

AMESBURY HISTORY CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1176636

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-01-12

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Amesbury History Centre
4 Church Street
Amesbury
Wiltshire
SP4 7EU

Phone 07533749456

Email treasurer@amesburyhistorycentre.co.uk

Website www.amesburyhistorycentre.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A MUSEUM AND ASSOCIATED ARTEFACTS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF AMESBURY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

Activities: To advance the education of the public by the establishment and maintenance of a museum and associated artefacts relating to the history of Amesbury and the surrounding area

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Area of benefit: LOCAL
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£64,003	£41,266	-	-
2024-03-31	£29,605	£39,151	-	-
2023-03-31	£42	£6,678	-	-
2022-03-31	£1,507	£3,006	-	-
2021-03-31	£17,167	£3,265	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Jason DOIG		2023-02-04
Angela Broster		2025-09-04
Angelea Rosamund Bayliss		2024-01-01
Caroline Langhurst		2024-09-05
James Anthony Edward Johnston		2019-09-19
Simon Harrod		2023-12-01

AMESBURY HISTORY CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1176636

Accounts



Amesbury History Centre

www.amesburyhistorycentre.org.uk Charity N°1176636

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01 April 2024 To 31 March 2025

Charity name: Amesbury History Centre CIO

Charity registration number: 1176636

Report

The Trustees have the pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102) in preparing the financial statements of the Charity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Charity is governed by its governing documents (constitution) which was adopted on the 4th September 2017 when it was established as a Charitable Incorporated organisation.

The Trustees

The Trustees under Charity law who served during the year up to the end of the financial year covered in this report were:

Mr James Johnston (Co-Chair)

Mr Andrew Doig (Co-Chair)

Mrs Christina Gane

Mr Simon Harrod

Mrs Caroline Langhurst

Mr Christopher Kenward

Ms Rebecca Laughlin

Mrs Angelea Bayliss

Organisational Structure

The Amesbury History Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Trustees are persons who through residence, occupation, employment, public service or

otherwise have special knowledge of Amesbury. All trustees are co-optative.



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Risk Management

All trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Objectives and Activities

The object of the Charity is to advance the education of the public by the establishment and maintenance of a museum and associated artifacts relating to the history of Amesbury and the surrounding area.

Achievements and Performance

The focus for the Trustees in the early part of the financial year was to build on the success of the History Centre following its opening in the second half of 2023. This included broadening the range of events and exhibitions taking place and in seeking additional funding to both help with the running costs and to further build the offering to the local community.

In terms of the latter, we were successful in obtaining a significant grant from the Amesbury Town Council for £15,000 each year over a three year period to help meet the utility costs of the History Centre which are our largest outgoing. We were also successful in obtaining grants from St James Place and the Bank of England and we worked with the Amesbury Town Council to obtain a grant of £20,000 per year over two years as part of the Wiltshire Towns Fund grants process which will be used to help draw individuals into the town.

The trustees also started work in earnest around gaining full Arts Council accreditation status which will allow us to work more closely with other museums, borrow items, be eligible for further sources of funding and it will demonstrate that we have appropriate governance and processes in place as a small museum/history centre..

There has also been some significant work towards putting the foundations in place to seek a National Lottery Heritage Grant with the aim of setting up a significant exhibition on Queen Eleanor of Provence who is thought to be buried in the town. This application is seen as a prelude to a larger application in 2027 where we will seek to refresh the entire top floor of the History Centre to better display the rich heritage of the town.

Throughout the year we continued to grow the volunteer and membership base without whom we would be unable to operate as successfully as we do. Our volunteers give up significant amounts of their time to help staff the history centre on a daily basis and towards the end of the financial year they took on the running of the cafe back from the commercial venture that was operating it which has resulted in a significant increase in revenue for the History Centre. During the year we have transitioned to much more of a volunteer led organisation with specialist leads across a number of areas such as the appointment of a volunteer to head up the curation role and also a volunteer to lead on the operation of the cafe.

We continue to see visits from a wide range of community groups from local primary schools and pre-school groups to Scouts and Brownies, a local Mental Health Group, the WI with the History Centre taking on more of a role as a community focal point following the closure of the local community shop. We continue to offer support to local youth through hosting local Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers although our size limits the numbers that we can take on.

Over the year we continued to host a range of talks in the History Centre, many of which were sold out. This included a number of talks from Professor David Jacques from Buckingham University. David is a Director of the Blick Mead Environmental Trust and was responsible for the hugely exciting archaeological finds at the local Blick Mead site which has raised the profile of Amesbury and the History Centre internationally. The talk on the eve of the Winter Solstice was particularly well received and was immediately followed by the very successful town lantern parade down to the Blick Mead site. We also had a local author provide two sell-out talks on a dark part of Amesbury's recent history which brought a significant number of new visitors to the History Centre.

For most of the year the Melor Tearooms in the History centre was operated by a local business on our behalf and the hope was that it would generate additional footfall and revenue. Sadly this did not prove to be the case as the hoped for revenue didn't materialise and the viability of the tearooms operating on a commercial basis just wasn't there given the operating costs involved. The local business handed the tearoom back to trustees towards the end of the financial year and the decision was taken to operate them using our team of volunteers. This has proved to be hugely successful and in the short period of time between taking the tearooms on and the end of the financial year, we saw profits increase dramatically given our lower cost base. This will be a key element going forward to generate sufficient income to help keep the centre open and entry free.

As we look forward to the next year, the trustees see the development of its long-term goals as a key to future success as we seek to tell the story of historic Amesbury in an educational, interactive, modern and professional setting. With that in mind we will be seeking to engage with Museum professionals to help us further develop our offering, obtain Museum accreditation, and seek funding to develop our displays and provide training for volunteers and trustees alike.

As we enter the 2025/2026 financial year, we will be looking to do as much work as possible toward accreditation and to develop the bid for a National Heritage Lottery Grant. We are also likely to host a Community Dig during the year which we hope will both improve revenue for the centre but more importantly bring the community closer in terms of understanding the vast history of the area and our place within the Stonehenge

environment. The aim is to drive tourists and locals to visit the town and the Centre and with a huge visitor population at nearby Stonehenge, we have a fantastic opportunity to work with the Town Council and other local organisations such as The Stonehenge Chamber to achieve this.

Our focus over the next two years will centre around:

- Exhibition Development – Seeking funding for the development of the Amesbury Timeline permanent exhibit in the Centre itself and an Outdoor Education Area.
- Operate the Amesbury History Centre as a Community Hub for all. • Become an Archaeological Centre of Excellence.
- Building on the fantastic history we have in Amesbury as the Oldest continuously inhabited site to attract professionals to use the centre for events and research.
- Act as a focal point for tourism in the town.
- Hosting of events such as talks on our History, Community Digs and community days to improve the local understanding of the history of the town.



Amesbury History Centre

www.amesburyhistorycentre.org.uk Charity N°1176636

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves Policy

The charity implemented a reserves policy as required by the Charity Commission Rules and set out in last year's report.

Restricted Funds

The Charity currently has grant funds from the Amesbury Town Council that can only be used to pay for Utilities as agreed by the Council. We also have grant income in the form of a grant from Wiltshire Council that can only be used in accordance with the bid made, namely on events and activities that work towards increasing the footfall in the town.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of the resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the charities Act 2011. 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 Trustees on 25 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by

James Johnston

James Johnston - Co-Chair Amesbury History Centre

Annual financial report by the Treasurer covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Introduction

I have prepared this report following an independent check of the financial statements covering a 12-month period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 from the books and records of the Amesbury History Centre CIO (AHC). To the best of my knowledge and belief the financial details provided here reflect a true account of the financial state of the charity from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Treasurer's Report

The Charity has continued to build on its first successful year in the new building with a significant increase in income although this is largely as a result of a decision taken by Amesbury Town Council to support us through a grant of £15,000 per year for 3 years (this being our first year) to help meet our running costs, namely Utilities. We were also successful in an application for Wiltshire Towns Fund money which was allocated by the Amesbury Town Council to the History Centre for activities that would help promote the town and increase footfall to the high street. As this funding was received at the end of our financial year, we will not see the full impact of this additional funding until the 25/26 financial accounts.

At the start of this financial year, we partnered up with A Date with Thyme, a local business that shared our passion and vision for Amesbury, to run the Tearooms within the AHC on our behalf. This was on a fixed fee profit share basis but high startup costs, lower than expected footfall and a change in circumstances meant that this partnership was terminated by mutual agreement on 01 February 25. Since this date the tearooms have been managed wholly by the volunteers and we are starting to see significant profits which are helping the cashflow of the AHC.

Another significant change in costs going forward is the departure of the

management company (Stonebury Functions) who were responsible for day-to-day management of the centre and the volunteers. From 1 April 25 the roles undertaken by the management company will be covered by our volunteers and the success in being able to do this is only possible because of the structures and processes put in place by the Centre Manager (Mark). Going forward, the savings made on the management costs will be reinvested into other areas such as the Shop which will enable us to purchase items of stock in our own right leading to higher profit margins.

Income

In comparison to the previous financial years, this year has been significantly more successful with a higher level of income. This has been a mix of income generated from trading activities through the Tearoom, the Shop, events, memberships and from generous donations and grants received over the period. Total income for the year was £64,003 in 24/25 vs £30,104 in 23/24

In part this is due to the fact that we saw a full year of operations in 24/25 but also due to the fact that our grant income has increased through the generous support from Amesbury Town Council who have committed to a grant of £15,000 per year for 3 years to support us with our utility bills. It should be noted that the £15,000 received in this year's accounts relates to the period Nov 24 to Oct 25 so whilst all the income is recognised in this year's accounts, some of the expenditure will be in next year. Should actual costs over the grant year come in under the total of the grant provided then we are required under its terms to return any unused amounts.

This is also relevant in relation to the £20,000 received from Wiltshire Council as part of the Wiltshire Towns Fund Grant which was received at the end of the financial year and which is recorded in the accounts as other income. This funding is restricted funding to be used to support activities that generate footfall into the town or encourage wider knowledge of the town and the Amesbury History Centre.

Whilst we have seen a similar level of cash donations made at the AHC over the year, our investment in an electronic tap-and-donate system has paid dividends with an increase in total donations by about 40% over the year.

We have also seen a 42% rise in shop sales over the past year although with a lower rise in stock costs. The trustees see the shop as a real area of potential growth over the next couple of years as we aim to undertake a revamp of what we sell with more destination themed products highlighting both the AHC and the town. This will however require investment up front in stock but will have the benefit of both allowing us more control over what items are sold and the level of profit margin that we are able to realise.

We have run a successful series of talks over the year including one by Professor David Jacques and two sell out evenings by Neil Berret whose 'Six Little Heads' talk was about a bleak time in Amesbury's history 100 years ago. Whilst some of the

other talks that we had during the year were not quite so successful in terms of revenue raising, they were well attended and provided added benefit to those with membership.

Whilst our partnership with A Date with Thyme to run the Tearooms on our behalf did not raise as much revenue as hoped, its transfer back to the AHC to be run by our volunteers in the last two months of the period showed that there is considerable potential in this area. We are lucky that being volunteer run, our costs are low and therefore this remains one of the strongest areas of revenue generation for the AHC.

In terms of grants, in addition to the grant of £15,000 from Amesbury Town Council, we were successful in receiving a grant of £1,500 from St James Place and £500 from the Bank of England. Both of these grants were available for general usage rather than being allocated to a specific purpose. It remains a very competitive market for grants and we were less successful in bids to the Henry Moor Foundation, the Arts Council and SW Museums.

Revenue from membership has fallen over the past year as the initial membership drive in the lead up to the opening of the AHC in 2023 has fallen away. This is also partially explained by the purchase of life memberships in 2023 that, whilst successful in boosting income in the financial year in which it is paid, means that it will not be repeated in future years. We have recently recruited a new volunteer as membership secretary to drive additional memberships and recent initiatives include a new overseas membership category which we hope will bring in new members from a previously un-tapped market.

As we look forward to the next financial year and beyond, we have the funding in the form of a grant from Amesbury Town Council to help with Utility costs available for the next 2 years (2026 & 2027) of £15,000 per year. We will also receive a further grant of £20,000 from the Wiltshire Towns Fund via Amesbury Town Council for use in 2026. This is a restricted funding source that must be used for areas set out in the funding application such as Consultancy Support, the Community Dig, Marketing and Promotion, and Access and Way finding as part of the town's longer-term plan to drive footfall into the High street.

Expenses

Following the high set up costs incurred in the previous year as the Amesbury History Centre got established, we have seen a general leveling out of costs over the most recent year although there have been some areas where costs have increased.

Utilities costs continue to be the most significant expense that we face with £9,500 spent on electricity and water alone. We are fortunate that in November 2024, the Amesbury Town Council approved a grant of £15,000 per year for each of the next three years to cover these costs but we need to use this time to make plans on how we will cover the costs when this funding source ceases.

We have also seen a rise in the cost of insurance as the value of the assets we hold increases and also a rise in the cost of subscriptions both IT related and to organisations that either help promote the History Centre (Visit Wiltshire), or where they are required for the premises (PRS Licence). We have also seen depreciation (£1,825) on the assets that we purchased as part of the set-up of the History Centre as most of these have a relatively short asset life span.

We have successfully challenged the level of business rates charged by Wiltshire Council and we are now eligible for a 100% discount with the rates charges paid in the first part of the year fully refunded.

We incurred a charge for legal fees (£1,460) in relation to the drafting of a lease agreement with A Date With Thyme in relation to the running of the Tearooms and were successful in recovering half of this cost back from A Date With Thyme. We were also liable for the Amesbury Town Council costs but this was mitigated through an arrangement around the Town Council's liability to pay the electricity costs of the History Centre hosting the town's CCTV system.

Whilst the Management fee costs (£6,996) were slightly higher this year than last, this was due to a full year's fees being payable vs part year in 23/24. It is worth noting that the contract with the management company ceased with effect the end of the financial year so this will no longer be a cost to the History Centre.

We had a slight rise in costs of shop stock but this was more than covered by the rise in shop sales indicating that we are making a higher profit margin than in previous years.

Whilst the accounts show small profit of £2416.79 the year, this is attributable to grant made by the Amesbury Town Council for Utilities of which some will be used to pay for Utility costs over the next financial year.

The total expenditure over the period has been £41,266.51

We ended the period with an operating profit of £2,416.79 and a surplus of assets of £22,736.79 however it should be recognised that this is primarily as a result of the grants from Amesbury Town Council and the Wiltshire Towns fund, both of which will be spent in the next financial year. Our Bank balance at the end of the reporting period stands at £29,878.50 (£28,862.42 relating to restricted funds) with total Assets of £40,711.51

Future Plans

Donations, Grants and Membership continue to be one of the most important revenue streams for the History Centre going forward with additional opportunities in the recovery of Gift Aid. We will also focus on revamping the current shop offering to

get higher generating revenue items and items that have the AHC 'Brand'. We are currently looking to find a volunteer to focus on this. We are also looking to increase the number of revenue generating events for the next year to attract new members and visitors alike and we will start the planning in anticipation of a large community dig in 2026 should plans for this come off.

With the funding from the Wiltshire Towns fund, we have the opportunity to make a real difference in Amesbury and to attract tourists and visitors alike. We are also looking to spend an element of the grant on consultancy support to submit the first of our National Lottery Fund bids in the region of £80,000 that will enhance the offering that we provide. This will also provide the opportunity for a closer partnership with English Heritage and possible link to the History Centre on their website which we hope will increase the number of visitors that we have.

Work continues towards Museum accreditation which will open additional grant opportunities and the possibility of loans to enhance exhibitions and again drive footfall. There will also be a major push in 2026 to develop the plan for the permanent exhibition space on the upper floor that will necessitate a grant from the National Lottery Heritage fund.

Profit and Loss

Amesbury History Centre For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
Turnover		
1st Ann BBQ	(90.22)	-
6 Little Heads Talk Tickets	512.58	-
Activities - Mini Pots	215.52	-
ADWT Rental	2,516.13	-
AGM Quiz	-	22.72
Bar Sales - Talks/Events	15.01	-
Café Sales	4,110.66	9,043.89
Cathedral Talk - Ticket Sales	37.68	-
Coffee Machine income	810.19	-
David Jacques Talk - Members	337.33	1,399.10
David Jacques Talk - Other Revenue	84.00	593.69
David Jacques Talk Non-Member	27.00	1,444.06
Donations	4,162.09	4,414.90
Donations via Electronic Means	1,521.78	74.70
Event - Christmas 24 Quiz -Expenses	29.30	-
Event - Find Eleanor	27.00	-
Fryatt Talk Jul 24	212.68	-
Grant Income	17,000.00	2,560.00
June Quiz	249.09	-
Lantern Sales	40.00	280.25
Membership	1,371.10	2,913.57
Pumpkin Carving 2024	54.36	-
Salisbury Cathedral Talk	7.86	141.28
Shop Sales	9,555.41	6,716.86
South Mills Talk	421.73	-
War Graves Commission Talk	164.92	-
Wiltshire Follies	290.10	-
Total Turnover	43,683.30	29,605.02
Cost of Sales		
Café Stock	930.53	2,822.25
Direct Expenses	4,293.15	434.70
Expense David Jacques Talk	248.38	1,796.82
Shop Stock	5,745.88	4,617.82
Total Cost of Sales	11,217.94	9,671.59
Gross Profit	32,465.36	19,933.43
Administrative Costs		
Advertising & Marketing	10.80	411.29
Bank Fees	128.87	108.56
Cleaning	412.00	399.05

	2025	2024
Coffee Machine Rental	3,790.28	2,775.83
Depreciation Expense	1,825.89	-
Entertainment-100% business	-	190.00
Events - Christmas Quix 24 Sales	(63.60)	-
Exhibit Item Costs	875.83	1,004.30
Garden Upkeep	122.56	-
General Expenses	294.97	244.90
Hills Waste Contract	726.69	502.37
Insurance	550.21	339.19
Internet Address Rental	266.40	10.80
Legal Expenses	730.80	4,665.00
Light, Power, Heating, Water	9,481.72	6,324.98
Management Activity Commission	55.32	-
Management Contract Costs	6,996.00	6,416.00
Motor Vehicle Expenses	-	405.00
Outdoor Expenses	67.50	-
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	80.06
Printing & Stationery	90.68	188.51
Rates	-	2,326.66
Rent	1.00	-
Repairs & Maintenance	488.40	420.00
Small Office Equipment and Software	57.99	94.63
Speaker/Talk Fees	100.00	-
Staff Training	72.00	475.98
Storage	-	1,037.00
Subscriptions	1,109.18	529.99
Telephone & Internet	897.08	572.77
Volunteer Polo Shirst	-	(43.71)
Wiltshire Towns Fund Expenses	960.00	-
Total Administrative Costs	30,048.57	29,479.16
Operating Profit	2,416.79	(9,545.73)
Other Income		
Electricity Reimbursement - Amesbury Town Council	-	354.72
Inwards Hire Fees	320.00	100.00
Volunteer Contributions Polo Shirts	-	43.92
Wiltshire Towns Fund Income	20,000.00	-
Total Other Income	20,320.00	498.64
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	22,736.79	(9,047.09)
Profit after Taxation	22,736.79	(9,047.09)

Balance Sheet

Amesbury History Centre As at 31 March 2025

	31 MAR 2025	31 MAR 2024
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Audio & Visual Media	2,595.85	2,822.90
Computer Equipment	951.00	552.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Computer Equipment	(1,076.06)	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Plant and Machinery	(236.60)	-
less Accumulated Depreciation on Shop/Tearoom equipment	(286.18)	-
Shop/Tearoom Furniture/Equipment	3,454.31	6,164.50
Shop/Tearoom Tills	2,350.00	2,350.00
Total Tangible Assets	7,752.32	11,889.40
Total Fixed Assets	7,752.32	11,889.40
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Current Account	1,016.08	2,130.68
Deposit Account	28,862.42	681.73
Total Cash at bank and in hand	29,878.50	2,812.41
Prepayments and accrued income		
Debtor - Float	-	192.23
Total Prepayments and accrued income	-	192.23
Display Equipment	897.56	897.56
Inventory	964.81	964.81
Office Equipment	35.33	35.33
Plant and Machinery	1,182.98	1,182.98
Total Current Assets	32,959.18	6,085.32
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Rounding	(0.01)	-
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(0.01)	-
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	32,959.19	6,085.32
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	40,711.51	17,974.72
Net Assets	40,711.51	17,974.72
Capital and Reserves		
Current Year Earnings	22,736.79	(9,047.09)
Retained Earnings	17,974.72	27,021.81
Total Capital and Reserves	40,711.51	17,974.72

The financial statements were approved on 19 January 2025 and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Andy Doig

Andy Doig – Co-Chair and Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Accounts - Accounting Policies

1. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with financial Reporting Standard 102 the reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and Charities Act 2011.

The Amesbury History Centre CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are instantly recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

2. All incoming resources and expenditures are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity receives the income.
3. Expenditure on fixed assets is capitalised except for expenditure incurred in the replacement of assets of low value with a short life. Repair, renovation and replacement expenditure is written off as expenditure in the statement of financial activities. The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental cost of acquisition, with the exception of fixed asset investments which are stated at Market Value.
4. Governance costs include all expenditure which does not relate directly to the charitable activities. It includes accountant and solicitor fees where applicable.
5. Staff and Trustee Costs – No Trustees nor persons connected with them have received any emoluments during the year.
6. Taxation – The charity is exempt from tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Examiner's unqualified report (for a non-company charity preparing receipts and payments accounts) with a gross income of £250,000 or less in the relevant financial year

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Amesbury History Centre (AHC) CIO

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 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 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

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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or 2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

As part of my examination it was found that the annual financial report presented at the AGM 5 Jun 25 has had to be revised/updated, and the updated Report was then agreed at the Trustees Board meeting held on 15 Jan 26. This was due to a late invoice of £80 and recording of Depreciation. The Treasurer has provided a full explanation of the reason for this for which I am now content. I have 3 recommendations that affect the Treasurer's responsibilities/activities but do not impact on the overall financial accounts. These relate to monthly bank reconciliation, claiming of gift aid and checking of previous years numbers reported in the accounts match those agreed in the previous year's Annual Financial Report. I believe a new policy is also being set-up in relation to cash floats.

Apart from these I 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.

Signed: Christopher Howitt

Name: Christopher Howitt

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): CIMA/ACMA

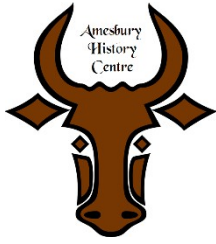
Address: 8 Yewtree Close, Durrington, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8NG

Date: 26 Jan 26

AMESBURY HISTORY CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1176636

Accounts



Amesbury History Centre

www.amesburyhistorycentre.org.uk

Charity N° 1176636

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 7 June 2023

7pm – 9pm

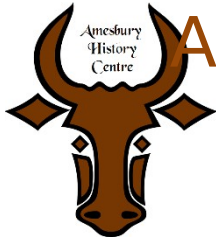
To all members of the Amesbury History Centre

The first half of 2023 saw us reach a key milestone. Many days of negotiating and hard work on behalf of the Council and ourselves, our legal teams, and the builders have brought the first phase of the new build to a close with the signing of the lease and the handing over of the keys. Our success is directly linked to the work of both the Council and the Centre's teams, and I'd like to personally thank every team member for their energy and commitment in driving this project forward.

The question that I am most asked is when will the building be open to visitors? So, I shall attempt to put a timeframe around my reply. One of the first decisions that the Board of Trustees took was to engage Stonebury Functions in the role of a management facilities team. They have been contracted to prepare the business side of things. For example, arranging an internet provider, hiring a waste management company, overseeing stock control for the tearoom and retail area, sourcing cash registers and other fixtures and fittings and obtaining certification for things such as fire safety and business licences. Much of this is now underway but it is likely to take weeks rather than days to have in place.

The aim of the Big Help Out on the Monday of the Coronation weekend was to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy across the country. Stonebury arranged to have the Centre open between 10 and 2pm for people to find out what was involved as a volunteer for the History Centre, and we ended the day with 40 enquiries about different roles and we will be actively involving these people in setting up, in the first instance, the ground floor facilities. The volunteers will take part in training sessions for First Aid at Work, Food handling certification, and Visitor engagement.

I would like to introduce you to the Board of Trustees, some of whom are new or returning to our organisation and then our Treasurer will talk us through his financial report.



Annual Financial Report

Introduction

I have prepared this report without an independent check of the financial statements covering a 14 month period from 1 April 2022 to 31 May 2023 from the books and records of the Amesbury History Centre CIO (AHC). To the best of my knowledge and belief the financial statements recorded herein reflect a true account of the operating Fiscal period from 1 April 2022 to 31 May 2023.

Treasurer's Report

This period has been similar to the last couple of years in that there has been little activity in the accounts due to the ongoing building work relating to the new AHC building and the subsequent lease negotiations. It is only at the end of the period that the lease was signed and the AHC took possession of the new building and as at 31 May 23 there have been a number of costs associated with taking on the building with little corresponding income.

Income

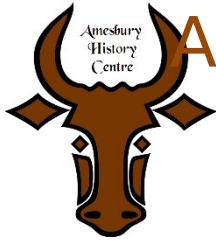
The year has been very quiet in terms of income with no subscriptions collected over the year and a minimal level of donations and income from affiliated purchases via the Amazon Website. Total income for the year was limited to £42.03

Expenses

In line with the limited income, the range of expenses incurred were also limited with the main expenditure relating to the storage of AHC property in a storage site at High Post whilst the building work was taking place. The storage costs increased in Jan 23 from £165 per month to £195 per month. This cost is set to cease at the end of May 23 as AHC property is moved into the new building. Total expenditure for the year was £2492.50

Other expenditure related to Advertising and Marketing (£538.92), Bank fees (£145), Subscriptions with external bodies (£105.00) and lately the first payment on the management contract for the day to day management of the AHC building and activities (£584)

With the handover of the new building to the AHC CIO, there are a significant number of setup costs in order to get the AHC to the point where it meets legal requirements for



Amesbury History Centre

www.amesburyhistorycentre.org .uk

Charity N° 1176636

opening i.e. purchasing licences and items such as fire extinguishers, and in terms of items to establish the shop and cafe to allow for the generation of income. To date there has been expenditure on new Tills/Stock management systems (£2350) and Shop furniture (£505) but this is likely to significantly increase in the coming weeks.

To date the total expenditure over the period has been £6720.42

Balance Sheet

We end the period with a deficit for the year of £6678.39 with £21,753.22 in the bank and £964 in inventory so our closing balance is £22,718.03.

Future Costs

As noted above, in the coming months there will be significant costs incurred in relation to the running costs of the building and in establishing and operating the proposed Shop and Tearooms in the building. The ongoing running costs result from our legal obligations in terms of Health and Safety requirements and the general operating costs that have become the responsibility of the AHC CIO on the signing of the lease. The costs relating to the Shop and Tearooms will help establish a steady income going forward to help meet the running costs and some costs relating to the setting up the exhibits.

Ongoing monthly running costs for the building (including the Shop & Tea Rooms) are expected to be in the region of £3000 per month with estimated income from the Shop/Tea Rooms, Membership fees and donations estimated at £3200 per month. Grant income is not included in this forecast.

It should be noted that the AHC will be required to pay £4665 to Anthony Collins Solicitors in relation to the work undertaken on our behalf on establishing the lease.

Andy Doig -Treasurer 05 June 23

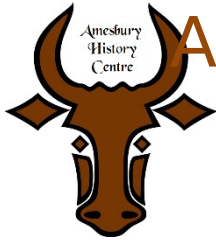
Amesbury History Centre CIO Accounts 1 April 2022 - 31 May 2023

Turnover

Amazon Smile	£37.00
Donations	£5.00
Total Turnover	£42.03

Administrative Costs

Advertising and Marketing	£538.92
Bank Fees	£145.00
Management Fees	£584.00



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Storage		£2492.50
Subscriptions	£105.00	
Total Administrative Costs	£3865.42	

Asset Purchase

Till/Stock Management System	£2350.00
Shop/Tea Room Furniture	£505.00
Total Asset Purchase	£2855.00

Total Deficit for the period	£6678.39
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Fixed Assets

Shop/Tea Room Equipment	£505.00
Shop/Tea Room Tills/Stock Management	£2350.00
Total Fixed Assets	£2855.00

Current Assets

Current Account	£17432.22
Deposit Account	£4321.00
Inventory	£964.81
Total Current Assets	£22718.03

Current Liabilities

Solicitor Fees	£4665.00
Total Current Liabilities	£4665.00

Total Assets less Current Liabilities	£18053.03
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Current Year Earnings	(£6678.39)
Retained Earnings	£24731.42
Total Capital and Reserves	£18053.03

AMESBURY HISTORY CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1176636

Accounts



Annual Report

Introduction

I have prepared without an independent check the financial statements covering the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 from the books and records of the Amesbury History Centre CIO (AHC). To the best of my knowledge and belief the financial statements recorded herein reflect a true account of the operating fiscal year 2021/22

Treasurer's Report

This year has been very much like last year, as we have not had access to the building and continue to plan for the future without a huge amount going on in the accounts.

Income

We have been lucky enough to receive some donations through the year from individuals and local organisations. We have also had some membership income but the year overall was much quieter and so total income for the year was £1,507.39

Expenses

There haven't been many expenses, £749.00 spent on solicitors' fees with regards to the lease and securing the trade mark, £1760 in storage fees, £129.00 on an A3 portable scanner, £9.84 in Stripe fees and £297.70 on professional memberships.

Balance Sheet

We end the year with a deficit for the year of £1,499.35, £28,431.61 in the bank and £964.81 in inventory so our closing balance sheet figure is £29,396.42.

Conclusion

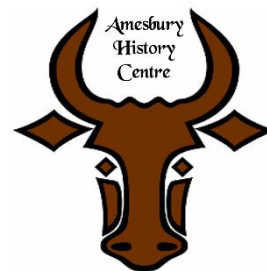
We still haven't stopped planning and are in a great place to get working on the new building once the lease has been agreed and we are ready for the year ahead. We have adequate finances to get the lease finalised and to spend on assets and equipment to get the museum up and running in the first instance. The year ahead may be hard to predict and the first year of running the museum will no doubt bring more expenses than income, but we will be working hard to maintain stability within the accounts as we move forward so that we can effectively run the Amesbury History Centre for the benefit of the community.

AMESBURY HISTORY CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1176636

Accounts

Amesbury History Centre CIO
Registered Charity 1176636
Annual General Meeting
24th May 2021, 7.00pm



Annual Report

Introduction

I have prepared without an independent check the financial statements covering the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 from the books and records of the Amesbury History Centre CIO (AHC). To the best of my knowledge and belief the financial statements recorded herein reflect a true account of the operating fiscal year 2020/21

Chair's report

Achievements and challenges.

The past eighteen months since Melor Hall was closed up and pulled down have brought many challenges to us as an organisation. Although we were aware that it was on the cards, we were only given a few days' notice to pack up the exhibits and artefacts and arrange to put everything in dry, secure storage. We were able to arrange with both the community shop in Flower Lane and Amesbury Library to install some of the display cases in their public areas, allowing us to maintain a link with visitors and local people.

The trustees had a guided tour of the new Wessex Gallery at Salisbury Museum and came away with many ideas that we could put into practice in the new building. We aim to tell a similar story of our town and the surrounding area and show, like the Wessex Gallery does for Salisbury, how Amesbury has an unique place in the region's history. This visit made us realise that we will need to open up the heritage of the area to a wide range of visitors.

Four of the trustees attended a seminar in Trowbridge, where we met and talked with fundholders such as the National Lottery and the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation and were able to get answers to any questions about fundraising that we had. Each person that we had a conversation with was positive and encouraging about our future applications.

We remain partners with VisitWiltshire, an organisation that will help us with marketing our facilities and publicity of our events in the future and is providing information on new schemes to make visitors that are on their way to Devon and Cornwall aware that there are places of interest that they could visit on their way to the West Country.

When lockdown and closures were announced, the Charities Commission issued a statement concerning the postponement of AGMs and gave advice about holding online trustee meetings. We have done our best to follow this advice and have met regularly over the past 15 months

because although we do not have a physical building to manage, there are a lot of decisions to be taken and preparations made in anticipation of opening up once more.

Our biggest challenge still exists, however, and that is the absence of a lease for the new building. We have met every condition set by the Town Council; we have had online discussions about the terms of the lease; and there has been much correspondence with the Town Clerk. We produced a Business Plan and Financial Statement when requested and gave a presentation to the Full Council, which went down very well as we were able to fully answer all their questions. In February, I was informed, by the Town Clerk, that the terms agreed between us and the council had been forwarded to the council's solicitors and they would prepare a lease and send it to us and to our solicitor, but this has not happened. I have chased the Town Clerk on many occasions about the lack of progress but have had no satisfactory reply about why there is still a delay.

This absence of a lease is hampering our ability to fundraise from national and local fundholders, it is stopping our ability to apply to the Arts Council for Accreditation, which would enhance our reputation as an independent, community museum. Even the Wiltshire Council Museum Advisor, whose role is to support the trustees, has been unable to get any answer about this challenging situation.

Vision and mission.

It has been thrilling to watch the new building coming alive. There are time-lapse videos and photographs on our website and on social media following the build process from pouring the foundations to lifting the huge roof panels by crane.

In order to progress both the internal and external work required, five Action Groups have been created. There is a group looking at the displays, galleries, and events; another at fundraising and marketing. One looking at site management; another at the development of a shop and café; and a fifth at creating a team of volunteers. Individual teams will be working on these five areas and regularly reporting back to the Board of Trustees.

Once these groups have fulfilled their briefs, we will end up with a modern, environmentally sustainable museum that tells the story of the 10,000 years of Amesbury history in a building designed for the 21st century but one that sits well in its rural location. Our intention is to have a soft opening as soon as the build is complete and the lease signed – with a hand-over ceremony involving the Mayor, the builders, and the Trustees. Then, when the day-to-day business is running smoothly, we will have a public opening with a well-known celebrity and a ribbon-cutting/tree-planting ceremony.

We aim to become a more resilient organisation by using business-like approaches to everyday situations and by exploring new ways of working in order to develop new audiences. We want to improve the quality of experience for children and young people by increasing the reach of what we offer and thereby increasing levels of participation. We are putting together a

programme of community-related activities that will reveal how societal changes impacted the lives of ordinary people.

I would like to thank the trustees for their work, which has been very much behind the scenes this year, and with the continued support of the members and the local community, I believe that the future looks very bright for the Amesbury History Centre.

Treasurer's Report

This year has been unlike any other, as we have not had access to a building and with the onset of the coronavirus, we have spent most of our time planning for the future without a huge amount going on in the accounts.

Income

We have been lucky enough to receive some donations through the year from individuals and most notably from the previous Mayor's fundraising of £4100.00. We were also able to secure a grant from the area board of £10,451.93 which is to go towards IT equipment for the newly built museum. We also restarted our membership scheme, which has brought in £2,510.00. Total income for the year therefore was £17,166.93

Expenses

There haven't been many expenses, £333.40 spent on the website and membership leaflets, £1,005.00 spent on solicitors' fees with regards to the lease, £148.00 on postage of the membership leaflets, £1680.00 in storage fees, £13.36 in Stripe fees and £85.00 on professional memberships.

Balance Sheet

We end the year with a surplus for the year of £13,902.17, £30,890.96 in the bank, £964.81 in inventory and £960.00 due in storage fees so our closing balance sheet figure is £30,895.77.

Conclusion

Despite the extreme and unprecedented circumstances of the past year, we haven't stopped planning and are in a great place to get working on the new building once the lease has been agreed and we are ready for the year ahead. We have adequate finances to get the lease finalised and to spend on assets and equipment to get the museum up and running in the first instance. The year ahead may be hard to predict and the first year of running the museum will no doubt bring more expenses than income, but we will be working hard to maintain stability within the accounts as we move forward so that we can effectively run the Amesbury History Centre for the benefit of the community.

Sarah Heath – Treasurer 24.05.2021

Annual Accounts

Amesbury History Centre

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Turnover

Donations	£4,205.00
Grant Income	£10,451.93
Membership	£2,510.00
Total Turnover	£17,166.93

Administrative Costs

Advertising & Marketing	£333.40
Legal Expenses	£1,005.00
Postage, Freight & Courier	£148.00
Storage	£1,680.00
Stripe Fees	£13.36
Subscriptions	£85.00
Total Administrative Costs	£3,264.76

Total Surplus for the year **£13,902.17**

Balance Sheet

Current Assets

Current Account	£25,895.96
Deposit Account	£4,995.00
Inventory	£964.81
Total Current Assets	£31,855.77

Current Liabilities

Accruals	£960.00
Total Current Liabilities	£960.00

Total Assets less Liabilities **£30,895.77**

Current Year Earnings	£13,902.17
Retained Earnings	£16,993.60
Total Capital & Reserves	£30,895.77