

Ottery St Mary Heritage Society (CIO: 1179598)

Trustees' Annual Report – July 2025

Introduction

These past twelve months continue to be busy and somewhat evolutionary with changes to our Board of Trustees, developments in the museum and importantly an increase in our membership. I report here on many of the developments achieved and opportunities presenting themselves to the Board of Trustees since the last AGM.

Financial

The finances for the Society remain sound and through the continued astute management of our Treasurer and careful expenditure management, the Society remains in tight control. Clever investment allows us to fund some of the developments in the museum.

Membership and Meetings

Pleasingly, our membership numbers have risen again this year. I am delighted to report that we have seen higher turnouts this year to our members' meetings, both members and non-members. This is not only down to us publicising these events better but also to the quality of the speakers. Our new Trustee Alayne Pullman has already engaged some strong speakers for next year, continuing this trend.

The Journal

Lynda Murlewski has again produced this year's journals to great acclaim and I thank her here. They continue to be supported by knowledgeable and erudite contributors whom we thank sincerely. The journal demonstrates the integrity and academic standing of our Heritage Society. It is always such a good read.

Main Museum developments

Jo Smith, another new trustee, together with Denise Melhuish, worked hard during the winter break with Nigel Sadler, our curator, to produce a new display for the museum about how WW2 affected Ottery St Mary in recognition of the 80th anniversary of VE day. It is proving a popular addition to the appeal of the museum which is attracting more visitors this year.

David Venner has worked so hard to update the museum's software systems. We now have a more secure and accessible system, particularly our archiving database. This facility is crucial to logging our historical documents and artefacts but more especially in our work to achieve formal Museum Accreditation. A team led by Richard Wakeman, is embarking on this demanding accreditation process. Once achieved, it will enable the Society to apply for grants to make major improvements to the museum and help to attract even more visitors. It will put the museum on the national map attracting more visitors to the town.

The Board continues to work towards the possible purchase of the freehold of the Old Town Hall and I will keep the membership advised of important developments in our discussions with the Town Council, our landlords.

continued

King's School collaboration

The King's School has invited the Heritage Society to collaborate with them on the curation of the school archives. This will involve cataloguing and conserving the school's collection of artefacts, photographs and documents and will involve some of their alumni and Society volunteers as well as using the museum's archiving software mentioned above.

Trustees

The Trustees continue to work hard for the Society this year and we are again seeking new Trustees as two of our number have decided to retire after years of terrific contributions. June Harvey and Anne Edwards - Thank you so much both.

Finally, I would like to particularly thank the Trustees for their extraordinary effort again this year and their support in achieving so much. Likewise, the volunteers who help in stewarding the museum. Without them all, we could not run the Society or museum. Thank you.

Peter Shrubsall

Chair - Ottery St Mary Heritage Society

OTTERY ST MARY HERITAGE SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS for the year ending 30th April 2025

	2024-5	2023-4
1. Barclays General Purposes Account		
Income		
Subscriptions	£2202.00	£2074.00
Subscriptions cash	£211.00	
Sales	£146.10	£29.00
Visitors	£292.00	£101.00
Gift aid	£342.60	£293.06
Business loyalty	£3.62	£6.87
Misc	£229.49	£64.67
Donations	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£3426.81	£2568.60
Expenditure		
Stock +Adverts	£500.99	£0.00
Hall hire	£204.00	
Speakers	£605.00	£883.00
Journal printing	£396.00	£452.00
Admin	£590.72	£87.95
QNAP renewal	£1225.25	£0.00
Insurance	£297.49	£265.92
Other	£1356.53	£15.00
Transfer to museum acc	£0.00	£10.13
Bank Charges	£105.16	£140.70
Donations	£40.00	£60.00
Total	£5321.14	£1914.70
Net receipts	-£1894.33	£653.90
Opening balance	£4896.82	£4242.92
Closing balance	£3002.49	£4896.82

ACCOUNTS for the year ending 30th April 2025-1

2. Barclays Museum Account		
Income		
Water refund and Bank Rewards	£1.84	£9.67
Donations	£83.60	£2888.66
Cash Donations	£70.00	£1089.56
Misc Reimbursements	£274.87	£665.14
Receipts	£430.31	£4653.03
Expenditure		
Equip't displays	£500.99	£3009.31
Electricity	£1917.52	£1381.61
Water	£473.61	£544.22
Bank Charges	£105.16	£112.89
BT Internet	£337.09	£284.24
Barclaycard	£1.68	£35.96
Misc donatations/preservation/firecheck	£90.00	£5630.83
Total expenditure	£3426.05	£10999.06
Net receipts	-£2995.74	-£6346.03
Transfer to savings acc	£-10000.00	£0.00
Opening balance	£22451.97	£28798.00
Closing balance	<u>£9456.23</u>	<u>£22451.97</u>
3. Barclays Savings Account		
Income		
Transfer from Museum Acc	£10000.00	
Interest	£76.15	
Receipts	£10076.15	
Expenditure		
Reciepts	£0.00	
Opening Balance	£0.00	
Closing Balance	<u>£10076.15</u>	

OTHER ASSETS (Value at cost)**ACCOUNTS for the year ending 30th April 2025-2**

4. Flagstone Investment Management		
Investments		
35-day notice Acc	£85166.08	£89000.00
95-day notice Acc 1	£92324.68	£80000.00
95 day notice Acc 2	£92472.50	£85000.00
Balance available to invest	£1335.83	£2358.88
New Acc	£10034.88	
<u>Portfolio total</u>	<u>£281333.97</u>	<u>£256358.88</u>
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of 30th April 2025		
Barclays General Purpose Acc	£3002.49	£4649.70
Barclays Museum Acc	£9456.23	£22451.97
Barclays Savings Acc	£10076.15	
Flagstone Inv	£281333.97	£256358.88
Cash	£805.00	£375.14
<u>Total Monetary Assets</u>	<u>£304673.84</u>	<u>£283835.69</u>

Notes: Flagstone Investment Management (Bequests and Grants for Museum) Interest and dividends are paid at three monthly intervals. They are not synchronised. Some are tracking investments and therefore fluctuate in returns. Due to the extensive refurbishment of the Museum many extra items have been purchased.

Books: The Collected Letters of Coleridge £395 (Nov 2001)
Coleridge's Father £840

LIABILITIES - There are no known liabilities.

5. NOTES TO ACCOUNTS 2025

5.1. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

At the 2006 Annual General Meeting, it was agreed that we should set up a Heritage Centre Fund into which people and organizations could donate monies for the express purpose of financing a permanent Heritage Centre/Museum for Ottery St Mary. These funds are now held by Flagstone Investment Management. The present fund continues to be invested, and the current figures are set out in section 3. The Barclays Museum Account was opened to manage the day-to-day income and expenditure.

Many of the donations were received from members. Our sincerest thanks to all those who have given so generously.

Mr C Roy Clark
Hon Treasurer

C. Roy Clark

Date

18th November 2025

Independent Examiner
Mr D Kohler

D Kohler

Date

18th November 2025