

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

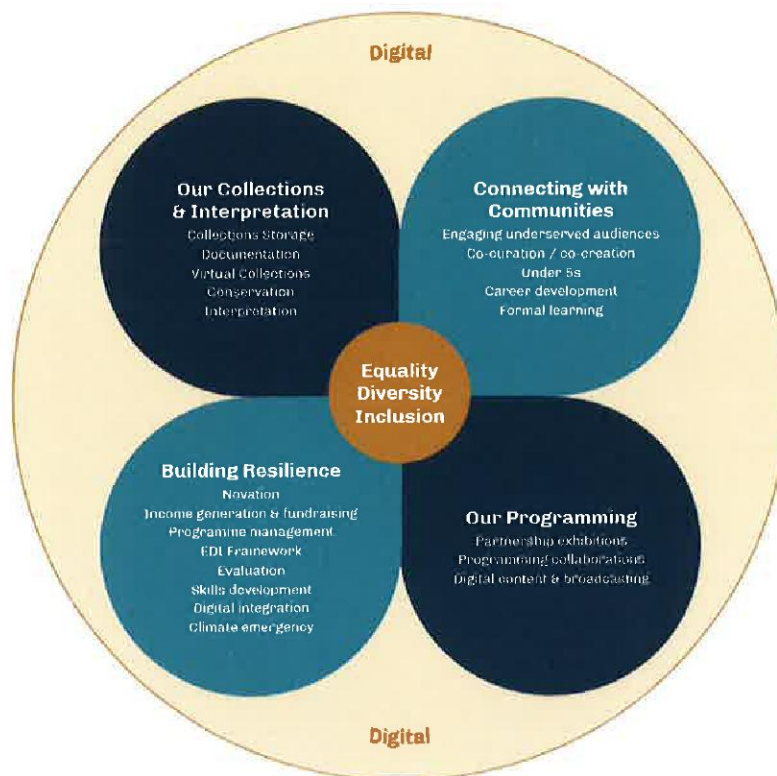
The objects of the Wessex Museums Trust are set out in its constitution and are summarised as follows:

- 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	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment 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))			

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 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 Findlatek	JULIA FINDLATEK	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