

# THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1178864

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2018-06-20

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

## Contact

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**Website** <https://sandwichmedieval.org/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS TO ADVANCE EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ON MATTERS TO DO WITH THE LATE MEDIEVAL PERIOD, IE APPROX. 1330 TO 1480 WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE HERITAGE OF SANDWICH TOWN, KENT, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROVIDING A MARITIME AND LAND BASED CRAFTS "LIVING MUSEUM".

**Activities:** To advance education for the public benefit on matters to do with the late medieval period, approximately 1330 to 1480, with a special focus on the heritage of Sandwich Town, Kent, in particular but not exclusively by providing a maritime and land-based crafts living museum.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Kent

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-11-30	£18,825	£16,113	-	-
2024-11-30	£15,973	£30,116	-	-
2023-11-30	£15,048	£11,662	-	-
2022-11-30	£30,131	£20,688	-	-
2021-11-30	£26,645	£19,197	-	-
2020-11-30	£15,435	£14,837	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
STEPHEN JOHN LASLETT BA SOC SCI	Chair	2018-06-20
BOB MARTIN		2021-06-20
CAROLYNNE ANNE O'DONOGHUE		2020-06-20
David Batchelor		2022-02-03
JULIA ANNE BAXTER		2020-06-20
Paul Crossley Damon		2022-02-03

**THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178864

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# Accounts

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# THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

# THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST

Registered Charity Number 1178864

Patron: Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Admiral Sir George Zambellas GCB DSC DL

**TRUSTEES:** Dave Batchelor, Julia Baxter, Paul Damon, Steve Laslett, Bob Martin, Lynne O'Donoghue. Website: [www.sandwichmedieval.org](http://www.sandwichmedieval.org)

The Sandwich Medieval Trust was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in June 2018 with the stated aim: *"To advance education for the public benefit on matters to do with the late medieval period, i.e., approx. 1330 to 1480, with a special focus on the heritage of Sandwich Town, Kent, in particular but not exclusively by providing a maritime and land-based crafts living museum"*.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**T**he Trust opened the Medieval Centre as a living history project in 2019. Since that time, it has been consistently successful and popular, making a vital contribution to the visitor experience in Sandwich.

Its popularity is evidenced by impressive visitor numbers and by the positive feedback left, with many comments such as:

*"An absolute hidden gem. Will definitely come back again."*

*"The staff are very knowledgeable and fun to talk to."*

*"Definitely recommend if you are visiting Sandwich."*

*"An unexpected delight."*

The success of the Centre as a visitor attraction and learning centre is entirely due to the continuing hard work and enthusiasm of our volunteers who give their time freely and keep the Centre open all year round.

The Centre is home to an ambitious project – we are currently creating a replica medieval ship, a full-sized cog called the *Nicholas*. The cog is a single-masted, square sailed ship, typical of the period. Surprisingly there is no replica anywhere in the UK. We are part way through this project. The following section of this report updates the progress made this year and our plans to install the stern castle in 2026.

The *Nicholas* is proving to be an important element of the visitor experience. It allows us to teach many important aspects of medieval boat-making by showing visitors progress to date. On board they will see close up the woodworking and metal working involved in making the capstan and winch; the anchor and remedial work involved in caulking the decking planks.

Our volunteers demonstrate a wide range of medieval crafts and skills as outlined in the main section of this report and offer workshops all year round which are very popular. Our resident blacksmith is kept busy and repeat bookings from schools including from overseas are an increasing feature of our programme.

The section of this report covering our events programme summarises an increasing number of occasions when other reenactor groups join us and the public can engage hands-on in an increasingly wide range of activities. The events are well promoted through social media, with the event created on Facebook for Le Weekend reaching nearly 20,000 people in the months leading up to the event as reported in the main body of this report.

The events contribute significantly to our income. Together with donations from the public they generate sufficient income to cover core costs of the centre. The financial summary presented in this report shows income exceeding expenditure for the year, leaving the Trust in a solid position financially.

The outlook for the Trust and for the Centre in 2026 is positive, again due to the hard work and tremendous efforts of our reenactor trustees and volunteers.

**Steve Laslett**

***Chair of the Board of Trustees***



*The Medieval Centre on Sandwich Quay is busy all year round*

# MARITIME



*The Nicholas moored on the Quay*

The presence of *the Nicholas* on its mooring at Sandwich Quay continues to generate a great deal of interest in the project and in our work in the Centre. The hull is an asset to the quay area and will contribute to the development of the historic maritime ambience along the banks of the river Stour as envisaged by the Sandwich Heritage Harbour Group.

The main focus of our work during the past year has continued to be on *the Nicholas* project. The hull was laid up in a dry dock for essential repairs in Richborough for a period of eight months, returning to our mooring in mid-November 2024. From this point onwards, we have continued to carry out deck repairs, involving the replacement of the last remaining rotten/defective planks, caulking joints between planks where required and sealing with pitch. As part of this process, we have also replaced the last remaining rotten/defective deck beams. We have decided to finish the whole deck area with a coat of pitch, which would have been appropriate in medieval times. One of our younger volunteers, who has assisted us on a regular basis, will be moving on, in mid-January 2026, to attend a carpentry course.



*Deck repairs have been ongoing throughout the year*

All the above work has been carried out in readiness for the arrival of the stern castle oak framework. Our original plan had been to fabricate the framework ourselves but the size, 5 M width, meant that this could not be carried out in the Medieval Centre and the need to lay the whole structure out on a level area meant that this could not be carried out onboard the *Nicholas*. Accordingly, we have placed an order for this work which will start in January 2026 and we hope to have the structure installed on the hull towards the end of February this year.



*Work on the stern castle has already begun*

Our plan, from this point onwards, will be to install larch deck and side planking, cut using hand tools in the Medieval Centre. The stern castle will be decorated with painted shields which will also be fabricated in the centre.

We have installed the windlass and the capstan at deck level. Our blacksmith has continued the fabrication of a second anchor on the forge in the Centre and hopes to be able to forge-weld the anchor arms to the shank which will demonstrate the heating capabilities of a medieval forge.

The fabric cover installed on a temporary timber framework to protect the deck and hull from inclement weather continues to be a great success; it provides sufficient headroom for us to be able to work underneath it in all weathers thus increasing our productivity during the Winter and Spring months. We will continue to invite members of the public on board on Saturdays and Sundays when the weather is good, using our gangplank, to view our progress.

Our other aim during 2026 will be to modify the internal hull area to allow visitors to sample medieval life below deck. In time, we also aim to erect a section of mast in order that we can demonstrate how the rigging would have been configured and how the sail would have been raised and lowered using the windlass.

***Paul Damon***



# SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS



*Have-a-Go Calligraphy classes*

**W**orkshops took place throughout the year including Blacksmithing (continuing throughout some of the winter months), Bookbinding, Calligraphy, Illumination, Wheat Weaving, Circular Netting, Mead Making and Tablet Weaving. There still remains a lot of interest for workshops for future dates. We hope to have an additional workshop on Embroidery, to add to our list for next year, which will be tutored by one of our dedicated and skilled volunteers.

Have-a-go crafts including Calligraphy and Wheat Weaving ran very well during the Archery & Crafts weekend in July again this year with many children and adults alike enjoying themselves whilst gaining interest in the workshops offered at the Centre. The calligraphy tables were full both days with all ages, including those that have never tried but always wanted to and others that had enjoyed this craft as a child and now were delighted to have another opportunity. Quills were used to try writing a medieval book by hand whilst learning a little of the work of the scribes, aided by reproduction examples and material on display. Visitors were very excited to complete a corn dolly with the Wheat Weaver, who patiently led them through the various stages of making a plait and some visitors stayed for the next opportunity of completing a heart favour.



*Painting Eggs for Easter*

## **School Visits**

Two returning schools from France visited the Centre twice in May for hands-on crafts in Calligraphy and Wheat Weaving, Medieval Board Games, trying on Armour and Blacksmith and Baking demonstrations.

The schools and students thoroughly enjoyed themselves, particularly learning about medieval life and culture in another language and have booked for 2026 visits already.

Children from St. Faith's School in Ash also visited in May for a couple of hours of demonstrations of our crafts and skills with 31 children.

We welcomed a small group of school children from Beech Grove School for an hour of demonstrations in November. They tried on armour and handled some weapons and arrived with many questions and remained very enthusiastic throughout which was very enjoyable for the volunteers.



*The Centre welcomes all age groups to its workshops*



## **Group Visits**

We welcomed many booked groups throughout the year. One of these was a group of 15 adults, visiting from Lille in France. They were very happy with demonstrations by our Blacksmith, trying on armour, and we kept them informed about the relevant medieval battles and weaponry.

A small group, representing the Travel and Trade industry, linked to DDC and the White Cliffs project, visited and were welcomed in October. They were informed of our ongoing work and projects and what we offer visitors including the booked visits with demonstrations and hands-on experiences. They were generally impressed and keen to arrange future booked visits.

***Julia Baxter***



# EVENTS



*Medieval summer fun outdoors grows in popularity – Le Weekend still the biggest event of the year*

**W**e have seen record number of visitors on event weekends as well as half-terms and school holidays with average visitor number throughout the summer on non-event days around 100-120 per day. On event days the Centre has welcomed between 600 – 800 plus per day.

Being able to work closer with many local groups and organisations such as Bringing Alive Sandwich Heritage (BASH) Folk Lore Kent, Sandwich HOD organisers & Sandwich Town Council has allowed us to build on and deliver some of the best events Sandwich has seen, undoubtably boosting tourism both to Sandwich Town and the local area.

***Hoodening and Wassail:*** This event grows in popularity every year and has become one of the most popular afternoon/evening events, starting the year off by attracting over 150 visitors to join in the wassail and hoodening.

**Medieval Easter:** Easter is celebrated at the Centre with themed crafts and activities for all to enjoy.

**Mummers and Music for St George:** This was a memorable April afternoon of medieval music by Rough Musicke and mumming performance by Trudgepig Folk Theatre which was very well attended and enjoyed by a huge crowd in the Centre.

**Le Weekend:** This is the biggest event of the year with record numbers of reenactor groups attending with living history, combat, music and theatre displays. This event attracts huge numbers of visitors to Sandwich Quay Green and the Centre which this year included a Saturday evening music session with medieval and folk musicians playing all evening in the tavern tent creating an incredible atmosphere.

**Folk and Ale Tavern Evenings:** For two evenings of the Sandwich Folk and Ale Festival in July, the Centre was turned into a medieval tavern with music by Rough Musicke and Ravenhymn entertaining a packed audience.

**Archery on the Green & Have-a-Go Weekend:** This was another very well attended event on the Quay Green with visitors able to have a go at a huge range of crafts including archery, axe throwing, calligraphy etc.

**Toni Mount Book Launch:** At the same weekend Toni Mount, who has been supporting the Trust for many years launched her latest book at the Centre.

**Canterbury Gaming Convention:** Volunteers from the Centre took some of our games tables to Canterbury to represent the Trust for a new event with lots of interest shown in the Trust and gaining some potential new volunteers.

**Betteshanger Medieval Festival:** This was yet another new event working in conjunction with Betteshanger Park to deliver a fantastic medieval experience in the forest school and surrounding area – a very special visitor attraction.

**Heritage Open Days:** 'Thomas Becket arrives in Sandwich'. Working in conjunction with Sandwich HOD organisers, we called on some of our reenactor knights to recreate the arrival of Thomas Becket to Sandwich with narrated story and information.

We also did bloomery furnace and bronze casting – a brilliant 4-day experiment comprising building and firing our own bloomery furnace with some success. We will be recreating the experiment again when we can.

**Medieval Christmas Market:** Another new event with new traders joining us for a weekend in early December seeing over 400 visitors.

**Medieval Christmas Feast Demonstrations:** We finished off the year with a medieval party and a feast fit for a king. Many reenactors from local groups joined us for a huge medieval feast created by our resident food historians and cooks.

# PHOTO GALLERY



*Hoodening and Wassailing in a packed Centre*





*Rough Musicke has had a busy year in the Centre*



*George and the Dragon, Medieval Style*



*Betteshanger Medieval Festival*



*Folk and Ale Evenings at the Centre Tavern*



*Coin Striking with Frodi the Moneyer*



*A Medieval Christmas Feast fit for a King*



*Provided at the Centre*



*Enjoyed by the whole team.*



*Try-on armour – a 2025 addition*

Among many new additions to the Centre was a full suit of reenactment armour for the public to handle and try on. This has been a great asset with visitors coming specially just to try it on.

We have also installed a contactless donation machine in the Centre allowing visitors to make card donations which has been a great success.

Plans are already well underway for a host of events and workshops for 2026 which promises to be another bumper year.



*Trustees Julia Baxter and Bob Martin promoting the Trust at a Sandwich Event*



### Sir Roger Gale MP with Trustees and Visitors

(l-r) Paul Damon(trustee), Sue Chandler (KCC Cllr), Steve Laslett (Chair), Sir Roger Gale MP, Bob Martin (trustee), Deidre Wells (CEO, Visit Kent)

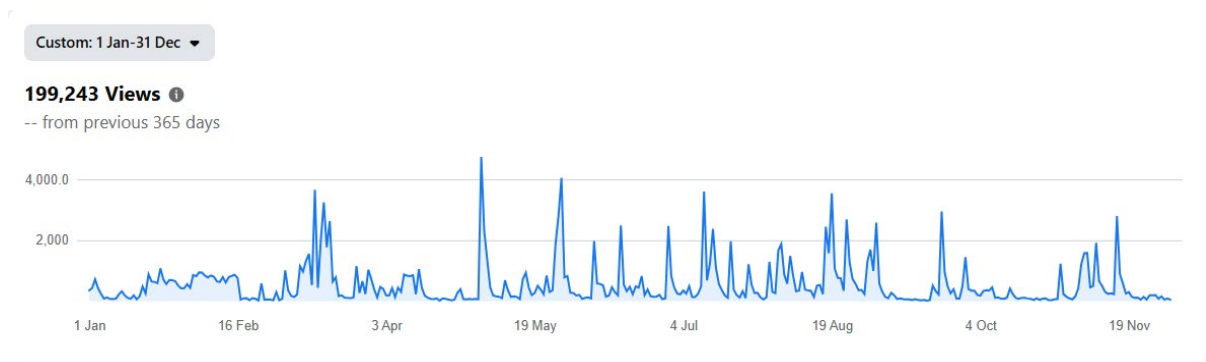
During English Tourism Week at the end of March 2025, local MP Sir Roger Gale, along with KCC Sue Chandler and the CEO of Visit Kent, Deidre Wells, paid a visit to the Centre. This is a seriously impressive attraction,” Sir Roger remarked, Explaining that tourism is worth a staggering £4 billion to Kent’s economy and accounts for over 77,000 jobs, Deidre Wells described the Centre as “a jewel in Kent’s tourism crown”. The visitors were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work of the volunteers without which, Sir Roger stressed, such an enterprise just simply would not happen. “It was also particularly encouraging to note that so many school children are taking part, even from overseas such as France and Spain,” Deidre Wells added.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

## Social Media Stats

Facebook and Instagram are proving to be some of the most important tools for communicating with our audience, allowing us to promote events well in advance and share content with a huge audience. The event created on Facebook for Le Weekend reached nearly 20,000 people in the months leading up to the event.

The graph below shows the number of interactions with our Facebook page over the last year showing nearly 200,000 page views.



We have also seen a steady increase in followers to our Facebook page reaching nearly 2,500 followers in total.

Instagram has also seen a steady increase in followers taking our total to over 1,200 as seen in the graph below.



***Dave Batchelor***

# FINANCIAL REPORT



*Blacksmith's workshops are given all year by our resident blacksmith, Steve Batchelor.*

The Trust received one grant in the Financial Year ending November 31st 2025 – £1000 from the Royal St George's Golf Club via the Kent Community Fund for which we are most grateful. Grants in previous years have been essential to fund the *Nicholas* reconstruction boat project but were not needed this year due to modest expenditure.

The most significant sources of income continue to be donations from the public (£5,637) and income earned by Trustees and volunteers at events (£5,803). Entrance to the Centre is free. Donations from the visiting public are encouraged but entirely optional. It is reassuring to see that income from donations exceeds the cost of insurance (£4,089) which is a good financial starting point each financial year.

The Trustees and volunteers put a great amount of time into annual events such as Le Weekend in June when the Quay Green is packed with colourful tents from visiting reenactors. It is one of the biggest medieval reenactor gatherings in Southern England and makes a most useful contribution to net income, a testimony to the overall good management by the organising team.

Volunteers engage in running workshops, including for visiting overseas students, which raised £2,986. Special thanks must go once again to our resident blacksmith, Steve Batchelor, who gives his time freely to deliver a steady stream of workshops all year round.

With a useful one-off making banners for other Sandwich-based organisations, income rose from £15,972 to £18,825 year on year.

Expenditure was down from £30,116 to £16,113. This was mostly because the expensive project to construct the cog the *Nicholas* is characterised by alternating high spend and low spend years. The previous year was high spend, due to much higher than anticipated dry dock costs to facilitate repairs. That was not needed this year. Next year will see another high spend year following a decision to commission the building of the eagerly anticipated castles by an external company. Not only will this speed up the project, but the Trust has become a victim of its own success. The workshop space originally earmarked for woodworking has been taken up by a range of other activities. These not only utilise the space, but they also bring visitors into that area, making large scale working impracticable.

Apart from insurance and the *Nicholas* project the Trust has modest expenditures. We have no salaries or wages and as always are indebted to our enthusiastic team of volunteers.

The funds available for next year start at £17,658. This is considered sufficient to continue working from a solid financial base but further grants will be sought to help fund further stages of the *Nicholas* project.

**Steve Laslett**

**Treasurer**



## The Sandwich Medieval Trust

Summary Accounts 2025

### Income

#### Grants

	2025	2024
Kent Community Fund	1000.00	1000
	<b>1000.00</b>	<b>1000.00</b>

#### Events

Including Sandwich Salutes the 40s,  
Le Weekend, Folk & Ale, Festival,  
Betteshanger Medieval Fair

	<b>5803.53</b>	<b>6812.87</b>
Donations from BASH	0.00	1000.00
Donations from the public box	5637.02	4139.66
Sales after costs	107.04	217.89
Workshops (inc French students )	2986.87	1556.79
Heritage Visits	0.00	300.00
DDC Lotto	140.00	119.50
St Mary's Concerts Support.	963.88	825.44
Misc and Banners	2187.09	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>18825.43</b>	<b>15972.15</b>

#### Expenditure

(Net of VAT)

Web	195.00	165.00
Boat and Tools	6457.60	21038.71
Building Costs	27.06	0.00
Learning Centre	0.00	49.17
Equipment Total	1814.15	2245.12
Consumables	3019.79	1821.56
Professional Services	45.00	186.87
Insurance	4089.48	3818.83
AGM & Miscellaneous	195.00	316.45
Publicity	270.00	475.00
Total Expenditure	16113.09	<b>30116.71</b>

Net improvement	2712.34	-14144.56
Adjusted Balance brought forward	14946.18	29090.74

Available Funds	17658.53	14946.18
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Represented by Current Account	16466.95	14266.18
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VAT Account	1191.58	680.00
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**THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178864

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# Accounts

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# THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST



**ANNUAL REPORT  
DECEMBER 2024**

# THE SANDWICH MEDIIEVAL TRUST

*Registered Charity Number 1178864*

**TRUSTEES:** Dave Batchelor, Julia Baxter, Paul Damon, Steve Laslett, Bob Martin, Lynne O'Donoghue. Website: [www.sandwichmedieval.org](http://www.sandwichmedieval.org)

The Sandwich Medieval Trust was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in June 2018 with the stated aim: "To advance education for the public benefit on matters to do with the late medieval period, i.e., approx. 1330 to 1480, with a special focus on the heritage of Sandwich Town, Kent, in particular but not exclusively by providing a maritime and land-based crafts living museum".

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once more I am pleased and very proud to be able to report on a successful year led by our hard-working and knowledgeable team of volunteers.

Sandwich Town is significantly enhanced by having the Medieval Centre on the Quayside beside the River Stour. It is consistently visited by impressive numbers and tells the story of Sandwich as a major contributor to the history of medieval England.

Our Trust is an educational charity. Its remit is to bring to life the history of medieval Sandwich and keep alive a range of skills and crafts that could so easily be lost forever. I am happy to report that our team has once again succeeded in meeting that objective throughout 2024.

Our volunteers have opened the doors of the Centre every week throughout the year. We have accommodated a good number of school groups and educated medieval history in an engaging way. This includes oversees school groups who are re-booking on an annual basis.

Our reenactors have organised and delivered a very successful programme of outdoor and indoor events to engage with the public, both local and visiting. These included archery, a medieval banquet, one of the biggest reenactor encampment weekends in Southern England, and an ongoing series of workshops teaching medieval crafts and skills.

The Sandwich Medieval Centre itself makes an important contribution to the visitor experience in Sandwich. The visitor numbers and online follower numbers are impressive as shown graphically later in this report. Our contribution is enhanced by the project to create a full-sized replica medieval cog, a single masted, single sail boat, the *Nicholas*, typical of what would have been moored on the quayside around 600 years ago. Unfortunately, the *Nicholas* spent more time this year in dry dock being repaired than had been planned, meaning that

visitors could not appreciate the work in progress at first hand. The *Nicholas* is now back on its mooring beside the Centre, so the outlook for 2025 is good.

The Trust continues to be managed by the original six trustees supported by a steadily growing team of unpaid volunteers. We are grateful to them and of the significant amount of time they give so freely.

We are confident that our finances are sound and that the Trust has a programme in place to ensure a positive future.

The following sections of this annual report illustrate the above in more detail.

### **Steve Laslett – Chair of the Board of Trustees**



*Archery on the Quay Green*

# MARITIME



*Evening on the quayside*

The presence of the *Nicholas* on its mooring at Sandwich Quay generates a great deal of interest in the project and our work in the Centre. The hull is an asset to the quay area and will contribute to the development of the historic maritime ambience along the banks of the river Stour as envisaged by the Sandwich Heritage Harbour Group.

The main focus of our work during the past year has continued to be on the *Nicholas* project. To this end, we decided to have the *Nicholas* towed to a dry dock for a month, early in 2024, in order that we could complete the repairs to the deck and hull in an efficient and orderly way.

We arrived at the dry dock at Richborough Marine Limited, just upstream from Pegwell Bay on the river Stour, in mid-March and set about cleaning the hull in preparation for repainting.

We estimated that the hull repairs would take us about a month and we set about carrying out the preparatory work concurrently. In so doing, it became clear that the starboard side of the hull was in a much poorer state of repair than we had expected. We decided that approximately two-thirds of the hull planking above the waterline plus the perimeter shear plank would need to be replaced together with repairs and hardening to the exposed timber hull uprights as required.

These works were carried out by a dedicated team of between three and six trustees and volunteers over a period of eight months. The port side of the hull looked to be in a better state of repair and, accordingly, we decided not to carry out any large-scale repair works. By mid-November, we had completed the repair and repainting works and Alan Staley, our marine surveyor, certified that the *Nicholas* was in a fit state to be towed back to our mooring.



*The Nicholas returns from dry dock to its quayside mooring*

We have installed the windlass and the capstan at deck level. Our blacksmith has continued the fabrication of a second anchor on the forge in the Centre and hopes to be able to forge weld the anchor arms to the shank which will demonstrate the heating capabilities of a medieval forge.



*Capstan installed at deck level*



*Anchor made at the Centre's forge*

The fabric cover installed on a temporary timber framework to protect the deck and hull from inclement weather continues to be a great success; it provides sufficient headroom for us to be able to work underneath it in all weathers thus increasing our productivity during the winter and spring months. We will continue to invite members of the public on board on Saturdays and Sundays when the weather is good, using our gangplank, to view our progress.

Our aim from next year onwards will be to complete the repairs to deck and gunwale planking, to fabricate the fore and stern castles in the workshop and to install them on the hull. We also aim to modify the internal hull area to allow visitors to sample medieval life below deck. This will entail the construction of a timber bulkhead to hide the engine which will be carried out by one of our younger volunteers who is especially interested in carpentry. In time, we aim to erect a small section of mast in order that we can demonstrate how the rigging would have been configured and how the sail would have been raised and lowered using the windlass.

***Paul Damon***

# SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS



*French Students visiting the Centre*

**T**he Centre's Schools and Workshops programmes have continued to grow in popularity throughout the year.

## Workshops



Workshops took place at the Centre throughout the year including Blacksmithing (continuing throughout the winter months), Baking, Bookbinding, Calligraphy, Illumination, Egg Tempera Painting, Wheat Weaving, Circular Netting, Mead Making and Tablet Weaving. There still remains a lot of interest for workshops for future dates.

Have-a-go crafts including Calligraphy and Wheat Weaving ran very well during the Archery & Crafts weekend in July and at the Sandwich Festival weekend in August, with many children and adults alike enjoying themselves whilst gaining interest in the range of workshops offered at the Centre.

The calligraphy tables (*see left*) were full both days with all ages, including those that have never tried but always wanted to others that had enjoyed this craft as a child and now were delighted to have another opportunity.

Quills were used to try writing a medieval book hand whilst learning a little of the work of the scribes, aided by reproduction examples and material on display. Visitors were very excited to complete a corn dolly with the Wheat Weaver, who patiently led them through the various stages of making a plait and some visitors stayed for the next opportunity of completing a heart favour.

## School Visits



This year has seen a particular increase in student participation in our workshops, both locally and from overseas.

Students from the Spanish language school made a return visit on 22nd April 2024 to take part in a half-day of Calligraphy and Wheat Weaving hands-on workshops.

Two schools from France visited the Centre on 14th and 22nd May for hands-on crafts in Calligraphy and Wheat Weaving, Medieval Board Games and Blacksmith and Baking demonstrations. The schools and students thoroughly enjoyed themselves, particularly learning about medieval life and culture in another language and have booked for 2024 visits already.

A group of students from St. Faith's Preparatory School in Ash visited on 8th May for a couple of hours of demonstrations of our crafts and skills with 28 children. The children responded so well to the Medieval Games session that we have now included this to our list of topics for future visits.

Hope View School, Canterbury visited with eight SEN children on 21st May, for a three-hour visit including demonstrations and a Wheat Weaving hands-on workshop. The children were thoroughly engaged with what they were shown and participated extremely well.



*The Centre's workshops appeal to all age groups*

During July we had large numbers of language students from St. Andrews School in Canterbury. To cope with this increase in numbers, we divided into smaller and manageable groups and our team of volunteers did our best to entertain.

While we are committed to encouraging school groups, we are now having to limited numbers. On one day, for example, our visitor numbers exceeded 300 – far too large for the Centre's facilities. Baking Workshops are no longer being offered to schools from concern about limited space and hygiene issues.

Our workshops have also continued to appeal to the older age group, booking now done simply on the website. We look forward to another busy year as the success of this part of the Centre continues to flourish.

**Julia Baxter**



*The Medieval Gaming Tables continue to be popular*

# RE-ENACTMENT



*This summer's Le Weekend Medieval attracted over 100 reenactors*

This year has been one of the best for events new and old with the traditional start to the year being our wassail event held at the Centre on the first Saturday in January. This event was co-organised with Bringing Alive Sandwich Heritage (BASH) and attracted many visitors to join in with the celebrations which included a story and performance walk through the local orchards and on to the Centre where participants had a cup of hot wassail and joined in with the performance and music.



*The Hooden Horse at the Annual Wassailing Event*

The next event held was a royal feast, the Boars Head Banquet. This was also co-organised with Bringing Alive Sandwich Heritage. The event was a celebration of Richard III's visit to Sandwich in 1484. A small team of cooks and food historians from the Medieval Centre set out to create an authentic medieval feast for over 100 guests including the Mayor and Mayoress of Sandwich and members of the Trust in the Guildhall.



*Dancing in Sandwich Guildhall at the Boars Head Banquet in January*

The evening began with a talk about Richard III and his visit to Sandwich given by best selling author, Toni Mount, to an over-subscribed audience in the historic Guildhall Court Room.

The whole evening was a great success with music, entertainment and a spread of the finest food enjoyed by all. The event raised £1,000 for the Trust.



*Top Table at the Boars Head Banquet*



*Le Weekend Medieval*

Without doubt, however, our biggest and best event of the year was Le Weekend Medieval held on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June on the Quay Green. This event attracted over 100 reenactors from more than ten different groups pitching up medieval marquees and tents to create a massive encampment. From full combat demonstrations and an authentic 15th century samurai warrior to cooking demos, axe throwing, archery, music dancing and theatre, the event entertained thousands of visitors who thoroughly enjoyed the authentic atmosphere.



*Samurai Swordsman*



*Live Music at the Centre*

In July we turned the Centre into a medieval tavern for the Sandwich Folk and Ale weekend where we hosted two evenings of live music and mead tasting. Later that month we organised a weekend of archery and have-a-go activities on the Quay Green. Visitors were treated to medieval war-bow and longbow archery demonstrations and had the chance to try for themselves, along with several other medieval activities.

In August we supported the Sandwich Festival with medieval activities on the Quay Green and provided a bar for the Sunday evening picnic and musical entertainments.

In September we took part in Heritage Open days, a two-week national festival where we organise extra activities to encourage new visitors to the Centre. This year included extras such as the brilliant potter Rainna Erbas who gave visitors of all ages a chance to have a go at making medieval tiles and throwing a pot.

Cinque Port Speakers Day was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October when the Medieval Centre played a major role. We worked closely with Sandwich Town Council to provide banners for the Quayside and reenactors for the procession.



Speakers Day 2024

In November we welcomed the newly appointed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports to the Centre. Admiral Sir George Zambellas GCB, DSC, ADC, DL, and Lady Amanda Zambellas were given a tour of the Centre and chatted to all the reenactors, demonstrators and trustees.



*The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Lady Amanda Zambellas with trustees on a visit to the Centre*



## Medieval Christmas

In December a Christmas feast for all the reenactors and volunteers was held to celebrate a great year. This included a clout shoot at Cow Leas meadow in the morning followed by a marvellous feast cooked up by our impressive food historians. Hot wassail and mead were served along with ale and Christmas pudding handed out as prizes for the winners of the archery competition.



*Re-enactors with Sandwich Mayor at the Christmas clout shoot.*



*Christmas celebration in the Centre.*



*Medieval Food at the Christmas Feast*



This year we have joined the Wheels of Time Badge collecting scheme which encourages children aged 5 -11 years to visit new museums and heritage sites to learn about the local history. (See [www.wheelsoftime.uk](http://www.wheelsoftime.uk) for details)

We have also been working with a Spanish writer and magazine editor and have been included in a guide book about medieval pilgrimages and had a magazine article published all about the Centre.

The Centre and its volunteers have also been involved with many other events throughout the year including have-a go-days, games events, heritage visits to other sites, television filming and demonstrating medieval games in London.

**Dave Batchelor**



# SOCIAL MEDIA

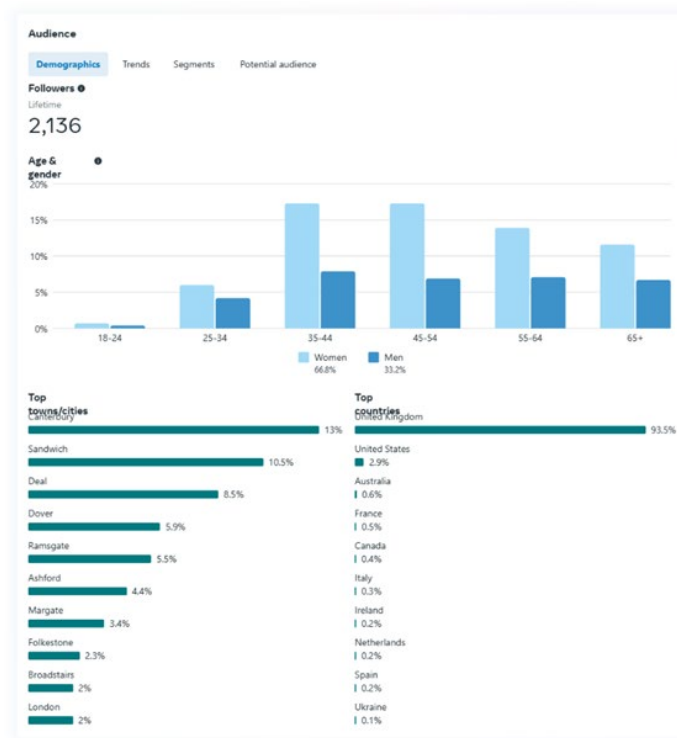
Both the website and the Facebook page are key platforms to communicate with the general public with over 2,000 followers on Facebook. As the analyses below underscores, usage of the sites has continued to increase on a huge scale. Essential to this success is regular updating with news and photographs.

## Facebook Analytics

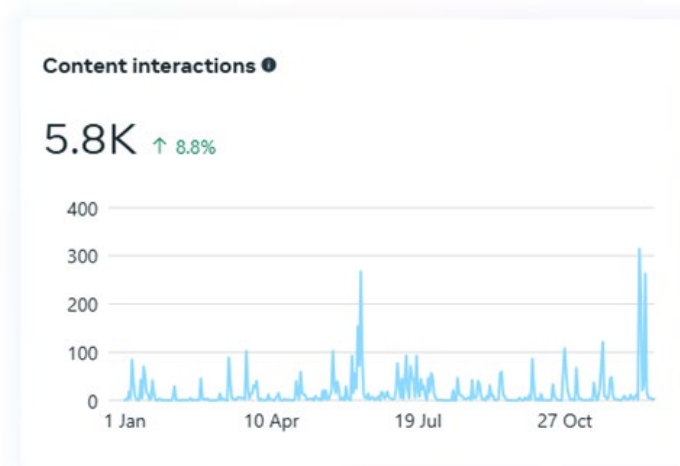


The above graph above shows the number of visits to our Facebook page in 2024.

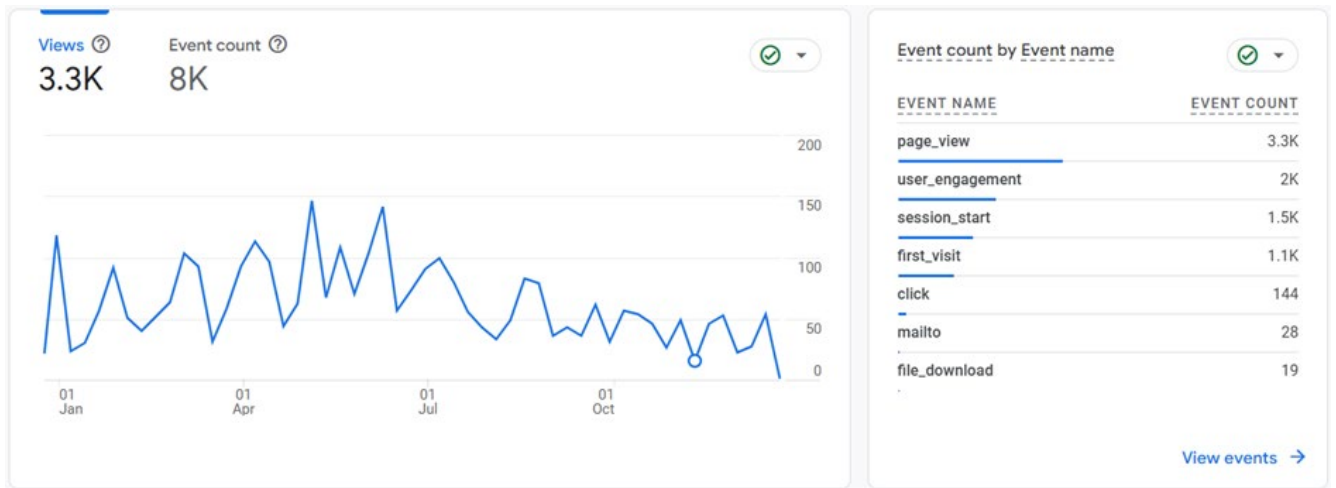
# Interaction



The graph above shows Facebook followers and demographics



The graph above shows the total number of Facebook content interactions



The graph above shows interactions with the Sandwich Medieval Trust website through Google.

**Dave Batchelor**



# FINANCIAL REPORT



*Archers on Cow leas meadow*

**T**he Trust spent £14,144 more than income in the financial year to 31st November 2024. This is not an alarming situation; the majority of the spend was on the replica medieval cog, the *Nicholas* which spent most of the year in dry dock with volunteers making essential repairs. It returned to Sandwich in October, so there will be no more expensive dry dock fees going into 2025.

Income was a healthy £15,972 which is sufficient to keep the Trust in a sound financial position. Grants of £1,000 from the Kent Community Fund at the Royal St George's Golf Club and a donation of £1,000 from the local group BASH following the very successful medieval supper, were very welcome. Donations from the public amounted to £4,139 and our volunteers earned £6,812 by putting on a number of public events throughout the year.

The total expenditure on the cog *Nicholas* project was £21,038. Other major items of expenditure were £3,818 on insurance and £2,245 for equipment. These costs can be met by earned income in 2025 and 2026 when expenditure on the *Nicholas* will be modest.

The accounts overleaf show a bank balance of £14,946 which is considered reasonable for forward planning.

## The Sandwich Medieval Trust

Summary Accounts 2024

### Income

2024

2023

#### Grants

Kent Community

1000

1000.00

0.00

#### Events

Hooden

450.00

Spanish Students before costs

187.84

Richard III banquet

466.03

40s

1902.61

Le Weekend

1744.72

2381.37

Folk & Ale

508.33

Archery

897.04

2591.60

Festival

1042.08

Folk McCabre

252.07

6812.87

5610.81

Donations from BASH

1000

Donations from the public box

4139.66

3586.90

Sales after costs

217.89

240.61

Workshops (inc French )

1556.79

1442.76

Heritage Visits

300

DDC Lotto

119.50

78.00

St Mary's Concerts Support.

825.44

3872.91

#### Total Income

15972.15

14831.99

#### Expenditure

(Net of VAT)

Web

165.00

0.00

Orlestone Oak

4165.00

Richborough Marine

14646.40

Boat and Tools

21038.71

2111.98

Building Costs

0.00

563.28

Learning Centre

49.17

0.00

Equipment, inc:

Tables

484.52

Storage boxes/Tools

364.77

351.66

Acrylic Cups

1360.00

Black Friday/Touch Screen

987.71

477.48

Kiki Gibb Clothing/Costumes

324.17

120.00

Arrows

208.50

Blades, extractor system

201.67

Equipment Total

2245.12

3203.83

Consumables

1821.56

794.80

Professional Services

186.87

219.60

Insurance	3818.83	3802.95
AGM & Miscellaneous	316.45	0.00
Publicity	475.00	890.00
Total Expenditure	<b><u>30116.71</u></b>	<b><u>11586.44</u></b>
Net improvement	-14144.56	3245.55
Adjusted Balance brought forward	29090.74	25096.69
Available Funds	<b>14946.18</b>	<b>28342.24</b>
Represented by Current Account	14266.18	29042.74
VAT Account	680.00	-700.5

**THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178864

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# Accounts

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# THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST



## ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2023

# THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST

Registered Charity Number 1178864

TRUSTEES: Dave Batchelor, Julia Baxter, Paul Damon, Steve Laslett,

Bob Martin, Lynne O'Donoghue. [www.sandwichmedieval.org](http://www.sandwichmedieval.org)

The Sandwich Medieval Trust was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in June 2018 with the stated aim, *"To advance education for the public benefit on matters to do with the late medieval period, i.e., approx. 1330 to 1480, with a special focus on the heritage of Sandwich Town, Kent, in particular but not exclusively by providing a maritime and land-based crafts living museum"*.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is the fourth annual report since the Sandwich Medieval Trust was established and the Medieval Centre situated on Sandwich Quay became a reality.

The Trust is an Educational Charity, its fundamental aim to educate through living history. The Medieval Centre has become an essential part of Sandwich Town's visitor experience significantly adding to what Sandwich Town has to offer to townsfolk and visitors alike.

It is most pleasing and reassuring to read unsolicited feedback from visitors that underlines how well our volunteers and reenactors are doing in realising the educational objective. The following is an example:

*"My wife and I visited your centre this morning. We had no idea it even existed. We are from South London and thought we would pop in for 5 minutes to see what it was all about.*

*We spoke at length with a lady who greeted us at the door and the clerk dressed in black.*

*Over an hour later we left having been told so much of the work you are undertaking, not only in the Centre but in the wider community, particularly with the children.*

*We have since looked at your very informative Facebook page and website. Gosh is all I can say. You are doing such a great job and Sandwich is such an interesting town."*

This extract is from a review of TravelLab posted in September: *“It’s a great place to experience medieval crafts, cookery, and war strategy. A winning combination”*.

The Centre also featured on the Channel 5 programme, ‘Susan Calman’s Great Days Out’, broadcast in November 2023 and available to view on our website: <https://sandwichmedieval.org/>

The Centre continues to educate and inform across a range of medieval crafts with our volunteers in period dress demonstrating a wide variety of crafts and skills. The success and popularity of the Centre is entirely due to knowledge and efforts of our Trustees and volunteers who give so much time and enthusiasm. They deserve all of the public recognition which fortunately is forthcoming. We do need to recruit more volunteers and are pleased to welcome a number who did join in 2023.

We actively reach out to schools and other groups and were pleased to host a group of Spanish students this year – see the report on page 5 on Schools and Workshops.

In addition to keeping the Centre open for some days every week of the year, the reenactors stage special outdoor events. Le Medieval experience in June, as part of Le Weekend, filled the Quay Green with reenactors, over fifty tents and demonstrations. Visiting reenactor groups commented that it is the best medieval meet in Kent.

The Trust has a well-populated website and makes full use of social media. The strong following we have is reflected in the numbers reported on page 14.

Whilst the Centre continues to be the main centre of activity, work continued on the project to create a full-sized replica medieval ship, a cog named the *Nicholas*. A rain proof cover was purchased in 2022 which has helped avoid deterioration of the deck and hull. It is hoped that after a spell in dry dock, work will accelerate in 2024 to add to the good progress reported in the Maritime Section overleaf.

Finally, at the end of another highly successful year, the Trust continues to be in a sound financial position as covered more fully at the end of this report.

**Steve Laslett**

**Chair of Board of Trustees**

## MARITIME



*We have also started to invite members of the public on board the Nicholas on Saturdays and Sundays when the weather is good, to view our progress.*

The main focus of our work during the past year has continued to be on the *Nicholas* project.

The presence of the *Nicholas* on its mooring at Sandwich Quay generates a great deal of interest in the project and our work in the Centre. The hull is an asset to the quay area and will contribute to the development of the historic maritime ambience along the banks of the river Stour as envisaged by the Sandwich Heritage Harbour Group.

The trustees and a small team of enthusiastic volunteers, including a group of Sea Cadets, have continued to work on the *Nicholas* throughout the year, replacing rotten deck beams and planking and the rotten hull uprights and planking. We have also installed the windlass and the capstan at deck level.

Our blacksmith has continued the fabrication of a second anchor on the forge in the Centre and hopes to be able to forge weld the anchor arms to the shank which will demonstrate the heating capabilities of a medieval forge.

The fabric cover installed on a temporary timber framework to protect the deck and hull from inclement weather has been a great success; it provides sufficient headroom for us to be able to work underneath it in all weathers thus increasing our productivity during the Winter and Spring months. We have also started to invite members of the public on board on Saturdays and Sundays when the weather is good, using our gangplank, to view our progress.

In July we hosted Susan Calman at the Centre and on board the *Nicholas*. She spent time talking to two of our Trustees, Bob Martin and Paul Damon, and the visit was broadcast as part of the Kent section of her 'Grand Days Out' television series in October.

Our aim from next year onwards will be to fabricate the fore and stern castles in the workshop and install them on the hull before moving on to erect a mast, install a sail and rigging and, in time, modify the internal hull area to allow visitors to sample medieval life below deck. To this end, early in 2024 we will be taking the *Nicholas* to a dry dock for a month so we can complete the repairs to the deck and hull in an efficient and orderly way.



*Windlass and Capstan Installed*

## SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS



*Egg tempera painting class*

Workshops took place throughout the year including Blacksmithing, Baking, Bookbinding, Calligraphy, Illumination, Wheat Weaving, Circular Netting, Mead Making and Tablet Weaving. There still remains a lot of interest for workshops for future dates. We hope to add Fletching to the range of workshops in the future.

Have-a-go crafts including Calligraphy, Wheat Weaving and Egg Tempera painting ran very well during the Sandwich Festival weekend in August, with many children and adults alike enjoying themselves whilst gaining interest in the workshops offered at the Centre. The calligraphy tables were full both days with all ages, including those who had never tried but always wanted to. Others who had enjoyed this craft as a child were delighted to have another opportunity.



*Wheat Weaving Class*



*Calligraphy Using Quills*

Quills were used to try and practice a medieval book hand and the work of the scribes of the time were explained with examples and material reproductions. Mainly children tried their hand at some egg tempera painting onto woodcut prints which depicted scenes of the seasons. Visitors were very excited to complete a corn dolly with the Wheat Weaver, who patiently led them through the various stages of weaving wheat.

## **School Visits**

Our school leaflets continue to be taken by interested visitors to the Centre, whether they be teachers, staff or parents of children from schools.

A Spanish language school with a group of 25 pupils aged 16 and 17 made a successful visit to the Centre which included our craft workshops. They are making a return visit in April 2023. We received very positive feedback from the organiser:

“I wanted to say thank you very much to you and your lovely group of ‘medievalls’ for looking after us on Monday. It really was a wonderful day and your hard work was very much appreciated. I do hope that we will be able to do it again, that is if you will have us! You all must have been exhausted by the end of the day.”

A small group of eight students from Nonington School visited the Centre in October for an hour of craft demonstrations which finished with the students teaming up for some of the medieval games we have, with a few trying the quill and ink. This school is now keen to revisit for some hands-on workshops.

Enquiries for school visits have continued through the year, a few from local schools and a couple from travel agencies from France specialising in school trips to the UK and Ireland.

## **Group Visits**

The Cinque Ports Scribes made a group visit to the Centre in July which included 22 members of this East Kent-based calligraphy society, all of whom were very keen on this area of history. Although they have their own accumulated knowledge of scribes and their work, they were nevertheless keen to see the mini scriptorium for themselves.

The visit to the Centre was chosen for the group's annual outing and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves for over an hour, watching and interacting with our provided demonstrators with the additional bonus of the Tablet Weaver and Barber Surgeon. The group also made a generous donation to the Trust.

Discussions with English Heritage are ongoing regarding group visits to the Centre for their Members' Days Out.



*Children's Corn Dolly Workshop*

## RE-ENACTMENT

We started the year with a new event looking at the history of animal guising and the origins of the hooden horse. Bringing Alive Sandwich Heritage (BASH) created a pop-up exhibition at the Centre and organised a traditional hoodening walk, taking in a few local pubs. The walk finished up at the Centre where we provided a hot wassail cup for all the public while a traditional play was performed, the Deal Hoodners providing the music.

A new addition to the Centre has been a series of custom-made games tables. The four tables have been hand carved by Alan Hinton Crafts. The first couple were delivered in time for the February half-term games event led by one of our volunteers, Andrew Hall. Since then, the tables have been used on a daily basis by visitors to the Centre.



*The popular medieval gaming table*

For Easter half-term we had five days of extra crafts and demonstrations including cooking demonstrations and cheese-making, along with all our usual crafts.

In early June we hosted the brilliant Cats Eye Carving for two weeks as part of Southeast Open Studios. The stone carver set up a stone carving workshop in the Centre giving visitors the chance to see and even have a go at the ancient craft of stone carving.



*Stone carved gargoyle*

Our biggest event so far was held on 10th & 11th June as part of the town-wide Le Weekend event. The Quay Green was transformed into the biggest medieval tented camp Sandwich has seen for a long time (see *front cover*). Over 100 reenactors from eight different groups set up over fifty tents for the weekend providing living history, cookery and combat demonstrations along with crafts, have-a-go archery and axe throwing, games, music and dance, puppet theatre and not forgetting a very well-stocked tavern!



*Medieval activities on the Quay Green*

In July, the Centre took part in the Sandwich Folk and Ale Festival, with a day of medieval mead and beer-making demonstrations. Visitors got to see the traditional ways of making mead and beer using raw ingredients.

For Sandwich Festival weekend in August, we set up a have-a-go encampment on the Quay Green giving visitors the opportunity to try many different crafts and enjoy music and dance, puppet theatre and even some axe throwing.

Once again in September we took part in the National Trust organised Heritage Open days. We held two weekends of events which included an historic games evening and a small living history encampment on the Quay Green by the local group, Ost Centingas.

Particularly successful were the flat pack kits of cogs, designed by trustee Bob Martin, for children to cut out and assemble during their visit, contributing to their knowledge of the medieval cog. Several families got involved with this new learning tool. The Trust plans to have the cog kits on general sale at the Centre next year.



*Making model medieval cogs from kit sets designed by Bob Martin (left)*



*Have-a-go archery*



*Encampment on the Quay Green*



Blacksmithing in the Centre's forge

Finally in December, to finish off the year, we always love taking part in the Sandwich Advent Window event. We enjoyed a mini craft market, hot cup of wassail and festive cooking demonstrations along with a medieval Christmas window display.

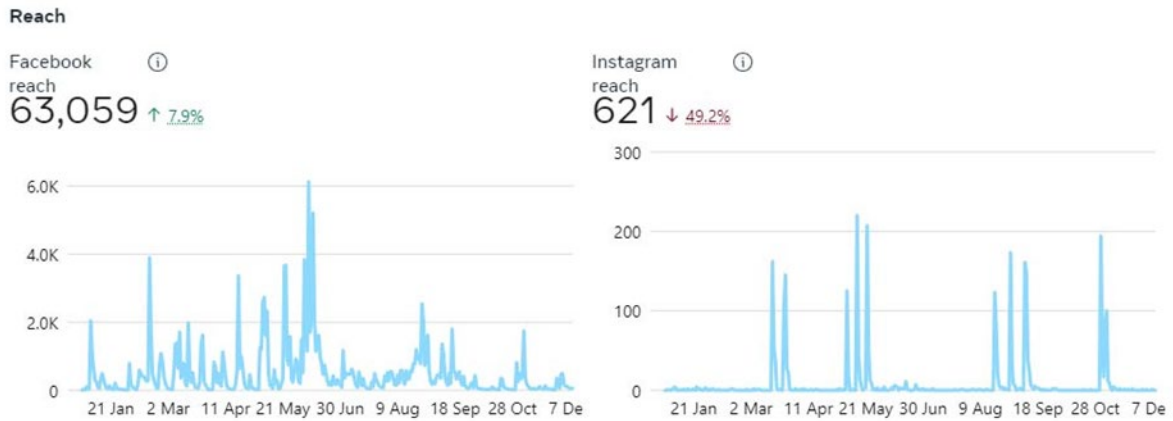


*Christmas Advent Window*

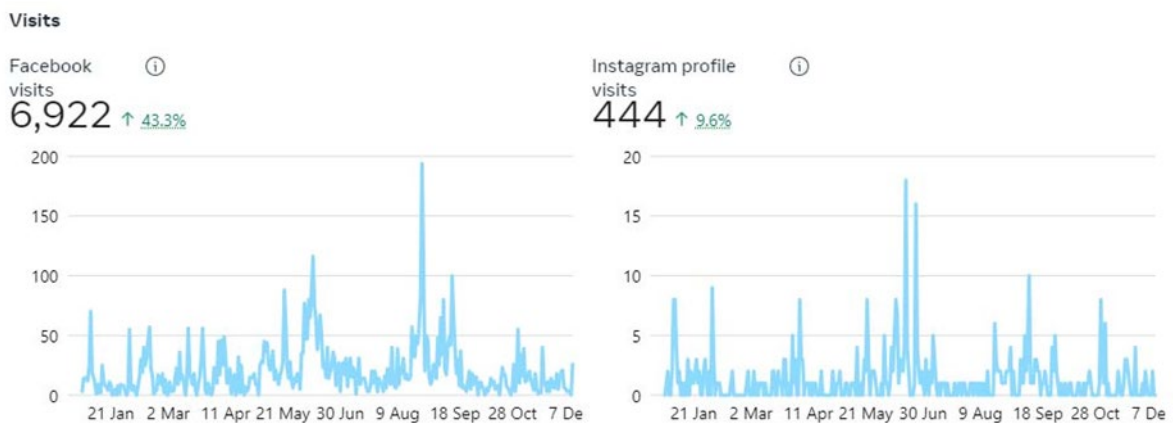
# WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media following continues to grow and we find ourselves using platforms like Facebook to our full advantage to advertise our events and share information to all our followers. Some of our pre-event posts have a reach of over 6,000 people.

The graphs below show the reach of our social media posts throughout the year:



These graphs show the number of visits to our social media pages throughout the year:



We have consistently received excellent reviews on Google, Facebook, Tripadvisor and email testimonies including these:

*Good evening,*

*My wife and I visited your centre this morning (...)*

*Over an hour later we left having been told so much of the work you are undertaking, not only at the centre but also in the wider community, particularly with the children. You might remember us ...we bought a number of the bagged games....*

*Oh! and on your recommendation we visited the church and went up the clock tower, and had a Pizza in the Drill Hall.*

### **Facebook, Tripadvisor & Google reviews**

- *stumbled across this place today..... definitely worth a visit. Very interesting and very knowledgeable people. Will definitely visit again to see the progress on the boat!!!*

- *What a hidden gem. Very welcoming and knowledgeable team. Please go and explore.*

- *Lovely experience learning about how things were made back in these times. The staff are lively and full of interesting information. Well worth a visit.*

- *A MUST VISIT WHILST IN SANDWICH*

*Really friendly welcome*

*All in character*

*Live forge and nice exhibits*

*All free apart from mead making*

*Lots of history and perfect area*

- *What an experience. The medieval centre is a lovely place on its own to visit but they also offer experiences too. I was lucky enough to be given a day's experience blacksmithing for my birthday at Sandwich Medieval Centre and had previously been to look around.*

*The session I was given was a full day starting at 10 am and running until 4 pm. All the staff were extremely welcoming and made me feel so comfortable and the session was run by Steve. The blacksmithing forge was traditional with its bellows and fuel and you get a very traditional experience working with all the hand tools. What is there to say about Steve... He's brilliant: so informative and knowledgeable. He spoke through all the steps and explained processes well. Now, blacksmithing is quite physical but Steve offers to take over when you might need a break and obviously models certain steps but you can do as much as you want. I came out with the pieces that I had made but most importantly a great smile on my face.*

*I would say that this experience is well worth the money and I would recommend it to anyone. I certainly would like to do it again.*

- *Friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable people. Highly recommend. They run various medieval workshops.*



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Since the bank balance was strong enough to fund ongoing work on the major project, the Cog *Nicholas*, the Trust did not apply for any grants during 2023.

Income from other sources remained strong with Trustees and volunteers giving freely of their time to support fundraising at events and at St Mary's Arts Centre concerts.

It is pleasing that donations from the public given as they visit the Centre totalled £3,586, almost enough to cover the expensive but essential cost item - insurance, which was £3,800.

Expenditure on the cog *Nicholas* was just £2,112 compared with £9,296 last year. This reflects the fact that all work was done by volunteers with no significant external costs. As the project matures, additional high spend will be incurred, but the Trust is well placed to meet 2024 costs without further grant support.

Income exceeded expenditure by £3,386 leaving a bank balance at financial year end of £29,091.





*The well-stocked tavern is a popular venue at weekend events*



*Volunteers celebrating in the Centre*

## The Sandwich Medieval Trust

### Summary Accounts 2023

Notes	Income	2023	2022
1	Grants	0.00	18000
2	Events	5745.86	4591.67
	Donations from the public box	3586.90	5502.63
	Sales after costs	288.61	26.09
	Workshops	1442.76	621.63
	DDC Lotto	78.00	79.50
3	St Mary's Concerts Support	3872.90	1309.85
	Miscellaneous	33.56	0.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15048.59</b>	<b>30131.37</b>
	<b>Expenditure (net of VAT)</b>		
	Web	137.50	155.00
	Boat and Tools	2111.98	9295.91
	Building Costs	563.28	138.88
	Equipment	3203.83	4261.51
	Consumables	863.84	1804.11
	Professional Services	89.10	126.75
	Insurance	3802.95	4180.21
	Miscellaneous	0.00	40.00
	Publicity	890.00	686.00
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>11662.48</b>	<b>20688.37</b>
	Net improvement	3386.12	9443.01
	Adjusted Balance brought forward	25096.69	17178.00
	<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>28482.81</b>	<b>26621.01</b>
	Represented by Current Account	29090.74	25096.69
	VAT Account	-607.93	1524.32

#### Notes

1 No Grants applied for in 2023

2 Events included Hooden day, 40s, Le Weekend, Sandwich Festival

3 The Trust volunteers worked with St Marys concert promoters on six occasions

**THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178864

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# Accounts

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# THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST



**ANNUAL REPORT  
DECEMBER 2022**

# THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST

Registered Charity Number 1178864

TRUSTEES: Dave Batchelor, Julia Baxter, Paul Damon, Steve Laslett, Bob Martin, Lynne O'Donoghue [www.sandwichmedieval.org](http://www.sandwichmedieval.org)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is with great sadness we report that our highly respected Patron, Admiral Lord Michael Boyce, passed away in November 2022. Lord Boyce has been our Patron from the inception of the Trust and an enthusiastic supporter of our work, visiting the Centre on a number of occasions. He was there to welcome the Nicholas when she arrived at the Quay, having completed the journey from Plymouth via an extended stay at Dover Marina. He will be very much missed by the Trustees.

The following sections in this annual report reflect on another very successful year for the Trust. The Centre continues to be a great attraction for visitors who regularly leave positive feedback confirming that our volunteers continue to educate and enthral in equal measure. It is clear that the appetite for an imaginative telling of the medieval history of Sandwich is huge, and that the Trust is limited only by the capacity of our volunteers to deliver, for free, in their spare time.

The Trustees are very proud of the volunteers and extremely grateful for their valuable and ongoing input. The visual impact of reenactors in medieval costume welcoming visitors is very positive and their subject knowledge impressive. Feedback includes such comments as: 'This is a must-visit place if you are in Sandwich'; 'Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, what a fabulous educational experience'; 'What a little gem'.

The Centre is open to visitors most weeks from Thursday to Sunday and has recorded as many as 1,000 visits over the August Bank Holiday weekend. It is probably the most visited venue in Sandwich town.

The educational content of the Centre is consistently praised, with a number of crafts and skills being demonstrated. They include blacksmithing and metalworking, calligraphy and illumination, corn weaving, egg tempera painting, wood working and importantly, boat repair and reconstruction. The following sections on workshops and reenactors also record many visiting reenactors and their skills.

The project to create a life-sized cog, a medieval boat typical of the sort that would have been moored in Sandwich around 1400, continues. Thanks to a generous £10,000 grant from the Bernard Sunley Foundation and £5,000 from the Sandwich Shop, the project is well-funded and making good progress. A purpose-built cover has been installed to protect the boat from rain and also to allow volunteers to work on the deck in bad weather. The capstan and winch have been made in the workshop and work has started on the castles. The funding outlook for the Trust is positive and Trustees can look forward to healthy and active 2023.

**Steve Laslett**

**Chair, Board of Trustees**

# ACTIVITIES

To simplify the workings of the organisation, the work of the Trust is divided into four sections: Maritime; Schools and Workshops; Re-enactment Programme; PR \*Social Media) and Finance. These groups meet separately and regularly report back to the Trust.

## MARITIME



*Nicholas with the cover frame in place*

The main focus of our work during the past year has continued to be on the Nicholas project. The presence of the Nicholas on its mooring at Sandwich Quay generates a great deal of interest in the project and in our work in the Centre. The hull is an asset to the Quay area and will contribute to the development of the historic maritime ambience along the banks of the river Stour as envisaged by the Sandwich Heritage Harbour Group.

The trustees and a small team of enthusiastic volunteers, including a group of Sea Cadets, have continued to work on the Nicholas, replacing rotten deck beams and planking. Work has also continued on removing the temporary caulking to the deck planking and replacing it with traditional oakum and pitch.



*At work on the capstan in the Centre!*

In the Centre's workshop we have fabricated the windlass using a section of Ash for the horizontal spindle and mounting it in an oak frame attached to the deck. We have also fabricated the capstan using a section of Ash for the vertical spindle, mounting it on an oak bearer on top of the keel structure and locating it with an oak collar at deck level. All the associated metalwork, including the ratchet mechanisms, have been fabricated by our blacksmith on the forge in the Centre.



*Windlass made in the Centre now in place*



*All metalwork for the Nicholas is made at the Centre's forge*

Our blacksmith has begun the fabrication of a second anchor in the forge in the Centre and hopes to be able to forge-weld the anchor arms to the shank which will demonstrate the heating capabilities of a medieval forge.

We have had a fabric cover installed on a temporary timber framework to protect the deck and hull from inclement weather. The framework provides sufficient headroom for us to be able to work underneath it in all weathers thus increasing our productivity during the Winter and Spring months.

Our aim from next year onwards will be to fabricate the fore and stern castles in the workshop and install them on the hull before moving on to erect a mast, install a sail and rigging and, in time, modify the internal hull area to allow visitors to sample medieval life below deck.

We remain in contact with Tommi Nielsen of T. Nielsen & Company, based in Gloucester. They have agreed to advise us on all aspects of design and maintenance as the Nicholas project progresses. Tommi and his colleague, Graham Westbrook, naval architect, will offer guidance on repairs to be carried out in the future and on the design of items such as the castles.

A section of our web site is dedicated to the Nicholas project see: <https://sandwichmedieval.org/the-saint-nicholas-project> .



## SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS



*Wheat weaving demands great concentration*

### **Workshops**

Workshops took place throughout the year and included Blacksmithing, Baking, Bookbinding, Calligraphy, Illumination, Wheat Weaving and Tablet Weaving. The choice has recently added circular netting to the list. Interest in the workshops continues to remain strong throughout the year.

Have-a-go crafts include Calligraphy, Wheat Weaving and Egg Tempera painting which were particularly successful during the Medieval Market in April and the Sandwich Festival weekend in August, with many children and adults alike enjoying themselves whilst gaining interest in the workshops offered at the Centre.



*Calligraphy – popular with all age groups*

The calligraphy tables were full both days with all ages, including some people who had never tried before but always wanted to. Others that had enjoyed this craft as a child and were delighted to have another opportunity.

Quills were used to try and practice a medieval book hand and the work of the scribes of the time were explained with examples and material reproductions. Children in particular tried their hand at some egg tempera painting onto woodcut prints depicting scenes of the seasons. Visitors were very excited to complete a corn dolly with the Wheat Weaver, who patiently led them through the various stages of weaving wheat.



*Making a corn dolly*



*Egg tempura painting – one of the have-a-go crafts*

## **School Visits**

Our school leaflets have been printed (*see end of this report*) and include a breakdown of costs and our selection of visits, whether these be a one hour visit or a full day's hands-on experience. These are also available on our website and downloadable for printing, as well as at the Centre. Local schools have had in-person visits to introduce what we offer, plus the leaflets. Slightly further afield schools in Margate, Broadstairs and Deal have received the leaflets by email. Home schooling groups have also been informed via various websites.

Some schools have already expressed interest in visiting the Centre in 2023. There is even a booking for 25 students from a language school in Spain.

During the lantern-making workshops, which took place in late November, medieval boats were created by children and their families. These lanterns were then proudly illuminated and paraded in the Sandwich Lights procession through the town on 3rd December 2022.

## **Group Visits**

A group of SEND children (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) visited the Centre in the summer as part of a week-long project culminating in a play about Thomas Becket and supported by Kent County Council Reconnect, aimed at enhancing well being through creative arts.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August, the children had lots of fun trying two medieval crafts. Using hand cut quills, they practiced some medieval style writing, as used in the original manuscripts of the time and then completed their own names with a decorated capital

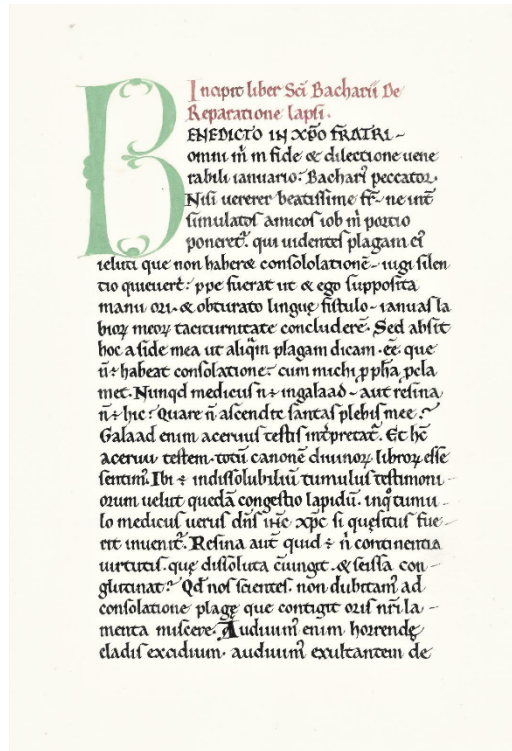
to colour in later. They were guided through step by step and made their own traditional corn dollies using wheat which they were most excited about. The groups were also introduced to the Centre and shown around to great enjoyment. It was particularly rewarding to see them all so immersed in crafts that none of them had ever tried before. The accompanying adults also tried their hands at the skills.

### **And on film ...**



*Calligraphy on film*

Earlier this year, Julia Baxter (the Centre's scribe) was approached by a film company to take part in a film, working on behalf of the Llanthony Secunda Priory in Gloucestershire, an historic building, now a visitor centre. The task was to be filmed writing part of a page from a manuscript which was originally written at the Priory (now in Cambridge). This segment for the film was shot at the Centre and will be included as a visual explanation within the Priory. There was no charge made for this work with the understanding that the Trust has a copy of the film which is highly anticipated



The priory manuscript dating from the tenth century



Block print cutting

## RE-ENACTMENTS AND EVENTS



The year 2022 was full of great events, medieval markets and open days.

It began with a series of February half term Open Days which included a Medieval Weapons Display, Medieval painting, Meet the Barber Surgeon and Silkwoman and a day in the life of a medieval housewife.

Over Easter we held a two-day Medieval Market where we were joined by an amazing selection of medieval makers and crafts people which included a have-a-go section for calligraphy and corn dolly making. The Centre welcomed hundreds of happy visitors and plan to take the Medieval market to the Quay Green in 2023.

In June we held our Le Weekend Medieval event on the Quay Green and in the Centre with a host of brilliant reenactors and demonstrators for the visitors to see. They were also able to enjoy and take part in music and dance, medieval theatre, living history displays, knight training and have-a-go archery.



© Malcolm Fairman 2022



*Medieval Minstrel at Le Weekend*



*Stone carving – a new craft for 2022*





*Archery on the Butts in July*

A new event for us in July was Archery on the Butts. The idea of the event was to show the public the effectiveness of archery in medieval times and to test the English longbow and a variety of arrow types against different armour such as a gambeson, link mail and plate armour. Arrow heads made by the Centre's Blacksmith, Steve Batchelor, were fitted to arrows made by local fletcher Sam Rummery, who also made and shot a crossbow. Local bowyer Nick Toy made and shot a warbow while explaining to the public the different arrows and armour. Archer Tom Jennings and a group of archers from a local re-enactment group also demonstrated the power of the English longbow.



*Prize giving with the Mayor or Sandwich at the Archery Competition*



Anglo Saxon knight ready for battle



*Chain Mail dummy under attack (torso made by wheat weaver)*

August Bank Holiday saw the return of the Sandwich Festival and for two days of the town-wide event we held another encampment on the Quay Green and the Centre including a food demonstration by a new member of the volunteer team - Patrick De-La-Mere – plus music, dance, theatre and even have-a-go axe throwing along with living history reenactors. A have-a-go-marquee filled the area with fun and excitement.

In September we took part in 'Heritage Open Days' organised by The National Trust. With many different reenactors and demonstrators joining us for six days of free activities and demonstrations of medieval life in the Centre. The event was very well received by the public; the Heritage Open Days organisers even sent a film crew to capture the event.

In early October we held a mini medieval market at the Centre where the public could chat with some of the amazing crafts people including woodworkers, silkwoman, and a book binder. Carrie Horwood from Cats Eye Carving set up in the workshop to demonstrate and even let members of the public try their hand at stone carving.

During October half-term, games and model house building was another new free event for the Centre. Andrew Hall, another new volunteer, organised four days of medieval games and model house building; members of the public were invited to have a go at playing a selection of medieval (and earlier) games and build model medieval buildings out of recycled materials.

In December we took part in the Sandwich advent window event where we dress the main windows on the Quayside with a medieval festive display including paper and willow lanterns made into medieval cogs. We concluded with a medieval feast where many of the reenactors who have helped throughout the year enjoyed hot food and drink to celebrate.



# SOCIAL MEDIA

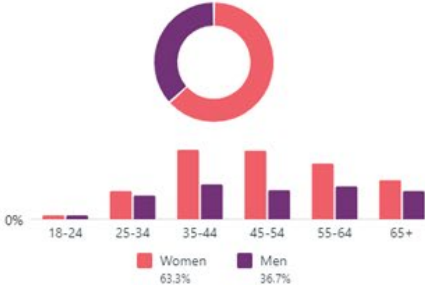
## Audience

Current audience Potential audience

Facebook Page followers ⓘ

1,327

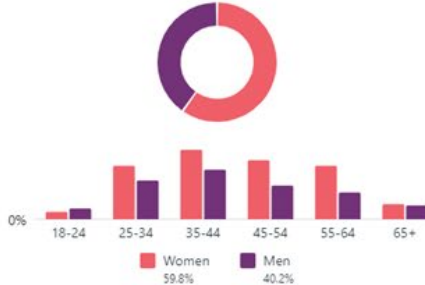
Age & gender ⓘ



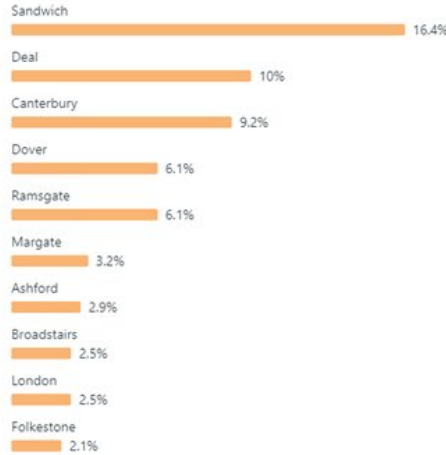
Instagram followers ⓘ

674

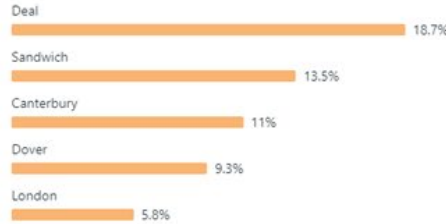
Age & gender ⓘ



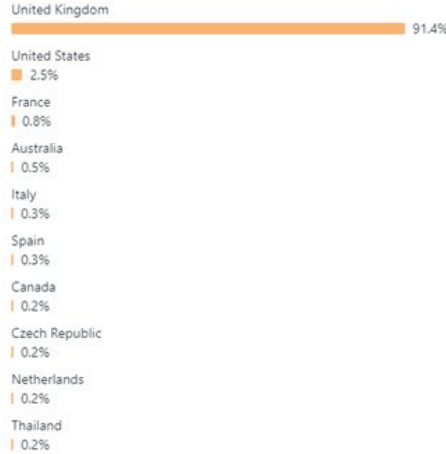
Top towns/cities



Top towns/cities



Top countries



Top countries



### Contact new people

The more people who follow your Page, the easier it is for others to discover your brand. Send invitations to people who reacted to your Facebook posts to follow your Page. [Learn more](#)

Send invitations

The graphs on the page above show the demographic of our Facebook and Instagram followers by town and country.

2. The graphs below show our page reach – the amount of Facebook and Instagram users who have seen a post or our page in the last 12 months.

### Reach

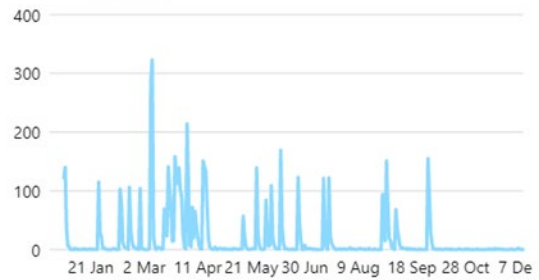
Facebook Page reach ⓘ

57,975 ↑ 70.4%



Instagram reach ⓘ

1,207 ↓ 62.7%



3. These graphs show our Facebook and Instagram page/profile visits – the amount of people who have directly looked at a post or our page.

### Page and profile visits

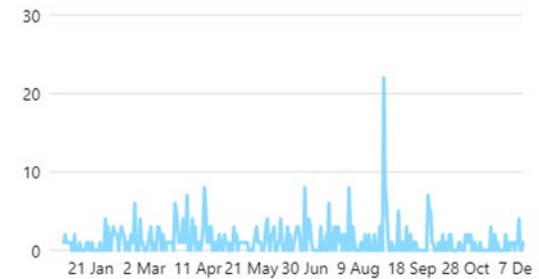
Facebook Page visits ⓘ

4,749 ↑ 219.2%



Instagram profile visits ⓘ

409 ↓ 35.9%



## REVIEWS

The Centre continues to receive glowing testimonials, a selection of which is given below:



**Danny Williams**

Local Guide · 19 reviews



★★★★★ 6 months ago

Went and did some medieval blacksmithing here for my birthday. Amazing and friendly staff. Very patient and engaging teacher. This is a must visit place if you're ever in Sandwich. Looking forward to seeing the completed boat they've been building



2

**Response from the owner** 6 months ago

Thanks for the great review, so pleased you had a good day 😊



Edit



Delete



**Sally Tritton**

Local Guide · 44 reviews · 9 photos



★★★★★ 4 months ago

Wonderful wonderful wonderful what a fabulous educational experience even for someone of my age in my 40s something for everyone of all ages a working ironmonger area where you can watch smelting and iron work in progress beautiful ... [More](#)



1

**Response from the owner** 4 months ago

Thank you so much for the great review



Edit



Delete



**ShadowEmoLuv**

6 reviews · 4 photos



★★★★★ 6 months ago

Amazing experience of blacksmithing! Very friendly staff and you are very hands on. Definitely would recommend if anyone wants to give blacksmithing a go! Also it's a charity so definitely go and visit 😊😊



2

**Response from the owner** 6 months ago

So pleased you had a good time. 🙌 thanks for coming along.

Reviews aren't verified.



**Paul Tomlin**

4 reviews



★★★★★ 6 months ago

What a little gem. Fascinating talking to the enthusiastic volunteers talking about their skills and the amazing project they are working on.

Can't wait to go back sometime to view the progress.



2

**Response from the owner** 6 months ago

Thanks for the great review 😊



Edit



Delete

 **Josh**  
2 contributions



### A Great Experience

Nov 2022

What an experience. The medieval center is a lovely place on its own to visit but they also offer experiences too. I was lucky enough to be given a day's experience blacksmithing for my birthday at Sandwich Medieval Centre and had previously been to look around.

The session I was given was a full day starting at 10 am and running until 4 pm. All the staff were extremely welcoming and made me feel so comfortable and the session was run by Steve. The blacksmithing forge was traditional with its bellows and fuel and you get a very traditional experience working with all the hand tools. What is there to say about Steve... he's brilliant: so informative and knowledgeable. He spoke through all the steps and explained processes well. Now, blacksmithing is quite physical but Steve offers to take over when you might need a break and obviously models certain steps but you can do as much as you want. I came out with the pieces that I had made but most importantly a great smile on my face.

I would say that this experience is well worth the money and I would recommend it to anyone. I certainly would like to do it again.

[Read less](#) ^

Written 20 November 2022

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.



### A little gem

Jul 2022 • Family

Dropped in here just as we had parked and were off on a wander. They guy we spoke to was so interesting, knowledgeable and lovely. Our daughter who is twelve thought it was great. Some excellent work being done too. Recommend you drop in and ask questions and perhaps leave a donation as we did. Wonderful

Written 31 July 2022

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.

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 **DanPMG**  
Broadstairs, UK • 43 contributions



### Glad we stopped by

Jun 2022

Very knowledgeable and friendly team who are happy to talk to big kids and little kids alike. It was a very interesting visit with some interesting things to see. We were there about half an hour.

Written 20 June 2022

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.

## FINANCE

The accounts overleaf show a positive financial position for the Trust with a surplus of income over expenditure of £9,443 for 2022. Grants from the Bernard Sunley Foundation of £10,000 and the Sandwich Shop of £5,000 were made to finance the remaining stages of the construction of the medieval cog, the Nicholas. The additional funds also facilitated the purchase of a purpose-built cover to protect the Nicholas from the elements and to allow work to continue on the deck in bad weather.

Income from small donations from the public totalled £5,482 which is considered to be a positive endorsement of how well the Medieval Centre is received by visitors. It is reassuring that recurring income is greater than the significant annual cost of over £4,000 for insurance.

Trustees continue to raise significant other funds by running successful outdoor annual events and indoor bars at St Marys Arts Centre when invited to do so. This income allows the Trust to continue to buy high quality equipment and costumes as and when needed.

A grant of £3,000 from Dover Council funded a one-off display of longbow archery held on the Butts in Sandwich in July. It was very well received and has led to additional educational items on permanent display in the Centre.

Just over £9,000 was spent on the Nicholas project as positive progress was made towards this most important contribution to Sandwich. The carried-forward positive bank balance of £26,621 will ensure continuing progress in 2023 and beyond.

Thanks are due to our generous sponsors:

The Sandwich Shop

The Bernard Sunley Foundation

The Sandwich Coop

The Roger de Haan Charitable Trust

The Garfield West Foundation.



## The Sandwich Medieval Trust

### Summary Accounts 2022

<b>Income</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
Sandwich Shop	5000.00	5000.00
Garfield Weston Foundation		10000.00
Bernard Sunley	10000.00	
Roger de Haan		2000.00
DDC Community/KCC Members Fund		1200.00
DDC Town centre Events	3000.00	
Drapers Charitable Fund		500.00
Scribes		250.00
Coop Duck Fund		700.00
	<b>18000</b>	<b>19650.00</b>
<b>Events</b>		
Easter Weekend, Archery, Le Weekend, Sandwich Festival	<b>4591.67</b>	<b>1271.38</b>
Donations from the public box	5502.63	4144.33
Sales after costs	26.09	1022.17
Workshops	621.63	680.56
DDC Lotto	79.50	108.00
St Mary's Bars	1309.85	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>30131.37</b>	<b>26876.44</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
(Net of VAT)		
Web	155.00	135.00
Boat and Tools	9295.91	12892.91
Building Costs	138.88	32.46
Learning Centre	0.00	195.89
Equipment - inc costumes, cups, batteries solar panels, generator	4261.51	566.78
Consumables	1804.11	414.64
Professional Services	126.75	
Insurance	4180.21	3124.83
AGM & Miscellaneous	40.00	915.84
Publicity	686.00	918.44
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>20688.37</b>	<b>19196.79</b>
Net improvement	9443.00	7679.65
Adjusted Balance brought forward	17178.00	10204.58
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>26621.00</b>	<b>17884.23</b>
Represented by Current Account	25096.69	17178.00
VAT Account	1524.31	706.23



**THE SANDWICH MEDIEVAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178864

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# Accounts

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## The Sandwich Medieval Trust

## Summary Accounts to 30-11-21

<b>Income</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
Sandwich Shop	5000.00	
Garfield Weston Foundation	10000.00	
Roger de Haan	2000.00	
DDC Community/KCC Members Fund	1200.00	1000
HMRC Covid Support		10000
Drapers Charitable Fund	500.00	
Scribes	250.00	
Coop Duck Fund	700.00	
	<b>19650.00</b>	<b>11000.00</b>
<b>Events</b>		
Easter Weekend - cancelled	0	0
Le Weekend - cancelled	0	0
Sandwich Festival	1271.38	0
	<b>1271.38</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Donations from the public box	4124.33	1757.71
Sales	790.86	35.63
Workshops	680.56	555.82
DDC Lotto	108.00	131.00
St Mary's Bars	0.00	1905.55
Membership	20.00	49.83
	<b>26645.13</b>	<b>15435.54</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
(Net of VAT)		
Web	135.00	0.00
Boat and Tools	12892.91	12136.99
Building Costs	32.46	1244.25
Learning Centre	195.89	60.69
Equipment	566.78	112.95
Consumables	414.64	147.17
Professional Services inc insurance	3124.83	851.21
AGM & Miscellaneous	915.84	104.10
Publicity	918.44	180.00
Total Expenditure	<b>19196.79</b>	<b>14837.36</b>
Net improvement, ie income less expenditure	7448.34	598.18
Balance brought forward	10204.58	9606.40
Available Funds	<b>17652.92</b>	<b>10204.58</b>
Represented by Current Account	17460.32	
VAT Account	192.60	