

Charity number: 1179537

Mercantile Marine Memorial Trust
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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Legal and administrative information

Charity number 1179537

Registered office HM Naval Base PP66
Portsmouth
Hampshire PO1 3NH

Trustees Commodore Phillip Waterhouse
Professor Dominic Tweddle

Mrs Trudy Grey – appointed 11th April 2023
Mr David McGinley – resigned 11 June 2024
Dr Emma Roberts – appointed 29 July 2023
Mr Leon Calverley – appointed 18 August 2023
Ms Emma Collins – appointed 21 November 2023
Mr Paul Swindlehurst – appointed 14 January 2024
Ms Helen McWatt – appointed 26 June 2024
Mr Luke Helmsley – appointed 28 November 2024
Mr Simon Bird – appointed 25th January 2025

Accountants Compass Accountants Limited
Venture House
The Tanneries
East Street
Titchfield
Hampshire
PO14 4AR

Trustees' annual report

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Foreword

The charitable objects of the Mercantile Marine Memorial Trust (the Trust) are:

- 1) To receive and maintain the British Mercantile Marine collection of paintings and other artistic works depicting the life and history of the British Mercantile Marine; and
- 2) To curate and display such paintings and other artistic works in museums and other public event space in order to advance the education of the public in the life and history of the British Mercantile Marine.

The Board of Trustees

The Board is responsible for ensuring leadership through effective oversight and review. It shapes the strategic thinking and sets the tone. A full formal induction process is in place for new Trustees and committee members, which combines all the necessary background reading material, including items such as: the Articles of Association; minutes of recent meetings; the Charity Commission publication "The Essential Trustee: what you need to know."

3)

Performance Report

Overview

The Mercantile Marine Memorial Trust (MMMT) was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on the 14 August 2018 (charity number 1179537).

The Mercantile Marine artworks, a collection of approximately 1,300 portraits of British steam shipping in locations across the world, were purchased on behalf of the Trust by the National Museum of the Royal Navy ("the National Museum") (charity number 1126283) on the 27th November 2017. The purchase of the artworks was supported through a LIBOR grant agreement between the National Museum and HM Treasury dated the 12th June 2017. The total grant, to be held in trust by the National Museum, totalled £1,233,000.

The purchase price of the artworks was £600,000 and the remaining funds are currently held by the National Museum to catalogue and research the collection, to establish exhibition and storage facilities and to create a loan programme until the charity are confident to take over its ownership. The collection is currently stored in a secure location and are accessible by the MMMT trustees and National Museum authorised personnel.

During the year, MMMT appointed new trustees and confirmed that they were in a position to take over the ownership of the artwork and to accept the remaining balance of the grant. The artworks were transferred to MMMT, under a Deed Transfer, on the 17 December 2024.

The Trustees have due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in its charitable objects, the charity seeks to receive and maintain the British Mercantile Marine Collection of paintings and other artistic works depicting the life and history of the British Mercantile Marine and to curate and display such paintings and other artistic works in museums and other public events space in order to advance the education of the public in the life and history of the British Mercantile Marine.

During the year, MMMT engaged a consultant to create an initial Vision, Mission, and Strategy statement. The consultant also supported the Trust in creating a governance structure to enable the Trustees to effectively work towards their charitable objects.

Over the course of the year, the Trust has also completed a full audit of the collection, created catalogue entries for each work, and carried out a digitisation project with imagery now available for each painting in the collection.

Financial Review

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

Total incoming resources for the Mercantile Marine Memorial Trust in 2024 amounted to £Nil (2023: £Nil).

Total resources expended for 2024 amounted to £153,048 (2023: £7,559) relating to curatorial, storage, management and governance costs.

Balance sheet

The net assets as at 31st December 2024 amounted to £982,869 (2023: £1,135,917).

Reserves

The Trustees regularly monitor the levels of the Trust's reserves. The Trust retains a 'free reserve' which is defined as the amounts shown as Net Current Assets in the accounts and which are attributable to Unrestricted Funds. The policy is that there is no requirement to accumulate free reserves and that any reserves held will be appropriately used, as approved by the Board, for the furtherance of the Trust's charitable objects.

As at 31st December 2024, the Trust's free reserves (defined as net current assets attributable to unrestricted reserves) stood at £382,869 (2023: £535,917). The purpose of the Trust is solely to hold the heritage assets and reserves of the Mercantile Marine Memorial Trust, which it will grant to the National Museum as and when required until they are expended, or a nominal sum remains. The ongoing operating costs are undertaken under the agreement with the National Museum; therefore, the Trustees are content that the going concern basis continues to apply and that the free reserves are at an appropriate level.

Plans for future periods

The Trustees have determined that the most cost-effective and efficient way to manage the charity is to ask the National Museum to continue to provide management services. A revised service agreement was agreed between the two organisations to facilitate effective working, on the 5th December 2024. The National Museum will continue to hold the charity's resources as agreed within the service agreement.

MMMT are looking to develop volunteering opportunities to continue to research the collection and enhance individual catalogue records. The Trustees have also started to engage with other museums and heritage institutions and presented research about the collection at the UK Maritime Heritage Forum. To support this, MMMT are continuing to develop a website where more information about the collection and digital imagery can be shared with the wider public and are working to upload images and metadata about the collection to Art UK to ensure this is as accessible as possible.

In April 2025, the Trust will open its first collaborative exhibition of the collection at Hartlepool Art Gallery, entitled "Charting the Course: Hartlepool's Maritime Heritage". This exhibition will run between April and June 2025 and will enable a selection of the collection with local significance to be shared with the wider public. MMMT is also working towards other exhibition opportunities.

Future expenditure will be limited to cataloguing, governance and support costs. As such, the Trustees are content that the going concern basis continues to apply.

Phil Waterhouse

Phil Waterhouse
On Behalf of the Board of Trustees

Date: 17/04/2025

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. 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.

Phil Waterhouse

Phil Waterhouse
On Behalf of the Board of Trustees

Date: 17/04/2025

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-
Total income		-	-	-	-
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities					
Collections and asset management	2	153,048	153,048	7,559	7,559
Total expenditure		153,048	153,048	7,559	7,559
Net income/(expenditure)		(153,048)	(153,048)	(7,559)	(7,559)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(153,048)	(153,048)	(7,559)	(7,559)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward		1,135,917	1,135,917	1,143,476	1,143,476
Total funds carried forward		982,869	982,869	1,135,917	1,135,917

All recognised gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Heritage assets	5	600,000	600,000
		<u>600,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	6	421,645	535,917
		<u>421,645</u>	<u>535,917</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(38,776)	-
		<u>(38,776)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net current assets		382,869	535,917
		<u>382,869</u>	<u>535,917</u>
Net assets		<u>982,869</u>	<u>1,135,917</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds		982,869	1,135,917
		<u>982,869</u>	<u>1,135,917</u>
Total funds		<u>982,869</u>	<u>1,135,917</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board and signed on its behalf by

Phil Waterhouse

Phil Waterhouse
On Behalf of the Board of Trustees

Date: 17/04/2025

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Cash flow statement

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	-	-
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of heritage assets	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2024	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2024	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
 Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period	 (153,048)	 (7,559)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	114,272	9,329
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	38,776	(1,770)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Notes to the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Charity information

The Mercantile Marine Memorial Trust is a registered charity, number 1179537.

The Mercantile Marine Memorial Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under section 34 of FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The principal objectives of the charity are detailed in the Trustees report.

1.2. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The role of the Trust is solely to hold the heritage assets and reserves of the Mercantile Marine Memorial Collection. The Trustees are content that the going concern basis continues to apply.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.3. Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4. Grants receivable

Revenue grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable. If a grant of donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the charity's control, and it is probable those conditions will be met in the accounting period.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable. Depreciation on the fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund.

1.5. Expenditure

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

1.6. Basis of allocation

Governance costs include those costs incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.7. Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

1.8. Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets with a cost or value greater than £2,500 and a useful life exceeding one year are capitalised at historic cost.

Notes to the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2024

1.9. Heritage assets

The heritage assets held by the trust are capitalised in the accounts on the basis of cost of purchase. The assets are not depreciated due to their infinite useful economic lives. An annual review for impairment is carried out in accordance with the Charities SORP, with any impairment recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Collection

The collection consists of artefacts, physical, written and oral reflecting the history of the British Mercantile Marine.

1.10. Basic financial instruments

The Museum's financial assets and liabilities consist of cash and cash equivalents, short term investments, trade debtors, trade creditors and accrued expenses. The fair value of these items approximates their carrying value due to their short-term value. Unless otherwise noted, the Museum is not exposed to significant interest, foreign exchange or credit risks arising from these instruments.

Term deposits of less than one year are classified as investments within current assets.

2. Collections and asset management

	Collections and asset management	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Storage costs	13,985	13,985	5,056
Digitisation costs	12,048	12,048	-
Curatorial costs	84,466	84,466	-
Insurance	1,725	1,725	-
Travel and subsistence	3,683	3,683	-
Sundry expenditure	182	182	-
Governance costs	36,959	36,959	2,503
	<u>153,048</u>	<u>153,048</u>	<u>7,559</u>

3. Governance costs

	Collections and asset management	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	1,500	1,500	1,500
Legal and professional fees	29,437	29,437	-
Trustees' meeting expenses	5,285	5,285	1,003
Trustees' insurance	737	737	-
	<u>36,959</u>	<u>36,959</u>	<u>2,503</u>

4. Employee costs

There were no employees directly employed by the charity in the period.

During the year no Trustees received remuneration, and six Trustees were reimbursed for travel expenses totalling £3,759 (2023: Two Trustees £332).

**Notes to the financial statements
for the period ended 31 December 2024**

5. Heritage assets

	At cost £	Total £
Cost		
At 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024	600,000	600,000
	<u>600,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>
Net book values		
At 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024	600,000	600,000
	<u>600,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>

On 27th November 2017 a collection of artworks was purchased from Mr Michael Charles for £600,000, consisting mainly paintings of ships. The collection consists of approximately 1300 artworks but at this stage there is no complete list. Further work is required to ensure the Trust has a complete inventory of the collection.

The collection has been included within heritage asset additions at the purchase price of £600,000.

Five-year summary	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Additions</u>					
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Disposals</u>	-	-	-	-	-

6. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	421,645	535,917
	<u>421,645</u>	<u>535,917</u>

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	38,776	-
	<u>38,776</u>	<u>-</u>

**Notes to the financial statements
for the period ended 31 December 2024**

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	2024 Total
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	600,000	382,869	982,869
	<u>600,000</u>	<u>382,869</u>	<u>982,869</u>
	<u><u>600,000</u></u>	<u><u>382,869</u></u>	<u><u>982,869</u></u>
	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	2023 Total
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	600,000	535,917	1,135,917
	<u>600,000</u>	<u>535,917</u>	<u>1,135,917</u>
	<u><u>600,000</u></u>	<u><u>535,917</u></u>	<u><u>1,135,917</u></u>

9. Related party transactions

The charity was a related party of the National Museum of the Royal Navy (the National Museum) during the year due to the presence of the National Museum's Director General on the Board of Trustees. The charity received income of £Nil (2023: £Nil) from, and paid expenses of £114,272 (2023: £9,329) to, the National Museum. At the end of the period an amount of £421,645 (2023: £535,917) was held on trust on behalf of the charity by the National Museum. In addition, £38,776 was owing to the National Museum at the end of the period for costs incurred under the Service Level Agreement dated 5th December 2024.