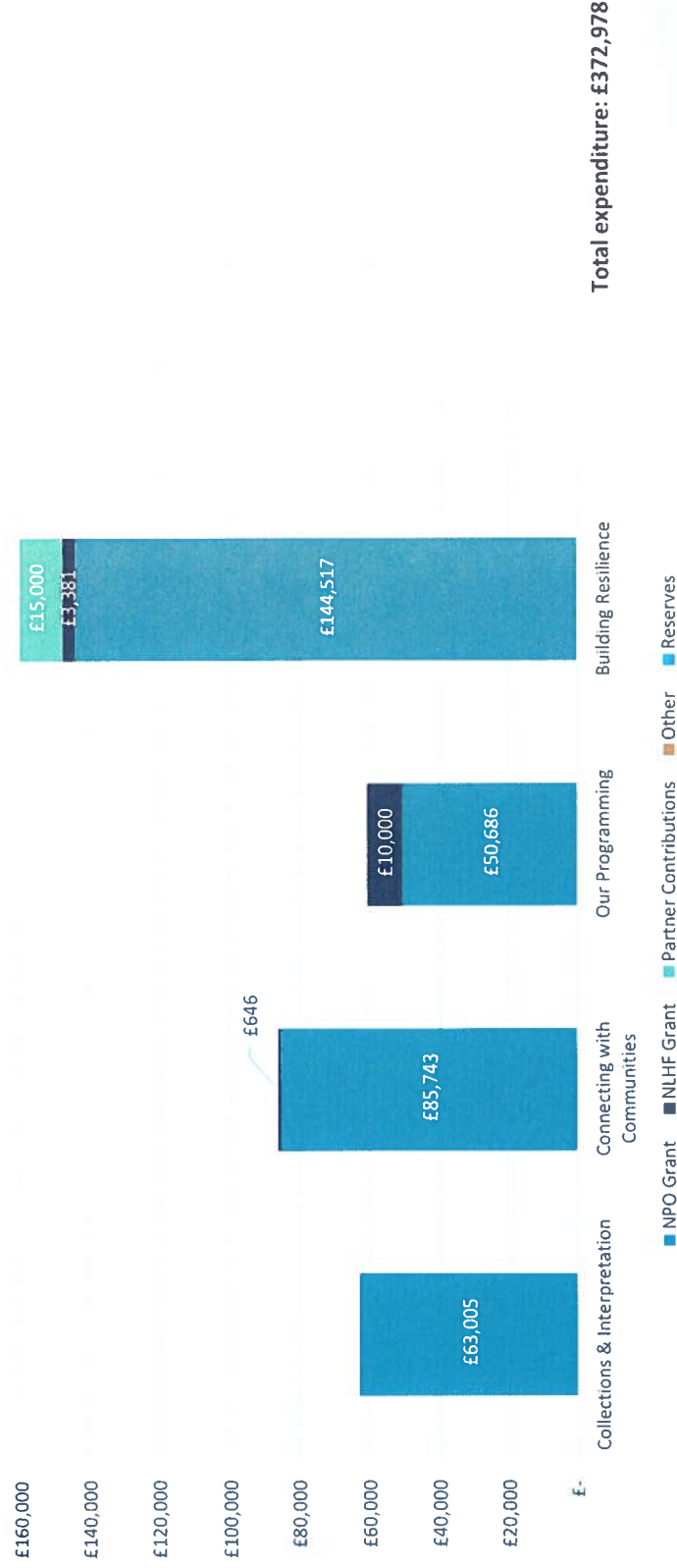
- **Engaging underserved audiences** in our local areas.
- **Improving access** to our world-class collections, including **digital**.
- Delivering excellence through our **partnership programming**.
- **Fundraising** to support our partnership ambitions.
- Continuing to embed **equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)** in our organisations.
- Taking meaningful action on **environmental sustainability**.
- **Developing the workforce** and **skill sharing** across our partnership.
- Developing an **evidence base** for the impact of our work through informed **evaluation**.



Investment Against our Strategic Priorities

Wessex Museums Trust invests the funding we receive against the four priorities in our strategic plan. The graph below illustrates expenditure against each of the priorities during 2023/24.

Wessex Museums Trust NPO Expenditure Profile



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Wessex Museums' EDI framework guides the practical actions we are taking to dismantle prejudice and discrimination in our organisations.

Key achievements against our Wessex Museums EDI action plan for the year:

- **Diversity Data** compiled for trustees, staff and volunteers across the partnership.
- **2x new Trustees** under the age of 35 appointed to the WMT Board.
- **Guidance** for hosting **work placements for underserved audiences** created.
- Partnership formed with Multaka Oxford to **support inclusive engagement practice** with underserved audiences.
- 60 objects selected for Wessex in 100 through **co-curation with underserved audiences**.
- **Decolonisation of collections action plans** in place in each partner museum.
- **Menopause policy framework** adopted by the partnership.



Connecting with Communities

Wessex Museums continues to prioritise the investment in inclusive engagement practice with underserved audiences, through the partner museums. Despite challenges with vacancies in the LEX Co-ordinator and Community Curator roles during 2023/24, the partnership continued to engage new and more diverse audiences through a range of projects and programmes. We also formed a new partnership with Multaka Oxford to continue to provide strategic mentoring for inclusive engagement following the agreed departure of our Wessex Engagement Lead.



Our partner museums engaged and collaborated with more than **4500** people from our underserved communities.



Wessex Museums invested **£86,389** in our Connecting with Communities workstream.

Connecting with Communities Highlights from 2023/24

Multaka Oxford

During the development of our NPO programme for 2023-26, Wessex Museums formed a new partnership with Oxford University Museums who were interested in extending their work into the northern parts of the Wessex region. Multaka Oxford is based at the Pitt Rivers Museum and the History of Science Museum, part of Oxford University Museums. Multaka Oxford's key aim is to bring people and communities together, to strengthen understanding through inter-cultural dialogue through the mutual sharing of art, stories, culture and science in the museums. To date, through our partnership with Multaka Oxford, Wessex Museums has benefited from training, action learning and mentoring support specifically related to inclusive engagement practice and decolonisation. Colleagues from Multaka Oxford began providing 1-to-1 mentoring for the new Community Curator in Swindon in January 2024 and this relationship will continue through the life of the NPO funding period.

Lest We Forget

Lest We Forget was a project led by Wiltshire Museum to tell the story of the Black contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire culminating in a co-produced exhibition that will tour to two more of the partner museums. The project supported Wessex Museums' Connecting with Communities theme – *Hidden Voices* – and aimed to work collaboratively with new, underserved, local communities to give them agency over how their stories are told by the museums. The Wessex Museums' funded Community Curator at Wiltshire Museum was the project lead and working closely with Wiltshire Race Equality Council, they were able to build relationships with Black and military communities who were new to the museum, to co-produce the exhibition at Wiltshire Museum between November 2023 and March 2024. The exhibition moved onto Lydiard House Museum in Swindon in April 2024.

Fashioning Our World

A project led by The Salisbury Museum, *Fashioning Our World*, showed young people how sustainable fashion choices can be inspiring and addressed Wessex Museums' strategic aims to use our collections to better tell the stories of the Wessex region, and to engage underserved audiences through relevant and co-curated events and activities. Support from Wessex Museums was specifically focused on extending the model of best practice for engaging young people in co-production using fashion collections developed by The Salisbury Museum, to Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, who hosted a vibrant programme of workshops and after-school clubs for young people to learn about traditional methods of repairing, reusing, and redesigning clothing, rather than discarding it, thus promoting a resourceful approach to creating sustainable fashion for the future. The work by the young people culminated in a temporary exhibition at The Salisbury Museum and a small co-produced display at Dorset Museum & Art Gallery.

Exploring Engineering at STEAM

Wessex Museums supported a project at STEAM that aimed to inspire more girls to understand the value of engineering and to welcome new, more diverse audiences to the Museum. STEAM worked with Girlguiding Southwest England (GGSWE) to develop the project over 8 months focused on engaging girls, from areas of Swindon that experienced multiple indices of deprivation, in a day of exciting engineering-based activities at the museum. The girls gained a specially designed STEAM badge for participating in the event. The event was popular with 82 girls attending and resulted in requests from other Girlguiding units wishing to attend a similar day. As a result, STEAM is running further events this year on Saturday 16th March 2024 and Saturday 7th September 2024. The model of working developed through the project and in partnership with GGSWE is also being explored by the other partner museums as an opportunity to offer similar events in their venues.

Work Placements for Young People from Underserved Groups

In the period of our current strategic plan 2023-26, Wessex Museums has committed to creating work placement opportunities for young people from underserved groups, to be available every year in each of our museums. Three placements were hosted by partner museums and WMT during 2023/24, involving young people who identified as disabled, neurodiverse and LGBTQI+. Each

placement has been shaped with the young person working within each organisation, to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes. Work undertaken by the young people included game design, 3D modelling, social media campaigns and object photography.

Digital Learning Platform

Building on the review of the learning offer across the partnership last year, Wessex Museums embarked on building a centralised online platform for digital learning resources. The digital learning platform will provide teachers with a searchable database of learning resources across a range of subjects and Key Stages provided by our partner museums. 2023/24 has been a year of research and development for the digital learning platform. Wessex Museums' Marketing & Digital Lead has been researching similar platforms and working with learning colleagues in the museums and our web developers to develop the platform and map resources. A staging site was created, and resources will be added to the platform next year before testing it with teachers.

Building Resilience

Diversifying our Board of Trustees

Under our new governance arrangements, Wessex Museums Trust (WMT) was able to appoint two new independent trustees to the Board. With an eye on diversifying our board, we aimed to recruit trustees from groups underrepresented on the Board, specifically people,

- between the ages of 18-35 years old
- from low-income backgrounds
- from ethnic minority groups
- who are LGBTQI+

Following a targeted and successful campaign, we appointed two new independent trustees, representative of one or more of these groups, to the Board in September 2023.

Skills Sharing & Training

Wessex Museums continues to support professional development for the workforce in our partner museums. During 2023/24 we funded access to training and development opportunities in areas such as community engagement, evaluation, co-production, digital skills and carbon literacy.

We also started work to develop a streamlined and flexible evaluation framework for partnership exhibitions. The new framework will help the partnership to evaluate our exhibitions for impact across several areas, to help inform our future programming and ensure that partnership exhibitions continue to add value to the partner museums. The framework can also be used flexibly by the partner museums to evaluate their own exhibitions.

Digital

Wessex Museums continued to deliver our digital strategy, which in 2023/24 was primarily focused on reframing our online interfaces and content to our target audiences.

Building on the 2022 website review, Wessex Museums continued to develop and improve the website's navigation and new areas that are more relevant to the target audiences, with a sector focus. The website now hosts project pages showcasing partnership projects, and improved content on our 'About Us' and 'Our Work' sections. During 2023/24, a focused social media strategy was developed primarily using LinkedIn to connect with our sector audience. This approach has resulted in increased followers from 135 to 626.

Wessex Museums hosted a university placement student to explore the possibilities for expanding our digital content creation. The student's work included developing content relating to the collections and filming new content with Dorset Museum & Art Gallery. This project served as a proof of concept, demonstrating the potential for further development of digital content-based projects in the future.

Environmental Responsibility

During 2023/24, Wessex Museum refocused on the aim of our partnership Environmental Responsibility Framework to respond to the climate emergency by reducing our environmental impact. Priorities this year have been to support better understanding of carbon emissions and help partner organisations to reduce their carbon emissions through practical action.

WMT agreed a new Environmental Responsibility (ER) action plan in January 2024 and has two trustees participating in Julie's Bicycle Board Environmental Champions programme. New members of the Wessex Museums team achieved carbon literacy certification. The Environmental Responsibility Working Group was restarted after a period of hiatus and all the partner museums began meaningful work with their teams to develop ER action plans for their organisations.

Wessex Museums began the roll out of Carbon Literacy for Museums training and trained 12 members of staff and trustees across the partnership, all of whom achieved their certification through the Carbon Literacy Project. The training will support all levels of the museums' workforce to take practical action to reduce carbon emissions in their organisations.

Our Programming

Wessex Museums supports a range of delivery models for partnership exhibitions. In 2023/24, the partnership supported individual partners to develop exhibitions that will later tour to other partner museum venues. Wessex Museums provides important match funding for the partner museums to build the significant funding profile necessary to make these exhibitions happen.

Elizabeth Frink: A View from Within

Led by Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, *Elizabeth Frink: A View from Within* is the first exhibition to focus on the significant body of work produced from Elizabeth Frink's Woolland studio in Dorset between 1976 and her death in 1993. The exhibition aimed to increase knowledge of the outstanding collection held by Dorset Museum & Art Gallery and to strengthen lending and knowledge exchange relationships with other organisations and partners. The exhibition opened at Dorset Museum & Art Gallery in November 2023 and received more than 15k visitors during its run.

Total WMT Investment: £28,769

Wessex Museums funding was used to support curatorial development, exhibition design, marketing and costs associated with touring the show to Museum & Art Swindon.

Lost & Found: Rediscovering Folk Art & Traditions of Dorset & Wiltshire

This year, Wessex Museums launched its ambitious project *Lost & Found*, which will culminate in a temporary touring exhibition at four of our partner museums between November 2024 and April 2026.

The project received important support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Adrian Swire Foundation, which, along with the NPO grant, will see the project delivered in line with our ambitions, which include:

- New research and conservation on the museums' folk collections
- Contemporary collecting
- Film and photography commission to capture the seasonal folk traditions of the region
- Community co-production with non-traditional audiences to create 'new folk art' which can be collected by the museums
- Reinterpretation of regional folk songs to be presented as a folk song map
- A temporary touring exhibition and associated events programme
- A digital exhibition

The project, led by Wessex Museums, will be delivered over the next two and a half years.

Total WMT Investment: £148,606

Our Collections & Interpretation

Virtual Collections

The Wessex Virtual Collections database was launched in November 2023 with more than 250k collections records, with more than 28k images, from the partner museums. This launch marked the end of a 3-year project to build the infrastructure and provide an accessible, searchable database of our partner museums' collections. But it is only the beginning, as the database will continue to grow as more records are added by our museums all the time.

The Virtual Collection web page is one of the most visited pages on the Wessex Museums website. It has received more than 2500 views since launch (7 Nov 2023) with visitors spending an average of 2 minutes 2 seconds on the page. The page has been accessed from 39 different countries. The age demographic of users is younger than that of the general website, with the most popular user age range of 25-34, followed by 18-24. As such the Wessex Virtual Collections have been successful in extending our museums' reach with digital audiences.

Wessex in 100

Wessex in 100 is a project that aims to engage audiences with our museums' collections through a co-curated approach and to deepen knowledge and understanding of the heritage of the region. The project brings together objects selected by communities to tell the story of Wessex through new digital content that will extend our reach, diversify our audiences and encourage museum visits.

Throughout the year, the partner museums have been working with volunteers and a range of diverse community groups to engage with and select objects that they feel represent Wessex. To date, 57 objects have been selected and the collection continues to build. The *Wessex in 100* objects have been represented through new digital content in the Collections Showcase on the Wessex Museums website. The project will continue throughout the period of Wessex Museums' current strategic plan, culminating in new digital content and in-gallery displays.

Decolonisation

In 2023, the partners agreed a Decolonising Collections Framework to guide the museums' on-going work to decolonise their collections. This aims to acknowledge and respond to the crucial role that British colonialism played in the creation and development of our museums, and to reassess whether the stories told using our collections recognises this history. Wessex Museums also recognises the importance of returning objects that have been illegitimately or illegally taken from their country of origin.

The goal of the framework is to embed decolonisation in all aspects of collections work to meet our aims:

- **Better understand our collections** and how they are connected to colonial history.
- **Deconstruct our museums' own history** to promote fairness and understanding.
- **To ensure that diverse and hidden voices and histories are fairly represented** within the museums, and that all communities and cultures are made to feel welcome and valued in our museum spaces as a result.
- **Continually improve our decolonisation practice** by keeping up-to-date and sharing best practice, then applying the learning to the work in our museums.

Decolonisation Pilot Projects

The decolonisation pilot projects started in 2022 and reached fruition in 2023/24, using research-based approaches exploring decolonial themes, the provenance of collections, museum legacies and working alongside underserved communities to undertake contemporary research. As a result, the projects have produced new research, established new connections with museums around the world and engaged new and more diverse communities in reinterpretation and redisplay in our partner museums and online.

Dorset Museum: A project highlighting key people that have been underrepresented in Dorset's history, starting with a local man, John Brown who escaped slavery and ended up in Dorchester as a practicing herbalist. The project produced new research, interpretation and a display in the museum.

Poole Museum: Improvements were made to collections documentation as part of a broader multi-faceted approach to decolonisation of the World Cultures collection, to increase transparency, encourage debate and gain a better understanding of the museum's origins.

Salisbury Museum: Linked to the museum's major redevelopment, a Black History Interpretation Group worked with the museum to explore and interpret stories, shaping the narrative of Black history and slavery in the new Salisbury Gallery.

Wiltshire Museum: A project to retell the story of the Britton 'Celtic' Cabinet, which was commissioned by an extremely wealthy Jamaican sugar plantation owner, owning 2-3,000 slaves, and was part of Wiltshire Museum's founding collection. Conservation, new research and interpretation led to a redisplay of the cabinet in the Story of Devizes gallery.

Case studies from each of the pilot projects will be published on the Wessex Museums website in 2024.

Looking Ahead

Wessex Museums is looking forward to continuing delivery of our NPO programme over the next couple of years. In 2024/25 we are particularly excited for the re-openings of two of our partner museums – The Salisbury Museum and Museum & Art Swindon, which will provide more opportunities for the work of the partnership to connect, inspire and add value to peoples' lives.

Our plans for 2024/25 include...

- **Elisabeth Frink: a View from Within** - Home grown, touring exhibition on the life and work of the Dorset based artist Elisabeth Frink, led by Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, will go on tour to Museum & Art Swindon as their opening show in their new venue.
- **The return of Hardy's Wessex** – Our partnership exhibition on the life and work of Thomas Hardy will open at Museum & Art Swindon in August 2024, bringing together all 4 of the original exhibitions into a single touring show.
- **Lost & Found Community Co-production** – Our museums will be working collaboratively with underserved audiences and artists to create 'new folk' art, as part of our Lost & Found project, starting in Swindon in summer 2024.
- **Un/Common People: Folk Art & Traditions of Wessex** – Touring exhibition set to premier at Museum & Art Swindon in November 2024 to March 2025.
- **Work placements for underserved communities** - extending the programme delivered through our successful *Bridging the Gap* project with placement opportunities in each of our partner museums.
- **Wessex in 100** – We hope to reach 100 objects in this community co-curated digital collection representing the Wessex region.
- **Digital Learning Platform** – A searchable database of digital learning resources from our partner museums aimed at teachers, will launch early in 2025.
- **Additional Carbon Literacy Training** - Three more cohorts planned for 2024/25, along with a digital bite-size version of the training aimed at volunteers.



Sharing • Collaborating • Enhancing



wessexmuseums.org.uk



WESSEX MUSEUMS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1171104

Accounts

Wessex Museums Trust (charity number 1171104)
Trustees Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Administration

Charity name	Wessex Museums Trust
Registration number	1171104
Registered address	Albert Goodman LLP Goodwood House Blackbrook Park Avenue Taunton Somerset TA1 2PX
Names of charity trustees:	Glyn Coy David Dawson Adrian Green Elizabeth Selby Gillian Smith Michael Spender Susan Wills
Partnership manager	Kristina Broughton
Accountants	Albert Goodman LLP Goodwood House Blackbrook Park Avenue Taunton Somerset TA1 2PX

Structure, governance and management

The Wessex Museums Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in January 2017 (No. 1171104). The Trust is governed by its constitution last updated in January 2017.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board consists of four nominated and three appointed trustees. The four nominated trustees are appointed, one each, by the four appointing bodies (Poole Museums – BCP Council, Dorset Museum, Salisbury Museum, Wiltshire Museum). Nominated trustees are appointed for a three year term. The three appointed trustees are independent and selected on the basis of the skills, knowledge and experience they can bring to the effective administration of the Trust Board. The three appointed by the trustees serve for a term of three years.

Trustees are elected at a meeting of the Trustee Board, usually the AGM.

The trustees may serve for up to three consecutive terms.

The charity trustees are responsible for managing the affairs of the CIO. They also oversee the management and delivery of the Wessex Museums Partnership's National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme funded by Arts Council England (ACE). Currently the funding agreement for the NPO is between Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP Council) and ACE, as the Wessex Museums Trust was not yet constituted as a legal entity at the time the NPO grant application was awarded. However BCP Council has given the Wessex Museums Trust delegated authority for the management of the grant funding and programme, through a legal partnership agreement.

The day-to-day operations of the Trust are managed by the Partnership Manager and a team of four (3.8FTE) further central staff members who work across the consortium: a Fundraising & Development Manager, Marketing & Digital Officer, Finance & Admin Officer and Engagement Lead. All three posts are funded by a combination of the consortium's NPO grant, National Lottery Heritage Fund, and partner museum contributions made to the Trust. The three staff fully funded by the NPO grant, which as described above, is held by Poole Museums – BCP Council, were employed by BCP Council during the year. The Engagement Lead funded in the main by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, was employed by one of the partner museums. The Finance & Admin Officer was employed by the Trust. All staff members regardless of their employer work on behalf of Wessex Museums Trust and are line managed by the Partnership Manager.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board meets 6 times per year. The Board invites an 'observer trustee' from the meeting host when held on site in a partner museum to ensure engagement with the partner museums' boards. The minutes of the Wessex Museums Trust Board meetings are also distributed to and form a regular agenda item on the boards of each of the partner museums.

Trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or financial benefits.

The Wessex Museums Partnership maintains a risk register in respect of delivery of its NPO programme and the charity's affairs. This includes organisational risks in respect of the Wessex Museums Trust as the governance and management body of the NPO. The risk register is reviewed at every Board meeting.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in its constitution and are summarised as follows:

- To support for the benefit of the public the building, establishment and maintenance of accredited museums in Dorset and Wiltshire, their artefacts, art, specimens, documents and other associated material, including the collection, storage, research and conservation of all such material; and
- to advance the education of the public (in particular but without limitation to those living in Dorset and Wiltshire and those geographic, ethnic, disabled and other communities who do not traditionally attend museums) in particular (but not limited to) by providing information about the history, heritage and culture of Dorset and Wiltshire and support to the provision and improvement of the facilities, collections, exhibitions, formal and informal learning opportunities, public events and other educational activities, including in digital form, available to the public in museums in Dorset and Wiltshire and within the communities of Dorset and Wiltshire and across the internet.

The Wessex Museums Trust is a thriving partnership of the four leading museums across the counties of Dorset and Wiltshire: Poole Museums Service, Dorset Museum, Salisbury Museum and Wiltshire Museum.

Wessex Museums exists to build the resilience and relevance of the museums in our partnership and others across the region. Our mission is to support museums to connect, inspire and add value to people's lives.

Achievements and performance

The achievement and performance of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in our Annual Impact Report for 2022/23 (Appendix A).

Financial review

During the year the charity generated income of £101,203 (2022 - £97,625) from a combination of grants, sponsorship, donations and sale of merchandise. Against this there were costs for the operation of the charity, as well as programme and project delivery costs. The deficit in the year of £35,592 (2022 – surplus of £19,129) included a deficit of £43,992 for restricted funding and a surplus of £8,400 for unrestricted funding, leaving closing reserves at the year end of £15,198 unrestricted funds (2022 - £6,898) and £9,677 of restricted funds (2022 - £53,569).

Reserves policy

Wessex Museums Trust are particularly aware of the need to cover contingency liabilities such as gaps in funding streams, cash flow and meeting the cost of redundancy payments to staff in the event that the organisation were forced to close. It achieves this by aiming to hold enough free reserves to cover these contingencies.

The level of free reserves has been set by Trustees taking into account the following:

- The need to secure ongoing core funding from sale of charitable activities and grants. Plus ensuring that if payment is late in arriving, we have funds to cover running costs.
- Project funding is often short term and at risk of changes to funding programmes. Additionally, in-kind support currently received may not be available in the future.
- Sufficient funds should be readily available to provide working capital to enable the organisation to bid for additional funding streams which may be paid in arrears.
- Working capital i.e., project funding to continue short term projects or start new ones, although at that point it could be made a designated fund. (An amount decided each year)
- Funds should be available in order to build capacity and contribute to improved productivity and sustainability of the organisation.
- The smooth running of the charity.
- Funding should also be available to deal with contingencies which might arise in the day to day running of the organisation including: Contingency costs (An amount decided each year), sickness cover, maternity/paternity leave, recruitment costs.

It is anticipated that 3-6 months would be a required level of reserves, which at the current level of expenditure would equate to £34k - £68k. Current reserves are £24,875 and are being accumulated towards the desired level.

Declaration

This Trustees report for the Wessex Museums Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023 was approved by the trustees on 21 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Glyn Coy

Wessex Museums Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

**Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Wessex Museums Trust**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Wessex Museums Trust ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records

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.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA

Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: 9 October 2023



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2022

To

31/03/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grant payments	-	33,240	-	33,240	-
NPO Grant	-	41,456	-	41,456	51,700
Donations	7,739	1,273	-	9,012	23,465
Art Fund income	-	2,495	-	2,495	22,460
Partner Museum contributions	15,000	-	-	15,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	22,739	78,464	-	101,203	97,625
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	22,739	78,464	-	101,203	97,625
A3 Payments					
Accountancy	2,679	-	-	2,679	1,164
Legal support	6,469	-	-	6,469	-
Insurance	722	-	-	722	460
HR fees	1,722	-	-	1,722	1,722
IT setup and annual support costs	2,414	5,000	-	7,414	-
Salary/ contractor costs	-	50,262	-	50,262	54,805
NPO Conference	-	1,215	-	1,215	-
NPO Partnership Exhibition Development	-	4,559	-	4,559	-
Project Costs	-	-	-	-	216
Hardy exhibition	-	56,528	-	56,528	3,635
Research	-	-	-	-	2,000
Subscription	72	-	-	72	280
Fundraising regulator	-	50	-	50	50
Climate Emergency	-	-	-	-	4,329
Training	-	1,293	-	1,293	1,728
Learning showcase	-	399	-	399	-
Evaluation	-	3,150	-	3,150	8,107
Stripe refunds	216	-	-	216	-
Operational costs	45	-	-	45	-
Sub total	14,339	122,456	-	136,795	78,496
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	14,339	122,456	-	136,795	78,496
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,400	43,992	-	35,592	19,129
A5 Transfers between funds	(100)	100	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,898	53,569	-	60,467	41,338
Cash funds this year end	15,198	9,677	-	24,875	60,467

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Barclays	15,198	9,677	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,198	9,677	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Accountancy fees	Unrestricted	1,665	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Glyn Coy	Glyn Coy	21/09/2023	

Impact Report

2022-23

Introduction to Wessex Museums

Wessex Museums is a thriving partnership of museums across Dorset and Wiltshire – Dorset Museum, Lydiard House Museum, STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum, Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, and Wiltshire Museum.

We believe that by working together we can...

- Strengthen the cultural offer of our museums and our region.
- Push out of our comfort zones to do things in new ways.
- Share important stories from across our region from a range of perspectives.
- Share and learn from successes and mistakes, build relationships, and enhance our reputation with partners and stakeholders.
- Increase our organisational resilience.

Our charity, the Wessex Museums Trust (WMT), exists to build the resilience and relevance of the museums in our partnership and across the region.

Our mission is...

To support museums to **connect, inspire** and **add value** to people's lives.

Our vision is...

Museums thriving through collaboration.

A Message from our Chair, Gill Donnell

As Chair of this successful partnership, I am extremely proud of the achievements of staff and volunteers across our partner museums as well as within the partnership.

Whilst our talented CEO, Kristina Broughton, will detail the successes of exhibitions, hosting a regional conference and expanding even further our alliance, I believe the achievement of our long-held ambition to be an independent charity and securing our second National Portfolio Organisation funding is a testament to the huge amount of hard work that goes on behind the scenes.

Our new look collaboration, including the three Swindon Museums offers us even more opportunities to further develop and grow in this amazing sector, striving to share our knowledge and add value to the lives of those in our diverse communities through access to our world-class collections.



Reflections from our CEO, Kristina Broughton

2022/23 will forever be remembered by Wessex Museums as '*the year of Hardy*', as we delivered our most ambitious, partnership exhibition to date. But the year was certainly about more than just that!

The year kicked off with the opening of the *Hardy's Wessex* exhibition in all four of our partner museums at the end of May. This was a culmination of four years of hard work by colleagues across the partnership to bring this ambitious project to fruition. *Hardy's Wessex* was more than just an exhibition, it led to new partnerships with multiple organisations inside and outside of our sector, included a diverse extended public programme with everything from podcasts to walking routes, and all in all was a fantastic example of what the Wessex Museums can achieve through collaboration.

Wessex Museums continued to prioritise underserved audiences through our work as a partnership, exemplified through our *Bridging the Gap* project which reached its conclusion in 2022/23. The project brought about a step change in knowledge and understanding of EDI for staff and volunteers in our partner organisations. It upskilled staff in inclusive community practice and improved representation and agency for underserved communities in our museums. *Bridging the Gap* has fundamentally changed our work with underserved communities to be more inclusive, community-led, and evaluated for impact; this in turn has shaped our plans for the next three years and beyond.

Our partnership will also look different as we move forward. Wessex Museums Trust (WMT) fulfilled its long-held ambition to externalise from BCP Council in March 2023, helping to ensure that WMT is more independent, equitable and sustainable. At the same time, we formally welcomed the three Swindon Museums (STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway, Swindon Museum & Art Gallery, and Lydiard House) into the Wessex Museums partnership. The addition of the Swindon Museums to the partnership will bring complimentary skills and extend our audience reach both in terms of geography and diversity.

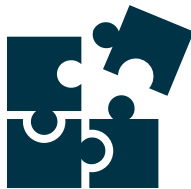
For everything that we have achieved and for all we hope to achieve in future, we are grateful for continued funding support from Arts Council England to make it all possible. In February we received confirmation of a second NPO funding award of £1.4m for the period 2023-26. This core funding is critical to WMT and will enable us to continue to add value to our regional museums and support them to connect, inspire and add value to peoples' lives.



2022/23 Key Achievements



Bridging the Gap work placements for disabled young people in all partner museums.



Wessex Museums Trust fully externalised from BCP Council in March 2023.



Hardy's Wessex exhibition opens in all 4 partner museums and 8 satellite museums simultaneously.



3x Swindon Museums join the Wessex Museums partnership.



Regional sector conference hosted by Wessex Museums and attended by 90 people.



5x EDI Bite Size training videos created for staff and volunteers, and viewed more than 400 times.

Our Funding & Income

2022/23 was the final year of Wessex Museums operating a mixed financial management structure, whereby the partnership's funding and income was managed across two organisations:

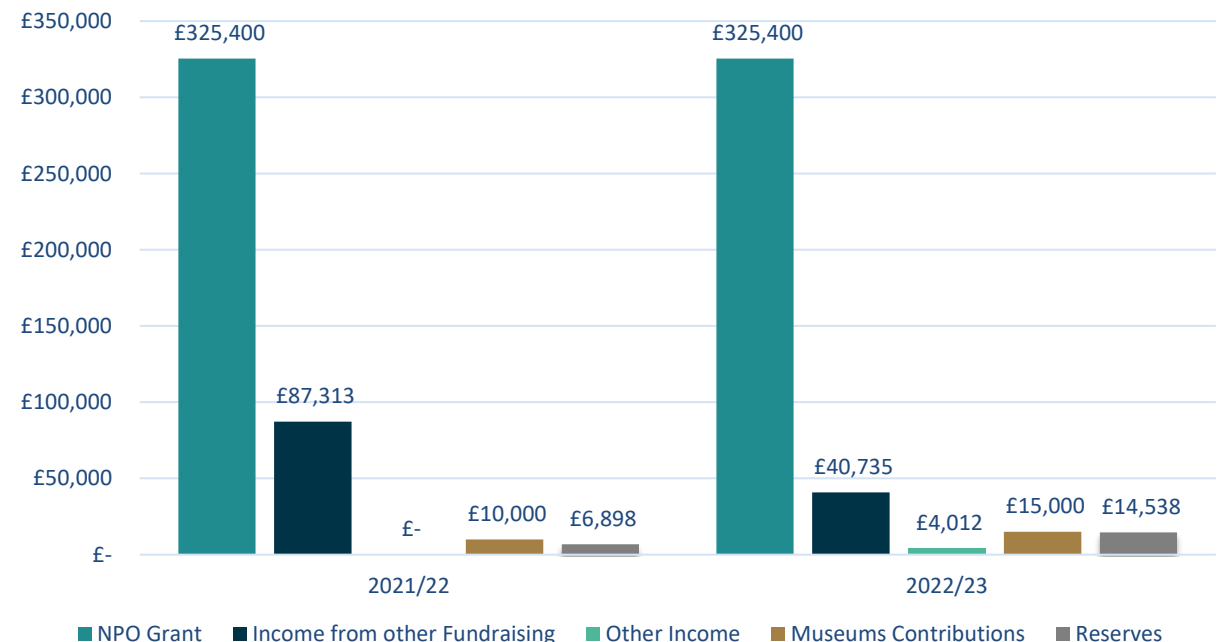
Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council held the funding agreement with Arts Council England (ACE) for the partnership's National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) grant up to 31 March 2023. Wessex Museums Trust (WMT) managed all of the partnership's other funding including museums' contributions, funding raised directly through the charity, funding to support NPO activity delivered by the Trust, and the partnership's reserves.

In 2022/23, the **partnership's turnover** (excluding match funding and in-kind support) across both organisations was:

£399,685

This is down by 7% from the previous financial year, due to reduced fundraising activity during the final year of our NPO programme. However income from events exceeded £4k for the first time and WMT's reserves more than doubled from the previous year through savings, and residual grant funding and museums' contributions.

Wessex Museums Funding Profile



Summary of Fundraising & Income Generation for the Year

During 2022/23, Wessex Museums achieved more than **£44k in fundraising and income generation in addition to the NPO** from a variety of sources, including sponsorship, events income and public donations. Grants from Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) continue to be the greatest contributors to WMT's income.

NPO2

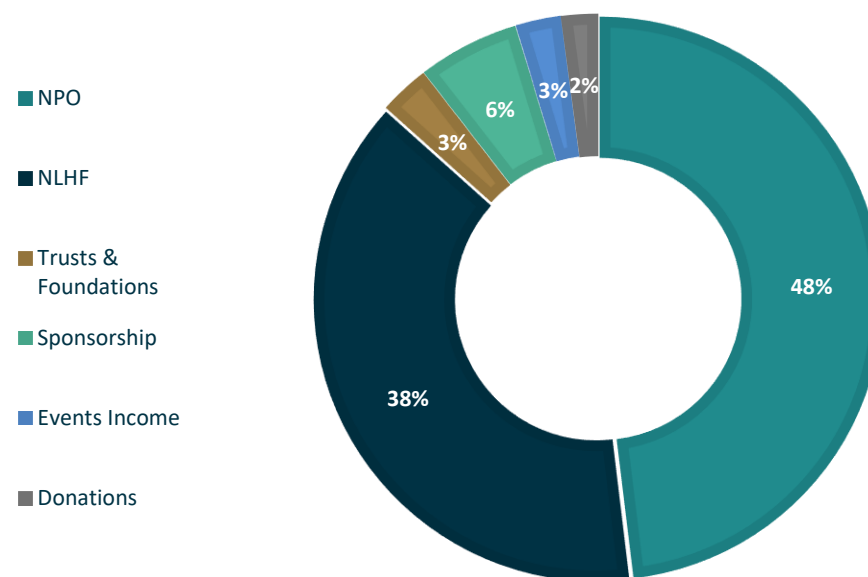
In November 2022, WMT learned that we had been successful in securing £1.4m in funding from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) 2023-26. The funding is the partnership's second NPO and secures our collaborative programming for a further three years from 1 April 2023 (next financial year).

NPO funding continues to be the partnership's main source of funding and accounts for more than 80% of our total funding profile and represents critical core funding for Wessex Museums Trust to continue to operate effectively as an independent charity. Diversifying the charity's income is an on-going priority.

Sources of income in 2022/23 have included:

- **£ 1,765 in public donations.**
- **£5k secured through sponsorship for Hardy's Wessex.**
- **Over £2k raised through WMT's first chargeable events.**
- **£2.5k from trusts and foundations for Hardy's Wessex.**

WESSEX MUSEUMS FUNDRAISING & INCOME GENERATION 2022/23



Delivering our Strategic Plan

2022/23 marked the final year of Wessex Museums' three-year strategic plan and NPO grant programme. It was also the first full year of re-opening in the partner museums post pandemic.

As such, it was a priority for WMT to fulfill its commitments in the strategic plan that had been disrupted and/or delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our focus was on:

- **Engaging underserved audiences** in our local areas.
- **Improving access** to our world-class collections.
- Delivering excellence through our **partnership programming**.
- Developing **digital content** that supports different models of engagement and **income generation**.
- **Equality, diversity, and inclusion** (EDI) and **environmental sustainability**.
- **Workforce development**.
- **Building an evidence base** for the impact of our work as a partnership.



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Wessex Museums committed to a new intersectional EDI framework in 2021 and this framework continues to guide the practical actions we are taking to dismantle prejudice and discrimination in our organisations.

Key achievements against our Wessex Museums EDI action plan for the year:

- **Work placements for disabled young people** offered in each of the partner museums.
- **Allyship group** for the partnership established.
- **5x EDI bitesize training videos** produced for staff and volunteers.
- **EDI action planning surgeries** provided to support the partner museums.
- **Governance review of WMT** with a view to diversifying the independent trustee membership.
- **Training in co-production/co-creation**, community-led engagement and delivering deliver focus groups with underserved audiences.
- **Decolonisation of collections pilot projects** undertaken in each partner museum.
- **Decolonising Collections framework** developed for the partnership.
- **EDI terminology guide** developed for the partnership.
- **2x advocacy events** delivered with a focus on EDI and decolonisation.



Connecting with Communities

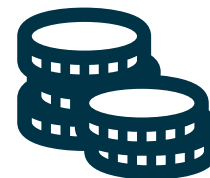
Throughout 2022/23, Wessex Museums continued to prioritise engagement with underserved audiences. The *Bridging the Gap* project funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and delivered between 2021-23, was a catalyst for inclusive community practice across our partnership. This coupled with investment in learning and engagement staff capacity and resources through our NPO, enabled us to connect with more new communities and develop our community-led practice.

Key factors to our success were:

- Dedicated roles of the **Community Curators** and **Wessex Engagement Lead** to oversee implementation of key developments in enabling change in how the museums engaged underserved audiences.
- **Projects that provided clear momentum and structure** for engaging underserved audiences, in some cases for the first time.
- **Training, advice, coaching** and mentoring provided through the Engagement Lead.
- **New relationships and strengthened partnerships** as a result of intensive and collaborative work with communities to co-create new collections and exhibitions.



Our partner museums engaged and collaborated with more than **3300** people from our underserved communities.



Wessex Museums invested **£128,340** in our Connecting with Communities workstream.

Work Placements for Disabled Young People

In our partner museums, disabled young people were recruited to work placements that helped them learn new skills in communications, engagement and collections management. Our Access and Inclusion consultant supported museum staff through training and resources so they could welcome disabled young people into our partner museums. Our participants and museums colleagues found the experiences to be life changing. By shifting the museum mindset towards embracing inclusivity, participants were supported to learn critical skills that helped them to be “work ready”.

Digital Learning

As part of *Bridging the Gap*, we produced a series of digital videos that were designed to enhance formal learning engagement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and at KS3. Each video was written and presented by a young person who researched how hero objects in museums could tell a new and unexpected story for children and young people. We worked closely with members of LEX (Learning & Engagement Exchange), training them in digital media skills and helping them to enable young people to lead on the creation of the digital content. As our digital learning resources evolve, we will continue to support the emergence of fascinating stories that can be used to draw teachers into the museums’ websites to explore the wider learning offer.

Key Achievements:

- A series of **videos featuring hero objects** from across partner museums that highlight new and unexpected stories for KS3 pupils or within the STEM subjects.
- In-depth **review of digital learning provision** across the museum partnership that has led to refresh of museum learning pages.
- We have a **robust framework** for recruiting, managing and supporting disabled young people in **museum work placement programmes**.

Building Resilience

Externalisation from BCP Council

In 2023, WMT achieved its long-held ambition to externalise from BCP Council to become a fully-fledged organisation in its own right. The rationale for the transfer was to provide greater equity for the constituent partners and to support the charity's future resilience. The transfer involved the TUPE of two members of staff and a commercial settlement allowing a final transfer of the partnership's assets held by the Council to WMT, and was completed at the end of March 2023.

A governance review was undertaken by WMT alongside the transfer to ensure that the Board of Trustees was fit for purpose moving forward. The outcome of the review includes extending the Board of Trustees to include two more independent trustees.

The central staff team was also enhanced to support the financial and administrative workload previously supported by BCP Council, with the appointment of a part-time Finance & Admin Officer.

Swindon Museums

In 2022, WMT formally welcomed Swindon Museums (Swindon Borough Council) as a Wessex Museum partner. Swindon Museums brings 3 regional accredited museums to the partnership – STEAM Museum of the Great Western Railway, Swindon Museum & Art Gallery and Lydiard House Museum, attracting a combined total of more than 100k visitors each year.

It is an exciting and mutually beneficial expansion of the partnership, which almost doubles its size, bringing together a total of 8 accredited museums of similar sizes and outlooks across our region. Swindon Museums join the partnership with the aim of reshaping its museums into venues that better represent and are more relevant to their local communities. As part of our consortium they will support Wessex Museums' aim to extend and deepen our reach in the region, particularly engaging new and more diverse audiences.

Skills Sharing & Training

Wessex Museums continues to deliver on its commitments to supporting professional development for the workforce in our partner museums. During 2022/23 we funded access to training and development opportunities in areas such as EDI, fundraising, community engagement, evaluation, co-production, digital skills (see *Digital* below) and sustainable exhibitions.

Regional Conference

Wessex Museums delivered its second regional conference – *Museums Matter* – at Dorset Museum in September 2022. The conference focused on the hot topics currently facing regional museums, from decolonisation, to inclusion, to the Climate Emergency. The conference was attended by 90 people representing 25 separate sector organisations from across the southwest and received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Digital Skills

During 2022/23 we began a full audit of digital skills in the partner museums with a view to providing on-going training and development opportunities for staff and volunteers in the digital space. Skills sharing opportunities were delivered through formal training, 1-2-1 mentoring support and knowledge exchanges. The skills audit will conclude in 2023 and inform a new partnership-wide digital skills development plan.

Key Achievements:

- Podcasting and Twitter **knowledge exchanges** delivered for the partnership
- **4x new sector case studies** published on website
- Enabled staff to access **18 separate training and development opportunities** during the year.
- Developed **5x EDI bite size training videos** for trustees, staff and volunteers, which have been **viewed 446 times** to date.

Digital

Wessex Museums continued our commitment to digital skills and content development across the partnership during 2022/23. The Hardy's Wessex exhibition was the perfect platform for developing new digital content and in the process testing new ways of working, developing our skills and broadening our audiences.

Digital Hardy's Wessex

Through Hardy's Wessex, Wessex Museums achieve many firsts in digital, including first digital student placements, first podcasts, first born digital, co-created exhibition content and first partnership-wide digital marketing strategy. Learning and insights from the project has been shared with colleagues across the partnership and through the evaluation report, knowledge exchanges and sector case studies on our website.

Website & Social Media Review

In 2022 we undertook a complete review of Wessex Museums' digital presence with a view to clarifying our core audience and developing relevant content as part of our next strategic plan period. The review concluded that Wessex Museums should prioritise the sector audience and the website has been refreshed to reflect this. During 2023, we will focus on refreshing our social media channels to better serve our target audiences.

Environmental Responsibility

In March 2022, the partnership agreed a new environmental responsibility framework to support our partner museums to embed sustainability across their organisations. Since that time, 5x staff have trained and achieved Carbon Literacy certification and 1 as a certified Carbon Literacy trainer. However, we recognise that we have a long way to go to meet our target of net zero ahead of the UK target of 2050. Financial and staffing pressures currently facing our organisations have stalled our progress in developing meaningful environmental responsibility action plans for each of our partner museums and for WMT as we had planned – this will be a priority for 2023/24.

Our Programming

Hardy's Wessex

In 2022/23 our partnership-wide exhibition, *Hardy's Wessex: the landscapes that inspired a writer*, came to fruition after a year's delay due to the pandemic. The exhibition which was 4 years in the making, ran between May and October 2022 and spanned four partner museum venues (Dorset, Poole, Salisbury and Wiltshire). It explored how the Wessex landscapes inspired the author Thomas Hardy, with each exhibition focusing on a different social theme, from animal welfare to women's equality.

Hardy's Wessex was the partnership's most ambitious project to date and a test bed for collaboration and new ways of working against the exhibition's four strategic aims:

- Aim 1:** Creating a home-grown exhibition
- Aim 2:** Delivering economies of scale
- Aim 3:** Engaging, growing and diversifying our audiences
- Aim 4:** Raising our profile

The exhibition was attended by more than **28k people** and was accompanied by an extensive public programme of talks, podcasts, workshops, and family activities, that reached a further **2.8k+ people**.

Key Achievements:

- Assessment and **conservation of 31 exhibition objects**, plus **specialist conservation cleaning of a further 12**.
- Organised **4x major loans from national museums**, with support from the Weston Loans programme.
- Creation of **9x Hardy walks** with the Thomas Hardy Society, Ramblers and local youth groups.
- Collaboration with Arts University Bournemouth to **engage over 120 young people in co-creation of exhibition elements**.
- Distribution of **1000 'Wessex Words' booklets**, to encourage reading of Hardy across local libraries.
- **Satellite exhibitions** held in **8x smaller venues** across the Wessex region.
- **8x online talks** delivered, attended by more than **500 people** and generated **£1.7k in income** for WMT.

My World My Future

My World My Future is a digital exhibition, launched in March 2022 on the Wessex Museums website. It showcased the voices and creative responses of underserved young people in Dorset and Wiltshire through engagement work carried out during 2021/22 with our four partner museums on a project called *Create and Collect for Climate Change*. It expressed their concerns on environmental issues and the climate emergency and focused on their ideas for positive action to mitigate the impact of climate change.

The digital exhibition was accompanied by project videos, events and displays in the partner museums and an online talks programme. The project has been included as an example of best practice in the learning resources for participants on the Carbon Literacy for Museums training programme designed and delivered by Museums Development NW.

Key Achievements:

- Webpages attracted **255 unique page views**
- **2x online talks**, attended by **52 people live**, and **51 on YouTube**.
- Working together with Students Organising for Sustainability, we hosted **our first Instagram Live talk**.
- Produced **9x related YouTube videos**, attracting **418 unique page views**.
- Project features as part of **Museums Development NW Carbon Literacy Training** for Museums learning resources.

The World of Stonehenge at The British Museum

The World of Stonehenge exhibition was held at The British Museum from February to July 2022 and **featured 10 objects loaned from our three independent partner museums** – Dorset Museum, The Salisbury Museum and Wiltshire Museum. The exhibition showcased the Wessex region and highlighted the significance of the collections held by the Wessex Museums on an international stage.

Our Collections & Interpretation

Decolonisation

During 2022, our partner museums continued work on their decolonisation pilot projects through research-based approaches exploring decolonial themes, the provenance of collections, museum legacies and working alongside underserved communities to undertake contemporary research. The work has produced new research, established new connections with museums around the world and engaged new and more diverse communities in reinterpretation and redisplay in our partner museums and online. Case studies for each museum's project will be published on the Wessex Museums website in 2023/24.

Summary of Decolonisation Pilot Projects:

Dorset Museum: A project highlighting key people that have been underrepresented in Dorset's history, starting with a local man, John Brown who escaped slavery and ended up in Dorchester as a practicing herbalist. The project will produce new research, interpretation and display.

Poole Museum: Improving collections documentation as part of a broader multi-faceted approach to decolonisation of the World Cultures collection, to increase transparency, encourage debate and gain a better understanding of the museum's origins.

Salisbury Museum: Linked to the museum's major redevelopment, a Black History Interpretation Group is working with the museum to explore and interpret stories, shaping the narrative of Black history and slavery in the new Salisbury Gallery.

Wiltshire Museum: A project to retell the story of the Britton 'Celtic' Cabinet through new interpretation and display in the Story of Devizes gallery. The cabinet, was commissioned by an extremely wealthy Jamaican sugar plantation owner, owning 2-3,000 slaves, and was part of Wiltshire Museum's founding collection.

We recognise that the pilot projects are only the beginning of this important work. The Decolonisation Working Group started development of a **partnership framework for Decolonisation of Collections**, drawing on best practice from across the sector and the experience gained through professional mentoring and delivery of the pilot projects. The framework, which will be completed in 2023, will support the partner museums to develop their own action plans to embed the work of decolonisation in their collections management.

Virtual Collections

Across our museums, we have **500,000 objects catalogued** and have **exceeded our target of 100,000 digital images**. We continue to put more of our collections online, creating a Virtual Wessex Museums Collection, enabling us to share our collections, promote research and develop innovative exhibition programming.

In early 2023, Wessex Museums procured an open-source system to enable cross-searching and display of data from the collections management systems of the four Wessex Museums partners. Supported by funding from Arts Council England (ACE), the system has enabled us to export data from the museum collections management systems into a data repository, to create interfaces to enable search and presentation of object records and to use those object records to create online exhibitions. We anticipate the staging site to be completed in late-2023.

The Virtual Collection is planned in the context of FAIR principles, the AHRC Towards a National Collection initiative and the work of the Collections Trust. As these initiatives come to fruition, it is intended that the open-source tools developed by Wessex Museums can be adopted by a wide range of museums to reduce the barriers in enabling online access to collections.

Looking Ahead

Another three years of National Portfolio Organisation funding from Arts Council England will enable Wessex Museums to continue with our mission to support museums to connect, inspire and add value to peoples' lives. We have a rich and diverse programme planned, and our focus on EDI and engaging underserved audiences remains central to our work across all four of our strategic aims.

Our plans for 2023/24 include...

- **Swindon Museums** – Our new partners will benefit from specialist EDI and community engagement support and the creation of new staff posts in collections and community engagement.
- **Trustee Recruitment** – Following our governance review, we will recruit 2x new independent trustees to join the WMT Board.
- **Fashioning Our World** – Project led by Salisbury Museum and supporting work at Dorset Museum, to create opportunities for young people to explore sustainable fashion through the collections held by our partner museums.
- **Lest We Forget** – Community co-created exhibition focused on the Black experience of the World Wars in Wiltshire, opening at Wiltshire Museum in November 2023.
- **Hardy's Wessex** – Our partnership exhibition on the life and work of Thomas Hardy will open at Swindon Museum & Art Gallery in February 2024.
- **Elisabeth Frink: a View from Within** - Home grown, touring exhibition on the life and work of the Dorset based artist Elisabeth Frink, led by Dorset Museum and opening there in November 2023.
- **Work placements for underserved communities** extending the programme delivered through our successful *Bridging the Gap* project.
- **Decolonising Collections Framework** – An agreed partnership-wide definition and approach to decolonising the collections in our museums.
- **Wessex in 100 Objects** - Community co-curation project to explore and showcase our museums' collections and the story of the region by choosing objects that will later feature on our online Collections Showcase, micro and digital exhibitions.
- **Digital Learning** – Further develop our digital learning content and resources online through a coordinated partnership approach.

Wessex Museums

Sharing • Collaborating • Enhancing



wessexmuseums.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Accounts

Wessex Museums Trust (charity number 1171104)
Trustees Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Administration

Charity name	Wessex Museums Trust
Registration number	1171104
Principal address	Poole Museum 4 High Street Poole Dorset BH15 1BW
Names of charity trustees:	Julia Findlater (resigned September 2021) Glyn Coy David Dawson Adrian Green Dr Jonathan Murden (resigned March 2022) Elizabeth Selby (appointed March 2022) Gillian Smith Michael Spender Susan Wills (appointed March 2022)
Partnership manager	Kristina Broughton
Accountants	Albert Goodman LLP Goodwood House Blackbrook Park Avenue Taunton Somerset TA1 2PX

Structure, governance and management

The Wessex Museums Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in January 2017 (No. 1171104). The Trust is governed by its constitution last updated in January 2017.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board consists of four nominated and three appointed trustees. The four nominated trustees are appointed, one each, by the four appointing bodies (Poole Museums – BCP Council, Dorset Museum, Salisbury Museum, Wiltshire Museum). Nominated trustees are appointed for a three year term. The three appointed trustees are independent and selected on the basis of the skills, knowledge and experience they can bring to the effective administration of the Trust Board. The three appointed by the trustees serve for a term of three years.

Trustees are elected at a meeting of the Trustee Board, usually the AGM.

The trustees may serve for up to three consecutive terms.

The charity trustees are responsible for managing the affairs of the CIO. They also oversee the management and delivery of the Wessex Museums Partnership's National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme funded by Arts Council England (ACE). Currently the funding agreement for the NPO is between Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP Council) and ACE, as the Wessex Museums Trust was not yet constituted as a legal entity at the time the NPO grant application was awarded. However BCP Council has given the Wessex Museums Trust delegated authority for the management of the grant funding and programme, through a legal partnership agreement. It is the Trust's ambition to novate the NPO grant from BCP Council to the charity in 2022-23.

The day-to-day operations of the Trust are managed by the Partnership Manager and a team of two further central staff members who work across the consortium: a Fundraising & Development Manager and a Marketing & Digital Officer. All three posts are funded by the consortium's NPO grant, which as described above, is held by Poole Museums – BCP Council. As a result, the three staff members are currently employed by BCP Council, but work on behalf of the Wessex Museums Trust.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board meets quarterly. The Board invites an 'observer trustee' from the meeting host partner museum to ensure engagement with the partner museums' boards. The minutes of the Wessex Museums Trust Board meetings are also distributed to and form a regular agenda item on the boards of each of the partner museums.

Trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or financial benefits.

The Wessex Museums Partnership maintains a risk register in respect of delivery of its NPO programme and the charity's affairs. This includes organisational risks in respect of the Wessex Museums Trust as the governance and management body of the NPO. The risk register is reviewed at every Board meeting.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in its constitution and are summarised as follows:

- To support for the benefit of the public the building, establishment and maintenance of accredited museums in Dorset and Wiltshire, their artefacts, art, specimens, documents and other associated material, including the collection, storage, research and conservation of all such material; and
- to advance the education of the public (in particular but without limitation to those living in Dorset and Wiltshire and those geographic, ethnic, disabled and other communities who do not traditionally attend museums) in particular (but not limited to) by providing information about the history, heritage and culture of Dorset and Wiltshire and support to the provision and improvement of the facilities, collections, exhibitions, formal and informal learning opportunities, public events and other educational activities, including in digital form, available to the public in museums in Dorset and Wiltshire and within the communities of Dorset and Wiltshire and across the internet.

The Wessex Museums Trust is a thriving partnership of the four leading museums across the counties of Dorset and Wiltshire: Poole Museums Service, Dorset Museum, Salisbury Museum and Wiltshire Museum.

Wessex Museums exists to build the resilience and relevance of the museums in our partnership and others across the region. Our mission is to support museums to connect, inspire and add value to people's lives.

Achievements and performance

The achievement and performance of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in our Annual Impact Report for 2021/22 (Appendix A).

Financial review

During the year the charity generated income of £97,625 from a combination of grants, sponsorship, donations and sale of merchandise. Against this there were costs for the operation of the charity, as well as programme and project delivery costs. The surplus in the year of £19,129 included £18,724 of restricted funding and £405 of unrestricted funding, leaving closing reserves at the year end of £6,898 unrestricted funds (2021 - £6,493) and £53,569 of restricted funds (2021 - £34,845).

Reserves policy

The Trustees consider, in line with the Charity Commission advice, that the Trust should have unrestricted reserves equivalent to at least one year's core costs. The Wessex Museums Trust currently has no staff, buildings or other assets, as these are provided for by the partner museums. Therefore there are currently no specific core costs for the charity. As such at present it is not necessary for the charity to retain reserves. However the Trustees will actively seek to build up an appropriate level of reserves as the funding for the charity continues to diversify and grow.

The reserves policy for the Wessex Museums Trust will be reviewed annually and/or at such time as the circumstances in relation to the charity's assets/core costs changes, and revised accordingly in line with the Charity Commission advice.

Declaration

This Trustees report for the Wessex Museums Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022 was approved by the trustees on 18 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Glyn Coy

Wessex Museums Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

**Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Wessex Museums Trust**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Wessex Museums Trust ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records

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.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA

Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: 27 October 2022



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Wessex Museums Trust

1171104

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2021

To

31/03/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
NPO Grant	-	51,700	-	51,700	12,600
Donations	405	23,060	-	23,465	402
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-	2,000
NLHF Grant	-	-	-	-	41,550
Sale of Merchandise	-	-	-	-	86
Art Fund income	-	22,460	-	22,460	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	405	97,220	-	97,625	56,638
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	405	97,220	-	97,625	56,638
A3 Payments					
Accountancy	-	1,164	-	1,164	384
Insurance	-	460	-	460	396
Professional fees	-	1,722	-	1,722	1,722
Salary/ contractor costs	-	54,805	-	54,805	18,785
Project Costs	-	216	-	216	420
Training Course refund	-	-	-	-	35
Wildlife in Red event speaker	-	-	-	-	100
Hardy exhibition	-	3,635	-	3,635	-
Research	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
Subscription	-	280	-	280	-
Fundraising regulator	-	50	-	50	-
Climate Emergency	-	4,329	-	4,329	-
Training	-	1,728	-	1,728	-
Evaluation	-	8,107	-	8,107	-
Sub total	-	78,496	-	78,496	21,772
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	78,496	-	78,496	21,772
Net of receipts/(payments)	405	18,724	-	19,129	34,866
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,493	34,845	-	41,338	6,472
Cash funds this year end	6,898	53,569	-	60,467	41,338

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Barclays	6,898	53,569	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,898	53,569	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Accountancy fees	Unrestricted	960	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	G Coy	Glyn Coy	18/10/2022	



Impact Report

2021-2022

Introduction to Wessex Museums

Wessex Museums is a thriving partnership of museums across Dorset and Wiltshire – Dorset Museum, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum and Wiltshire Museum.

We believe that by working together we can...

- Strengthen the cultural offer of our museums and our region.
- Push out of our comfort zones to do things in new ways.
- Share important stories from across our region from a range of perspectives.
- Share and learn from successes and mistakes, build relationships, and enhance our reputation with partners and stakeholders.
- Increase our organisational resilience.

Our charity, the Wessex Museums Trust (WMT), exists to build the resilience and relevance of the museums in our partnership and across the region.

Our mission is...

To support museums to **connect, inspire** and **add value** to people's lives.

Our vision is...

Museums thriving through collaboration.

A Message from our Co-Chairs

Gill Donnell & Glyn Coy

As our world returned to a new normal, Wessex Museums Trust (WMT) has continued to take advantage of the new opportunities that the pandemic forced upon so many of us.

Many of these have been digital, allowing us to broaden and increase our skills in providing online content, with engaging online talks on the climate emergency as well as natural history objects, building upon the related exhibitions *My World My Future* and *Wildlife in the Red*.

We have been ably assisted by two MA student placements to strengthen our digital reach, resulting in a considerable rise in our social media engagement as well as development of our first podcast series on Thomas Hardy, the subject of our 2022/23 partnership wide exhibition. As a result, our online content is enabling us to reach new and global audiences and providing an additional income stream for the partnership.

Financially, WMT has had its most successful year yet, raising more than £87k, including over £5k through our first Crowdfunder campaign, proving our ability to fundraise for our important collaborative programmes across the partnership.

The hard work of the WMT Team comes to fruition later this year with the exciting, collaborative exhibition and engagement programme for our exhibition across all four partner museums, *Hardy's Wessex: the landscapes that inspired a writer*. Additionally, embedding our excellent EDI and Environmental Responsibility frameworks across our organisations remains a priority.

As a Board we are committed to ensuring that, in the coming year, we can take steps to bring our whole staff team into an independent, viable organisation, which will continue to find ways to extend our partnership, to support and collaborate with more museums across our region, and to co-create with underserved audiences.

Reflections from our Partnership Manager,

Kristina Broughton

In many ways, 2021/22 was a year about getting back on track, both for our partner museums, who cautiously reopened post pandemic, and for the delivery of our Wessex Museums collaborative programme. We've all had to adjust for the 'new normal' but positively this has led to innovation, collaboration, and a renewed sense of purpose for the Wessex Museums partnership.

We started the year with a review and realignment of our priorities to better support our partner museums during these times of continuing uncertainty. These included more purposeful work in the areas of EDI, decolonisation, and environmental responsibility. The early results of this work can already be seen in the *My World My Future* project where underserved young people took the lead to talk about the climate emergency in their local areas, through our collections and museums.

2021/22 was also a year of 'firsts' for the partnership including a podcast series, a successful *Crowdfunder* campaign, a curatorial collaboration with hundreds of university students and our first attempt at Instagram Live. Clearly, innovation and collaboration remain at the heart of what Wessex Museums does.

It has certainly been a year of intense work for the partnership, bringing our ambitious partnership exhibition, *Hardy's Wessex*, to fruition, and keeping a firm eye on our future as a partnership and an NPO. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of this work in our impact report next year.

2021/22 Key Achievements



Professional mentoring provided
to support decolonisation
practice in our partner museums



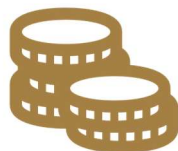
Launch of our new
strategic plan and EDI
framework



Contemporary collecting project
and co-curated exhibition with
underserved young people,
My World My Future



First ever crowdfunding
campaign exceeds target.



Over £87k of funding raised to
support the Wessex Museums



Partnership's first podcast
series created -
Interrogating Hardy



25 senior leaders and
trustees attended the EDI
training series.

Our Funding & Income

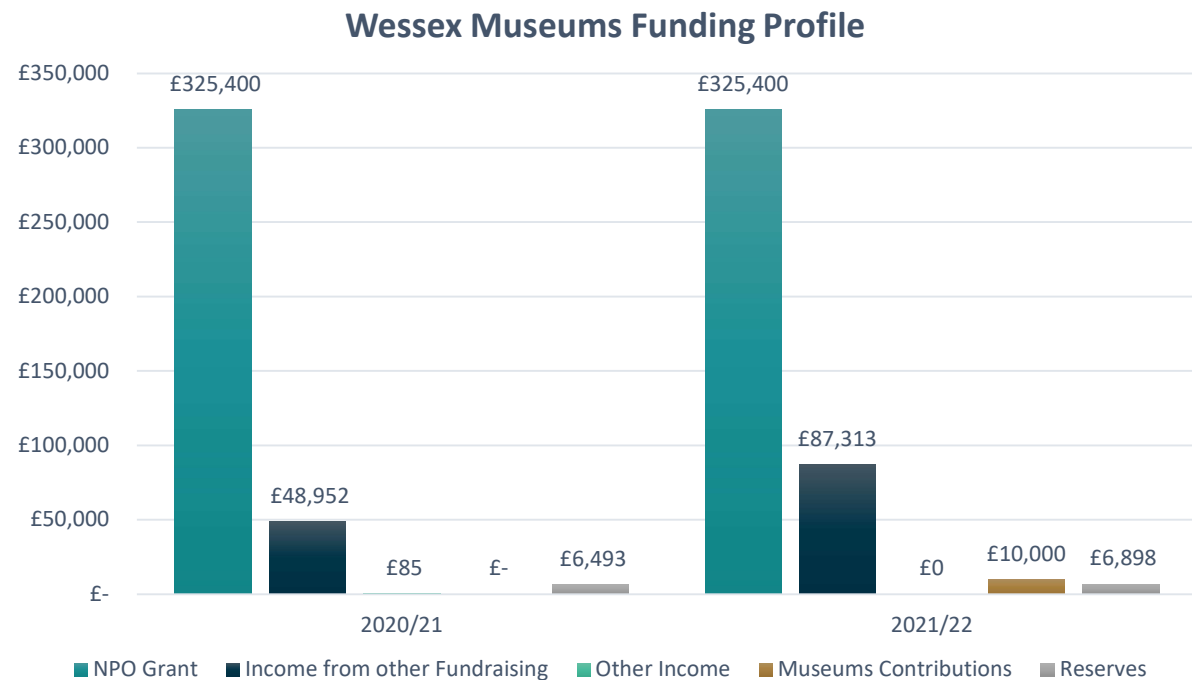
Wessex Museums continues to operate a mixed financial management structure at present, whereby the partnership's funding and income is managed across two organisations:

Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council holds the funding agreement with Arts Council England (ACE) for the partnership's National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) grant. Wessex Museums Trust (WMT) holds the partnership's reserves and funding raised by the charity.

In 2021/22, the partnership's turnover (excluding match funding and in-kind support) across both organisations was:

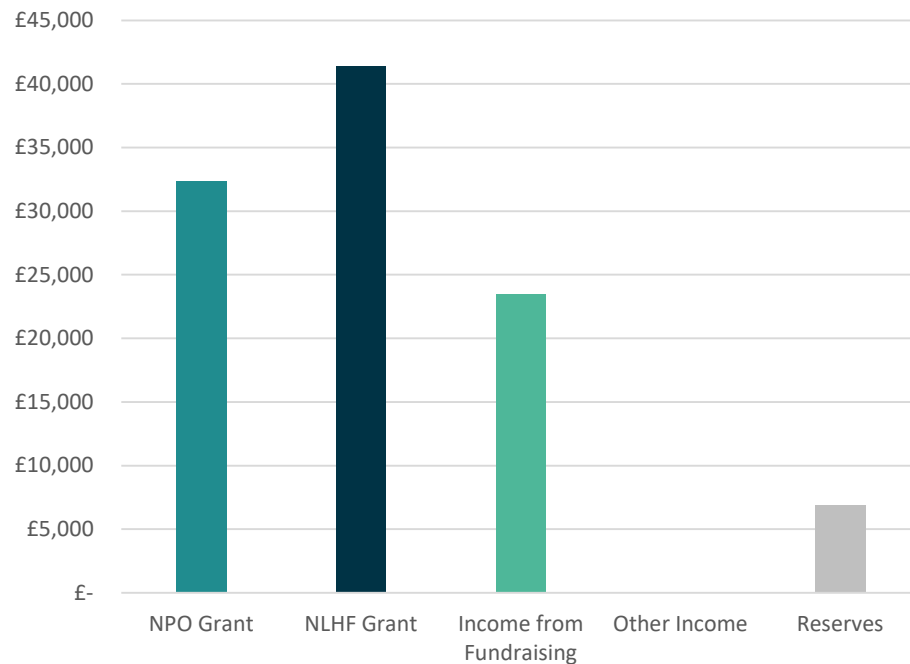
£429,611

This is a **13%** increase from the previous financial year, largely as a result of successful fundraising for the *Hardy's Wessex* exhibition and the reintroduction of partner museums' contributions to the partnership.

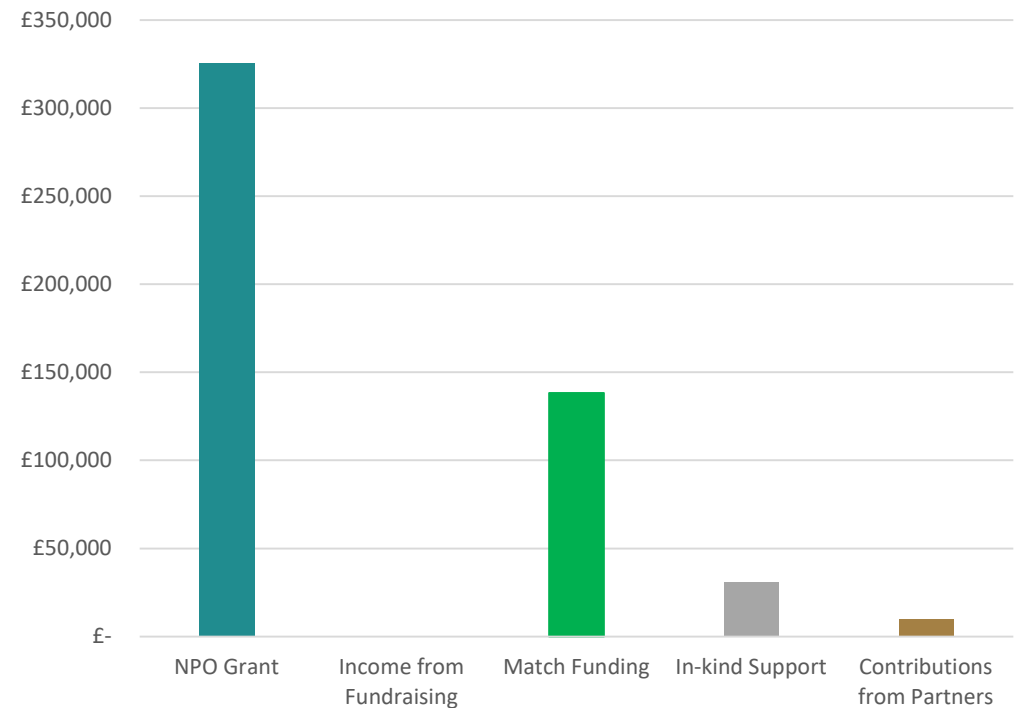


The **NPO grant made up around 76% of the partnership's income**, a reduction as compared to 87% in 2020/21. In 2021/22, **Wessex Museums Trust raised more than £87k** for the *Hardy's Wessex* exhibition. This demonstrates the charity's ability to fundraise for the collaborative programme and thus diversify the partnership's funding profile. WMT fundraising has significantly increased match funding for the partnership's NPO programme of activity during 2021/22, helping to ensure that the partnership's collaborative programme is fully funded.

Wessex Museums Trust Funding Profile 2021/22



Wessex Museums NPO Funding Profile 2021/22



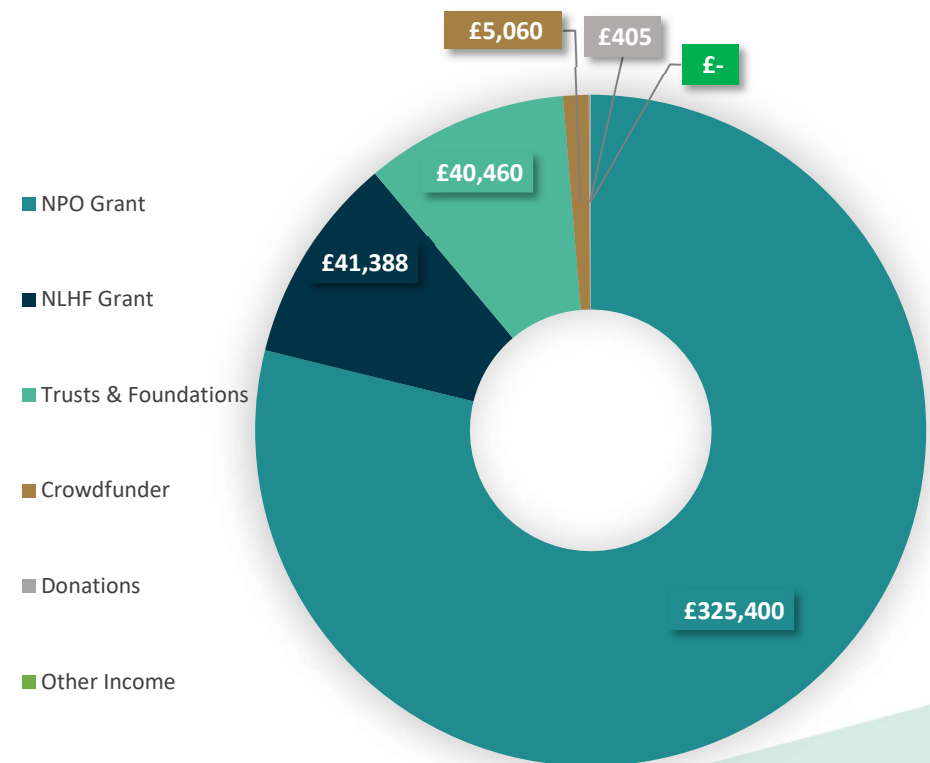
Summary of Fundraising & Income Generation for the Year

During 2021/22, Wessex Museums achieved more than **£87k in fundraising** from a variety of sources, including sponsorship, a Crowdfunder campaign and public donations. This represents a **56% increase in fundraising income** from the previous financial year.

Sources of income from fundraising have included:

- Over **£400** in public donations from our *Wildlife in the Red* online lectures.
- More than **£40,000** raised through **Trusts & Foundations** in support of the *Hardy's Wessex* exhibition and public engagement programme.
- Over **£5000** raised through WMT's first successful **Crowdfunder campaign** for the *Hardy's Wessex* exhibition.

Wessex Museums Income 2021-22



Delivering our Strategic Plan

In May 2021 we formally launched our new Strategic Plan for Wessex Museums.

As set out in last year's Impact Report, the events of 2020 led WMT to reconsider our partnership priorities, starting with our mission and values, through to the activity we deliver through our collaborative programme. Alongside this, Arts Council England published its new 10-year strategy, *Let's Create*, which aligned with our emerging strategic thinking. In response, WMT undertook a complete overhaul of our strategic plan in recognition of the crucial role of museums in collecting, interpreting, and engaging people in these extraordinary times, as well as rebuilding the cultural fabric of society in our region as we emerge into a post-pandemic world.

Our new strategic plan for the period 2021-23 has a sharper focus on:

- Engaging underserved audiences in our local areas.
- Improving access to our world-class collections.
- Delivering excellence through our partnership programming.
- Developing digital content that supports different models of engagement and income generation.
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and environmental sustainability.
- Workforce development.
- Building an evidence base for the impact of our work as a partnership.



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

As part of our new Strategic Plan, in 2021, Wessex Museums also committed to a new intersectional EDI framework which moves us and our partners to take stronger, practical action to dismantle prejudice and discrimination in our organisations.

Aligned to the framework, Wessex Museums has developed and published its EDI action plan.

Key achievements against our Wessex Museums EDI action plan for the year:

- EDI training based on lived experience of racism and discrimination delivered online to senior leaders and trustees across the partnership.
- History of Inequality training provided to learning and engagement staff in the partner museums.
- EDI training audit completed and will be used to inform on-going EDI training programme.
- Diversity Champions from the partner museums were fully integrated into the Diversity Working Group.
- Diversity Working Group now includes a representative from an underserved community.
- Decolonisation mentoring programme delivered with our partner museums to support them to undertake small pilot projects to begin their decolonisation practice.
- Access & Inclusion Advisor, herself disabled, appointed to support the museums with work placements for disabled young people as part of the Bridging the Gap programme.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION FRAMEWORK

OUR OVERARCHING AIM

To **dismantle** prejudice and discrimination in our organisations

OUR COMMITMENTS



Connecting with Communities

The establishment of the Learning and Engagement Exchange network (LEX) across the partner museums has focussed on building confidence and skills for engagement and co-production work with underserved communities.

Museum colleagues have participated in a range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training sessions led by the Wessex Engagement Lead and specialist trainers. A key focus during this period has been on developing skills and knowledge in collecting and interpreting data, and gathering outcomes-linked evidence for our community engagement work. Working closely with an external evaluator, we co-produced an Evaluation Framework that sets out six outcomes from which to measure the impact of our work. Other CPD sessions have focused on embedding EDI into our practice, understanding the needs of disabled audiences and a greater awareness of working with young people who have behavioural problems.

Throughout the pandemic, community curators continued to engage with other underserved community groups to develop meaningful and co-created programmes. Projects included an intergenerational oral history project, pottery workshops with women from refugee backgrounds and workshops exploring how adults with learning disabilities coped with isolation and loneliness during lockdown. Each project and its outcomes were exhibited in community spaces in the museums.

Create & Collect for Climate Change

From this basis, we set out to identify, consult and work with underserved audiences as identified in our delivery plan. The *Create and Collect for Climate Change* project was a co-created project and exhibition led by young people across the four museums. It platformed the voices of diverse young people across Dorset and Wiltshire about the greatest challenge facing their generation - the climate emergency. Using an intersectional approach, participants were recruited from a broad range of backgrounds via local networks and social media groups, including uniformed Scout and Girlguiding groups, young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and through social media sites such as Facebook.

A key outcome of this project was to ensure that children and young people felt they could contribute to the work of museums. To this end, objects and creative responses were chosen to be accessioned into each museum's permanent collection as part of a contemporary collecting initiative and were showcased in a display in each museum. Poole and Dorset Museums also engaged the young people in the *Kids in Museum Takeover Day* on the theme of the Climate Emergency.

Key Achievements:

- Evaluation Framework developed with six clear outcomes and guidance for LEX colleagues to review impact of museum work with underserved audiences.
- Over **40** young people, many from underserved backgrounds who are new to museums, participated in the *Create & Collect for Climate Change* project.
- Museum learning transitioned into spaces where children and young people spent time with each other, such as green spaces in their neighbourhoods.

Building Resilience

Novation

Novation has been a long-term ambition of WMT. With support and advocacy from BCP Council, WMT has agreed an outline position on novation with the Council which will enable the transfer of the current NPO funding agreement and NPO funded staff to Wessex Museums during the financial year 2022/23, subject to ACE approval. Novation will enable WMT to continue to grow and thrive as an independent organisation and provide greater equity for the museums in the partnership.

Environmental Sustainability

In 2021/22 the partnership formed an Environmental Responsibility Working Group to lead a full review of our approach to environmental sustainability across all areas of our work, drawing on best practice from the sector, the government, and the UN. The result was a new Environmental Responsibility Framework for Wessex Museums, which was adopted in March 2022.

Wessex Museums Environmental Responsibility framework is a strategic document that sets the ambition for the partnership and provides a framework through which each partner museum can develop an action plan for their organisation.

The framework is based on the three areas where we believe we can have most impact:

- **People (our organisations)**
- **Place (our local area)**
- **Programme (our communities)**

The framework acknowledges the global issues resulting from the climate crisis and seeks to join regional efforts to achieve Net Carbon Zero. It is also pragmatic and acknowledges that small changes in all areas of our work will make an accumulative

difference. As a result, it advocates that all members of our organisations should be given the opportunity to respond to the climate emergency within their own area of work.

Key to delivery of the framework is training in carbon literacy, which will begin in 2022/23. To support this, the framework advocates for the adoption of the Carbon Literacy Toolkit for Museums developed between Arts Council England and The Carbon Literacy Project. Training, certification, and accreditation to this scheme will provide a useful measure of our impact.

Digital

Our digital exhibitions and the partnership-wide Thomas Hardy exhibition gave us the opportunity to extend and experiment with our digital outputs, helping to diversify our audiences, extend our reach and encourage museum visits, as well as explore new business models for generating income. Alongside this we were able to provide placements for two MA students.

- Created the Hardy exhibition webpages (travel trade and general public) and the Hardy events calendar. over **1k** unique page views from launch to end March 2022.
- Delivered our first Crowdfunder campaign, engaging high profile patrons and generating extensive media coverage.
- Set up subscriber e-newsletters on Mailchimp platform. Internal and external versions with **1039** subscribers in total.
- Researched the concept, technology, and production process for the 'Interrogating Hardy' podcast series (released May 2022)
- Devised our first cross-partnership social media plan (Thomas Hardy exhibition).
- Recruited and mentored two MA placement students, one for the Hardy podcast series and one as digital marketing assistant. One has already led to a full-time paid position in the sector.
- Digital activities resulted in a substantial increase in our followers on social media (Twitter + 420, Instagram + 200 and Facebook +277).

Our Programming

Thomas Hardy Exhibition

In 2021/22 our partnership-wide exhibition, *Hardy's Wessex: the landscapes that inspired a writer*, came to fruition after a year's delay due to the pandemic. The exhibition is supported by a programme of talks, podcasts, workshops, and family activities.

The exhibition explores how the Wessex landscapes inspired the author Thomas Hardy. It spans the four venues, each exhibition focussing on a different social theme, from animal welfare to women's equality.

The project enabled over 200 objects to be displayed to the public, 100 of which were part of the UNESCO Memory of the World registered Thomas Hardy Memorial Collection. 135 of these objects were on display to the public for the first time, including the earliest known depiction of Hardy with his mother Jemima and several key letters concerning Hardy's burial and death, which were acquired during lockdown.

Key Achievements:

- Assessment and conservation of **31** exhibition objects, plus specialist conservation cleaning of a further **12**
- Organised **4** major loans from national museums, with support from the Weston Loans programme.
- Creation of **9** Hardy walks with the Thomas Hardy Society, Ramblers and local youth groups.
- Collaboration with Arts University Bournemouth to engage over **120** young people in co-creation of exhibition elements.
- Distribution of **1000** 'Wessex Words' booklets, to encourage reading of Hardy across local libraries
- Satellite exhibitions in **8** smaller venues across the Wessex region.
- Exhibition guidebook - '*Hardy's Wessex*' - authored by the exhibition curator.
- Online talks programme developed for release over the summer.

My World My Future

My World My Future is a digital exhibition, launched in March 2022. It showcases the voices and creative responses of underserved young people in Dorset and Wiltshire through engagement work carried out with our four partner museums on a project called *Create and Collect for Climate Change*. It expresses their concerns on environmental issues and the climate emergency and focuses on their ideas for positive action to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Key Achievements:

- Webpages attracted **255** unique page views
- 2 online talks, attended by 52 people live, and 51 on YouTube.
- Working together with Students Organising for Sustainability, we hosted our first Instagram Live talk.
- Produced 9 related YouTube videos, attracting **418** unique page views.

Wildlife in the Red

Following the launch of the *Wildlife in the Red* exhibition in October 2022, we devised a programme of online talks, enabling us to reach out to new and global audiences. These talks contributed to a considerable rise in social media engagement across all our platforms and provided a welcome income stream in the form of donations, for the Wessex Museums Trust.

Key Achievements:

- Total of **662** people attended nine online talks
- Almost **2k** unique page views on the *Wildlife in the Red* webpages: 830 on homepage, and 1074 on booking page
- **17** videos uploaded to YouTube, with **1.4k** views

Our Collections & Interpretation

Contemporary Collecting

Linked to our *Connecting with Communities* workstream, during 2021/22 the museums engaged with communities of young people in a contemporary collecting project on the theme of climate change - *Create and Collect for Climate Change* project (see p.10). Working with young people from underserved communities, the museums accessioned items into their collection relating to the theme around climate change important to the young people they worked with. *Create and Collection for Climate Change* culminated in small temporary displays in each partner museum, an online exhibition *My World My Future* (see p.15) and a series of short films, to platform the project and the voices of young people in and beyond our museums on this important issue of our times.

Decolonisation

During 2021, our partner museums had professional mentoring to begin the practice of decolonising their collections and interpretation. Working on a display and/or objects from their collections, or examining their founders, the museums put decolonisation into practice through defined pilot projects. The pilot projects will conclude in 2022/23, but the museums are committed to embedding decolonisation into their general practice. A decolonisation working group will be formed for the partnership and led by the Collections Manager funded by Wessex Museums. Colleagues will be undertaking further training and development to support decolonisation work, including it is hoped, through the Museums Association's decolonisation confidence & skills programme.

Virtual Collections

Across our museums, we have almost **500,000 objects catalogued** and have **exceeded our target of 100,000 digital images**. We continue to get more of our collections online, creating a Virtual Wessex Museums Collection, enabling us to share our collections, promote research and develop innovative exhibition programming.

Wessex Museums is poised to **procure an open-source system to enable cross-searching and display of data from the collections management systems of the four Wessex Museums partners**. This is supported by funding from Arts Council England (ACE). The intention is to export data from the museum collections management systems into a data repository, to create interfaces to enable search and presentation of object records and to use those object records to create online exhibitions.

The Virtual Collection was planned in the context of FAIR principles, the AHRC Towards a National Collection initiative and the work of the Collections Trust. As these initiatives come to fruition, it is intended that the open-source tools developed through this procurement can be adopted by a wide range of museums to reduce the barriers in enabling online access to collections. This procurement will be managed by Wiltshire Museum, in partnership with the Wessex Museums Trust during 2022/23.

Looking Ahead

2022/23 will start with the long-awaited launch of the partnership's most ambitious collaborative project to date, *Hardy's Wessex*, and conclude with Wessex Museums Trust as a fully-fledged organisation.

The partnership is entering a new and exciting phase and Wessex Museums' plans will continue to support the relevance and sustainability of our partners, particularly as we embed the EDI and Environmental Responsibility frameworks across our organisations. Evaluation and advocacy will also be focal points in 2022/23, as we reflect on our achievements over the past five years as an NPO and we hope, begin planning in earnest for another three years of NPO investment.

Our plans for 2022/23 include...

- **Hardy's Wessex** - delivery of the partnership's ambitious, 4-venue exhibition and associated public engagement programme, running from end May to end October 2022. We will be developing plans to tour the exhibition to venues beyond the Wessex partnership.
- **Work placements for disabled young people** in our partner museums, encouraging young people who face particular barriers to undertake meaningful work matched to their interests and gain professional experience in our museum spaces.
- **Evaluation Framework for Bridging the Gap** - a common approach for evaluating the impact of work with communities of young people, sharing common evaluation data and promoting peer-to-peer learning across the partnership.
- **EDI Training with linked video tutorials** for staff and volunteers across the partnership, with a focus on lived experience.
- **Environmental Responsibility Framework** - We will embed our new Environmental Responsibility framework across our organisations, undertake Carbon Literacy training and put in place organisational action plans to help us meaningfully reduce our impact on the environment.
- **Virtual Wessex Collections** - We will create an online, searchable database of our museums' collections and open-source tools that are freely available to other museums.
- **Digital Learning Platform** - Launch an online suite of learning resources for KS3 and with a focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering and Maths).
- **Advocacy events** including a Learning Showcase, a regional conference, and presentations and events with regional and national sector organisations.
- **Securing NPO funding for 2023-26** with WMT as the funded organisation and **extending our partnership** to collaborate with more museums.
- Developing Board succession plans and **sustainable governance** for WMT.
- Bringing our **staff team into the employment of WMT**.

Wessex Museums

Sharing • Collaborating • Enhancing



wessexmuseums.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Impact Report 2020/21

WESSEX MUSEUMS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1171104

Accounts

Wessex Museums Trust (charity number 1171104)
Trustees Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Administration

Charity name	Wessex Museums Trust
Registration number	1171104
Principal address	Poole Museum 4 High Street Poole Dorset BH15 1BW
Names of charity trustees:	Julia Findlater (Chair) Glyn Coy David Dawson Adrian Green Dr Jonathan Murden Gill Donnell Michael Spender
Partnership manager	Kristina Broughton
Accountants	Albert Goodman LLP Goodwood House Blackbrook Park Avenue Taunton Somerset TA1 2PX

Structure, governance and management

The Wessex Museums Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in January 2017 (No. 1171104). The Trust is governed by its constitution last updated in January 2017.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board consists of four nominated and three appointed trustees. The four nominated trustees are appointed, one each, by the four appointing bodies (Poole Museums – BCP Council, Dorset Museum, Salisbury Museum, Wiltshire Museum). Nominated trustees are appointed for a three year term. The three appointed trustees are independent and selected on the basis of the skills, knowledge and experience they can bring to the effective administration of the Trust Board. The three appointed by the trustees serve for a term of three years.

Trustees are elected at a meeting of the Trustee Board, usually the AGM.

The trustees may serve for up to three consecutive terms.

The charity trustees are responsible for managing the affairs of the CIO. They also oversee the management and delivery of the Wessex Museums Partnership's National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme funded by Arts Council England (ACE). Currently the funding agreement for the NPO is between Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP Council) and ACE, as the Wessex Museums Trust was not yet constituted as a legal entity at the time the NPO grant application was awarded. However BCP Council has given the Wessex Museums Trust delegated authority for the management of the grant funding and programme, through a legal partnership agreement. It is the Trust's ambition to novate the NPO grant from BCP Council to the charity in 2021.

The day-to-day operations of the Trust are managed by the Partnership Manager and a team of two further central staff members who work across the consortium: a Fundraising & Development Manager and a Marketing & Digital Officer. All three posts are funded by the consortium's NPO grant, which as described above, is held by Poole Museums – BCP Council. As a result, the three staff members are currently employed by BCP Council, but work on behalf of the Wessex Museums Trust.

The Wessex Museums Trust Board meets quarterly. The Board invites an 'observer trustee' from the meeting host partner museum to ensure engagement with the partner museums' boards. The minutes of the Wessex Museums Trust Board meetings are also distributed to and form a regular agenda item on the boards of each of the partner museums.

Trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or financial benefits.

The Wessex Museums Partnership maintains a risk register in respect of delivery of its NPO programme and the charity's affairs. This includes organisational risks in respect of the Wessex Museums Trust as the governance and management body of the NPO. The risk register is reviewed at every Board meeting.

Objectives and activities

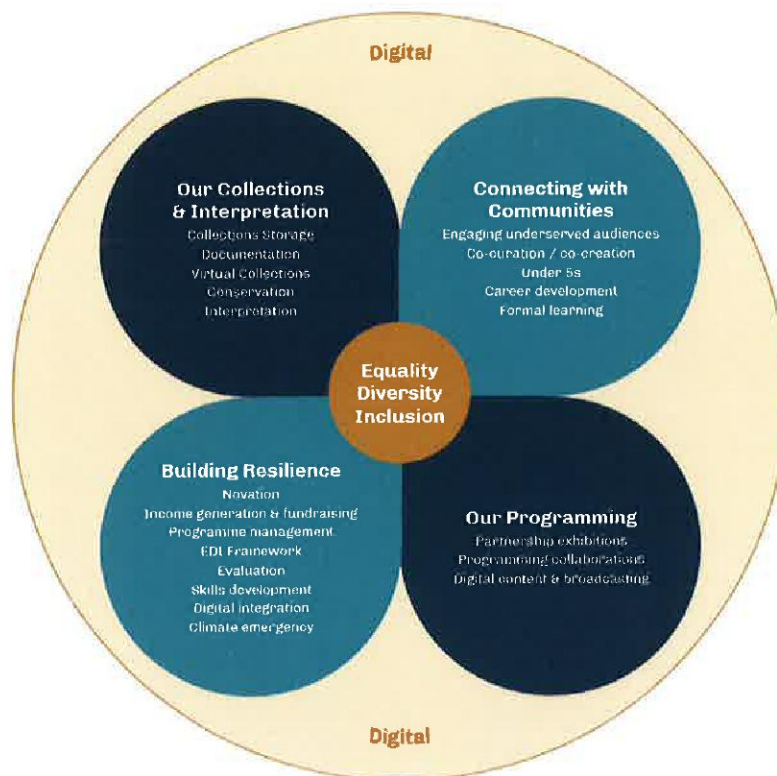
The objects of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in its constitution and are summarised as follows:

- To support for the benefit of the public the building, establishment and maintenance of accredited museums in Dorset and Wiltshire, their artefacts, art, specimens, documents and other associated material, including the collection, storage, research and conservation of all such material; and
- to advance the education of the public (in particular but without limitation to those living in Dorset and Wiltshire and those geographic, ethnic, disabled and other communities who do not traditionally attend museums) in particular (but not limited to) by providing information about the history, heritage and culture of Dorset and Wiltshire and support to the provision and improvement of the facilities, collections, exhibitions, formal and informal learning opportunities, public events and other educational activities, including in digital form, available to the public in museums in Dorset and Wiltshire and within the communities of Dorset and Wiltshire and across the internet.

The Wessex Museums Trust is a thriving partnership of the four leading museums across the counties of Dorset and Wiltshire: Poole Museums Service, Dorset Museum, Salisbury Museum and Wiltshire Museum.

Wessex Museums exists to build the resilience and relevance of the museums in our partnership and others across the region. Our mission is to support museums to connect, inspire and add value to people's lives.

The Wessex Museums Trust's current strategic plan supports the delivery of our charitable objectives for the public benefit, and the delivery of our National Portfolio Organisation programme funded by Arts Council England and our Bridging the Gap programme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Our strategic plan has four strands:



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

At the heart of our strategic plan is equality, diversity and inclusion. WMT is committed to the values of a just, inclusive and cohesive society and we take seriously our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. We actively seek to identify and remove barriers to participation and create opportunities for engagement to achieve equity.

We recognise that there can be no fair society if some groups remain disadvantaged because of their legally protected characteristics: age, disability, gender, race/ethnicity, religion and belief, marriage/civil partnership, maternity/paternity, sexual orientation or gender reassignment. Equally in our region, we recognise that there are groups in our localities that face isolation and unfair discrimination who fall outside of these protected characteristic groups (e.g. lower socio-economic, military and rural communities). We also recognise that people can face multiple disadvantages and therefore we approach equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) through an intersectional lens.

Our EDI Framework and Commitments

EDI sits at the centre of our strategic plan and is framed by the commitments we have made through our EDI framework, which are to:

- Embed and integrate an intersectional EDI approach into all parts of our organisations
- Ensure our organisations reflect the diversity of our region.

- Amplify the stories and voices of marginalised groups through our programmes.
- Engage communities in our decision-making and programmes, particularly those from historically excluded and underserved groups.
- Dismantle racism and discrimination in our organisations.
- Educate ourselves and our colleagues on EDI and what it means to be an effective ally.

Digital

Digital is a golden thread running through Wessex Museums' strategic plan, touching all aspects of our programme. Through our programme we are determined to make the most of every opportunity to integrate digital in the way we work and the activity that we deliver.

Our Digital Strategy has three key objectives:

- To future proof our organisation through digital integration and capacity building.
- To create and broadcast digital content to help diversify our audiences and encourage museum visits.
- To explore new business models for using digital to engage audiences and generate income.

Achievements and performance

The achievement and performance of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in our Annual Impact Report for 2020/21 against the key strands of our strategic plan. (Appendix A).

Financial review

During the year the charity generated income of £56,368 from a combination of grants, sponsorship, donations and sale of merchandise. Against this there were small costs for accountancy and insurance, as well as programme and project delivery costs in the region of £20k. The surplus in the year of £41,338 included £34,945 of restricted funding and £6,393 of unrestricted funding which makes up the charity's reserves.

Reserves policy

The Trustees consider, in line with the Charity Commission advice, that the Trust should have unrestricted reserves equivalent to at least one year's core costs. The Wessex Museums Trust currently has no staff, buildings or other assets, as these are provided for by the partner museums. Therefore there are currently no specific core costs for the charity. As such at present it is not necessary for the charity to retain reserves. However the Trustees will actively seek to build up an appropriate level of reserves as the funding for the charity continues to diversify and grow.

The reserves policy for the Wessex Museums Trust will be reviewed annually and/or at such time as the circumstances in relation to the charity's assets/core costs changes, and revised accordingly in line with the Charity Commission advice.

Declaration

This Trustees report for the Wessex Museums Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021 was approved by the trustees on 9 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Julia Findlater

Date: 12 October 2021

Julia Findlater, Chairperson for the Wessex Museums Trust



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

To

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Sale of merchandise	86	-	-	86	103
NLHF Bridging the Gap - grant	-	41,550	-	41,550	-
NPO (Engagement Lead) salary costs	-	12,600	-	12,600	-
Event Donations	402	-	-	402	-
Event Sponsorship	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,488	54,150	-	56,638	103
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,488	54,150	-	56,638	103
A3 Payments					
Accountancy	384	-	-	384	360
Insurance	396	-	-	396	372
Professional Fees	1,722	-	-	1,722	-
Engagement Lead salary costs	-	18,785	-	18,785	-
Project costs	-	420	-	420	-
Training course partial refund	35	-	-	35	-
Wildlife in the Red event Speaker	100	-	-	100	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,567	19,205	-	21,772	732
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,567	19,205	-	21,772	732
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 79	34,945	-	34,866	- 629
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,472	-	-	6,472	7,101
Cash funds this year end	6,393	34,945	-	41,338	6,472

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	funds to nearest £	funds to nearest £	funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	6,393	34,945	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,393	34,945	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Albert Goodman	Accountants fees	384	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Julia Fiedler

JULIA FINDLATER

9. Sept 2021

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Wessex Museums Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Wessex Museums Trust ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records

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.



Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA

Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: 5 November 2021