

DARWEN HERITAGE CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1183239

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-05-02

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

Contact

Address Holker House
Railway Road
Darwen
BB3 2RG

Phone 01254433140

Email darwenheritagecentre@hotmail.com

Website <http://darwenheritagecentre.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF DARWEN AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS AND THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS BY THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF AN EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE. NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH [SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005] AND [SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008]

Activities: Darwen Heritage Centre seeks to help the public understand the Heritage of the town through exhibitions, talks and displays. Disabled access is available for all of our exhibition space. Schools and Community Groups are invited to make use of our facilities and can visit the Centre at pre-arranged times.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** DARWEN AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS
- Blackburn With Darwen
- Lancashire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£31,733	£30,220	-	-
2024-03-31	£40,273	£56,548	-	-
2023-03-31	£31,584	£22,689	-	-
2022-03-31	£32,195	£24,047	-	-
2021-03-31	£41,711	£22,865	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
GEORGE ANTHONY FOSTER BA MA	Chair	2018-07-19
ALAN SOUTHWORTH		2022-10-27
ANNE HOLDEN		2022-10-27
ANNE MCNALLY		2023-09-28
Albert Gavagan		2018-07-19
David John Marsden		2018-07-19
GEORGE SWANTON		2021-01-26
GORDON SMITH		2021-01-26
JOAN LESLEY LEAH		2021-01-26
Joyce Hudson		2018-07-19
PATRICIA ANN SMITH		2021-11-25
SUSAN DAPHNE GAVAGAN		2021-01-26

DARWEN HERITAGE CENTRE

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Accounts

2024/2025 Trustee's Report to Members

The year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 was as busy for volunteers at the Darwen Heritage Centre as any that have gone before. The only item on the Business Plan was to make progress towards attaining Independent Museum Accreditation and many volunteers were involved in the creation of Policy and Process documentation required. If not involved in the creation of the documentation all volunteers were instrumental in the application of the processes to make the running of the Heritage Centre a success. This year, in order to be able to continue with our application for Museum Accreditation we had to make a minor alteration to the wording of point 29.2.a and this was carried out with the approval of the Charities Commission.

Having previously hosted a visit to the Centre by the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn with Darwen we were pleased to be able to start the year by being chosen by the Mayor to bring the Mayors of the County on a visit to Holker House. The event was to support the Mayor who had to entertain his visitors for the day by choosing interesting venues within the Borough for his guests to see. This is an endorsement of the success we have attained so far in providing a high quality experience for visitors who wish to find out more about the history and heritage of Darwen.

In May we supported the Darwen Live event by opening on both Saturday and Sunday. As support for the event organisers we brought out the substantial history of Darwen music exhibition created by Ian Gillibrand for the occasion.

On the day in May when we were closed due to the German WW2 Detonator being brought into the Centre (all publicity is good publicity), we also received evidence of our reach beyond the County when the Darwen & District Agricultural Show Trophy for 'Best Pig in Show' was returned to us and placed on display in our Museum quality display case.

Also in May we continued to provide support for local students by allowing Sian Garth to hold her end of year Degree Course photographic exhibition at the Centre free of charge.

In June the Centre put on a display to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day with examples of how Darwen had been instrumental in this momentous occasion. This also supported the continuing commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the loss of Darwen service people during WW2 through our Facebook Page which was done month by month over the duration of the war.

Having completed the year of displaying the paintings of James Hargreaves Morton we were pleased to follow that with another major art exhibition this time by Walpamur artist Reg Ball. To complement this exhibition we put our growing collection of paintings by Albert Hurst on display in the main room from July onwards.

Also in July Ruby, one of our young student volunteers, was responsible for creating her first display by arranging the medals cabinet and this display continues to be the basis for how the medals are shown today. Giving our younger volunteers the opportunity to create effective displays is one way in which we can help them to develop transferrable skills for their future.

In August we received further evidence of the reach of the Heritage Centre through its on-line presence when we were contacted by the son of Herbert Briggs who donated the Trophy awarded to Bill Hunt by E. Forbes for a feat of immense strength.

This was followed by a further loan agreement, this time with the Ribchester Roman Museum who allowed us to display the stone head which used to stand at Old Lyons Farm on the moors. This is initially with us for a loan period of two years but will, no doubt, be extended at the end of the period of the loan.

In September we took part in the Heritage Open Days Week again and as part of the experience provided guided walks around the town centre of Darwen which were well received. Blackburn with Darwen Council showed their support for us once more and the Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen paid us a visit during the week.

The Autumn talks series commenced with the long awaited talk by Brian Hilton on Sough Station and this brought in much appreciated revenue with a large attendance of paying guests. This was followed up with another well supported talk in October, this time by Tony Foster entitled 'Was Your Ancestor a Registrar'.

November commenced with a display of artwork for sale by Hubert Bentley. These are always popular and Hubert has been generous every time with donations to the Centre of 20% of all takings.

Another source of revenue, the sale of Christmas Cards and Calendars, also commenced in November. Next year it has been decided to start these sales in October in order to boost sales and income. The Christmas cards proved very popular and we are grateful to Hubert Bentley for allowing us to use images of his paintings as the pictures on the cards.

November saw the return of the Remembrance display in the Heritage Centre covering both WW1 and WW2. This display is growing as more and more people come into the Centre, see what we are doing and then contribute their own photos and stories of ancestors to the display. This display was once again supported by a visit from the Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen. The talk for November continued the theme with 'Darwen's D-Day' by Albert Gavagan.

In December around 30 people enjoyed the Christmas meal at the Darwen Cricket Club showing once again the depth of support for the Heritage Centre. This was followed by a team quiz with Gordon Smith as the quiz master.

The New Year began with a display of the talent on offer in Darwen through the artwork of various Darwen artists in an exhibition of their work in the main room. Also in January there was the long awaited exhibition of the Coal Mining in Darwen display. This was a well received display which provided many surprises for visitors, many of whom looked through the maps to see if their own house was near a mine. A number of items had been either loaned or donated to the Centre for this display and we are grateful for their involvement in assisting the Centre to put on interesting and varied displays.

In March we collaborated with the Darwen Transport Group who brought the Darwen bus back to Darwen and ran trips throughout the day. These trips proved very popular and the organisers were grateful for our support in providing warmth and refreshment to see them through the day.

We received additional funding from the Nisa Local Community Support and this helped us to fund storage and display equipment to enhance the visitor experience at the Centre. The Darwen Heritage Centre is grateful for the support shown by Nisa.

March also saw the first talk given by one of our young volunteers. A new experience for Katie in public speaking, her talk entitled 'Leading Ladies' proved very popular and the room was full to bursting.

Other noteworthy items from the year include the renewal of the loan agreement with Blackburn Council for the retention of the Mace, Casket and Band Trophy for two more years.

The support for schools in enhancing their curriculum with visits from four separate schools: St Barnabas, Sudell Road twice, Avondale and Crosshills.

The continued activities of the maintenance crew who look after both the external and internal appearance of the building and provide the services necessary to make the Centre perform safely and securely.

With the help of all our volunteers we can look forward to another successful year in the next twelve months. The three year period of working towards Independent Museum Status comes to an end next year when we will be hoping for a positive outcome.

Receipts and Payments for the Year to 31 March 2025

31 March 2024 bank Balance	£	50,341.51
31 March 2024 cash Balance	£	38.31
	£	50,379.82

Income

Rent	£	7,819.62	
Room Hire	£	4,643.00	
Donations	£	8,754.00	
Talks/Events	£	1,040.00	
Sales	£	2,457.44	
Membership	£	795.00	
Grants	£	3,450.00	
100 Club	£	1,614.00	
Interest from Savings Account	£	389.28	
Rebate	£	771.02	£ 31,733.36
Total	£	31,733.36	£ 82,113.18

Expenditure

Rates	£	-	
Electric	£	3,181.46	
Gas	£	5,506.83	
Water	£	681.22	
Phone/Broadband	£	714.49	
Insurance	£	3,629.86	
TV & Music Licence	£	160.75	
Website	£	1,102.83	
Security	£	2,181.00	
Capital Purchases	£	8,170.30	
Building	£	1,048.22	
Storage	£	495.03	
Purchases for resale	£	1,458.90	
Admin	£	1,069.95	
100 Club	£	663.00	
Subscriptions	£	71.00	
Petty Cash	£	85.28	
Total	£	30,220.12	£ 30,220.12
			£ 51,893.06

Balance per Bank Statement	31/03/2025	£	51,890.03
Petty Cash Balance	31/03/2025	£	3.03
		£	51,893.06

I have examined the books & records for the above year & found everything to be correct & in order.

Diane Walsh 3/6/25

DARWEN HERITAGE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1183239

Accounts



Darwen Heritage Centre, Railway Road, Darwen, Lancs, BB3 2RG. Tel: 01254 433140
Email – darwenheritagecentre@hotmail.com Website: www.darwenheritagecentre.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT of the Trustees for the year ending 31st March 2024

Darwen Heritage Centre is a CIO Association, Registered No. 1183239, established on the 2nd May 2019.

Our aim is to provide a service to the people with an interest in the town and its Heritage which will satisfy the Objects of the Charity.

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF DARWEN AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS AND THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS BY THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF AN EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE. NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH [SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005] AND [SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008]

In all of the activities arranged throughout the year the Trustees have had the Charity Commission's Guidance on Public Benefit in mind.

The charity continues to invest a lot of time in gathering, archiving and storing items which demonstrate the town's heritage.

GOVERNANCE

The CIO is governed by its Constitution which allows for a Committee of Trustees (No less than 3 and no more than 12) elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting to carry out the day to day running and decision making during the year. All Members have the same voting rights. If there are no new applications for

the position of Trustee then the Constitution allows for the re-instatement of the retiring Trustees with the acceptance of the Membership. Currently the CIO has the maximum 12 Trustees on the Committee.

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE OBJECTS

The Charity continues to make progress towards attaining Independent Museum Status and there has been no change to the Business Plan for this year. Thanks go to the many Trustees who have worked on the creation of the Policy Documents and are now preparing the Process Documents. These have improved the way in which the Charity operates and make the internal organisation more professional and easier to administer whilst maintaining a working standard throughout.

Much of the work over the last year has gone into assessing our needs as a growing institution with a focus on new cabinets for both the front and back rooms. Each room provided different challenges with storage and ease of changing displays the main features of the back room, whilst security and environmental control was the aim for the front. A Darwen company, Blue Insignia was chosen for the back room after obtaining three quotes from different local companies with John Marsden completing the negotiations. Preparations for the installation of the new cabinets took place over three months and the maintenance crew worked diligently to make the room ready. It was not until November that the cabinets were ready for installation and this has made a big difference to both the visitor experience and the ease of use for the volunteers. The amount of storage space has been increased, and the archive items have now been placed in storage by catalogue categories which rationalises the way items are stored and makes it easier to locate relevant items. This work is now ongoing under the guidance of Anne McNally who is responsible for the catalogue ensuring that all items are properly recorded and locations noted on the catalogue.

The cabinet for the front room is a museum quality cabinet, custom built by Display Projects, after following the same process of acquiring three separate quotes. This was specifically required to house the items returned to Darwen on loan from the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, together with the items which have intrinsic value within our own collection. We have the Lloyd Trust to thank for providing a grant of £10,000 towards the overall cost of almost £19,000 for this cabinet and Darwen Heritage Centre is proud to say that in collaboration with the Borough Council we have been able to bring these important items into Darwen for display to the general public.

April saw the first major loan exhibition at the Darwen Heritage Centre. Hans Lowe approached the Centre with the offer of loaning 23 Morton paintings for exhibition on a 12 month basis. These were accepted and the Centre provided insurance cover for the 12 months, re-organising how visitors could access the room to ensure the safety of the paintings. The exhibition proved very popular and many people came to the Centre over the year especially to view the Morton exhibition.

During the year we provided space for art exhibitions by local artists Lynn Wilson and Hubert Bentley, both of whom made donations to the Centre. The Heritage Art Group who meet at the Centre every Friday between 10am and 1pm also exhibited their work. Another new exhibitor at the Centre was the Darwen Writer's Group who meet at the Centre twice a month.

Two more book launch events were held at the Centre, the first during October was Harold Heys' book on Darwen Tower which proved very popular. The second took place in January - Roy Parker's book on the two chapels at Pickup Bank.

Tony Foster arranged another successful series of talks for the spring and autumn sessions. These included topics on Garden Villages, Darwen Tower, Walk Around Darwen with Darwen FC, the Life of J H Morton and the Lloyd Trust.

Temporary displays created by the volunteers at the Centre included St John's Church and the Reverend Philip Graham by Pat Smith, Darwen Amateur Football by Mick Kelly, The Railway on the Moors by Michael Bauer, The Lloyd Trust by Joyce Hudson, Three Darwen Men who Played for Arsenal FC by Albert Gavagan and Homes of the Gentry by Joyce Hudson. This helps to draw back visitors for repeat visits as the displays are changing on a regular basis. This also gives volunteers the opportunity to develop their skills in research, planning and display.

Another successful Calendar was developed for 2024 by Lesley Leah and Joyce Hudson bringing in much appreciated funds. Having made a profit from the sales any remaining copies after the New Year were distributed free of charge to local rest homes

In December we had the annual get together at the Whitehall Country Club where around 25 volunteers came together for a celebration Christmas meal.

The maintenance crew had been very busy over the year and some major projects required the help of local businesses including the relaying of the tiling in the hallway – something which is appreciated by many of the visitors to the Centre. The gutters and downpipes have been painted, the front top window has been sealed and other essential works have been completed to keep the building in good repair and also to enhance the external appearance of the Centre which is in a Conservation Area. The gardens have been maintained by the volunteers including Anne Holden, Pat Smith and Gordon Smith and many of the rooms have been repaired and repainted internally by Steve Hargreaves. Alan Ratcliffe and George Swanton have been kept busy by the electricians in the building and Alan has completed the PAT testing of electrical equipment which has saved a considerable cost.

Alan Southworth has been very busy using his craft skills to keep the fabric of the Centre in good order, plus covering the opening of the Centre for groups outside the normal opening hours. Les Calvey has also been providing much needed cover for opening the Centre for groups who have booked rooms, creating income for the Charity.

The Centre has welcomed over 3,000 visitors again and the visitor book indicates that many of these have been from outside the Borough Boundary which shows that we are contributing to the economic benefit of the town.

FINANCE

The Treasurer has increased the amount in the savings account to £25,000 to provide a contingency fund which would tide us over for at least two years if the income from the sub-letting of the upper floor should cease.

The increased costs required for the upgrade on security in order to protect the items on loan amounts to over £2,350 per annum with the insurance cover included.

The bank balance at the start of the year was £66,654.66 which gave us the opportunity to purchase some capital items in the form of display cabinets. With the

loan items arriving from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council we required a museum quality cabinet to provide both security and environmental control and sought assistance in the purchase from the Lloyd Trust who provided a grant of £10,000. The Centre invested a further £16,000 which meant that the balance at the end of the year had reduced to £50,379.82. The total income for the year amounted to £40,273.44 and the expenditure was £56,548.28 which means that overall the Centre was able to cover the running costs for the year from its income.

We have to thank Sue Gavagan for handling the Treasurer's role and producing accurate records which have once again been verified for this year.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & SUPPORT

The Centre continues to support local schools with their coverage of the National Curriculum and Ann Holden has provided support in this respect throughout the year. Schools can access this service without charge and this year we have catered for the following schools:

May – 31 pupils and staff from Ashleigh

June – 30 pupils and staff from St Barnabas

October – 30 pupils and staff from St Joseph's

October – 60 pupils and staff from Avondale

December – 180 pupils and staff from DACA

Other groups who have accessed the facilities outside our opening hours include the Beavers and Brownies from two separate groups, the Belthorn History Group and the South Pennines Park with a party of Ukraine visitors.

All of this activity helps to meet our Object of educating the local people about the Heritage and History of Darwen.

THE WAY FORWARD

The new cabinets have made a big difference to the way that the artefacts can be displayed and stored when not on display. The intention now is to complete the purchase of three more identical display cabinets from Blue Insignia and then assess how to best display the other artefacts including the various large models to good effect. We are continuing to move forward towards

Independent Museum Status and this involves the re-organising of our collection to best effect. Many of the volunteers are involved in this process alongside their normal duties. The process documents need to be in place before the end of the year and these need to be tested and appraised.

Several attempts have been made to engage with ethnic minority groups this year but so far no progress has been made. This still remains one of our priority aims so that the Heritage Centre can be seen by all sections of the community to be inclusive.

With an ageing group of both volunteers and Trustees we need to attract a younger group of volunteers to help with the running of the Centre to ensure continuity in the future.

Reciepts and Payments for the Year to 31 March 2024

31 March 2023 bank Balance	£	66,643.02
31 March 2023 cash Balance	£	11.64
	£	<u>66,654.66</u>

Income

Rent	£	7,447.20	
Room Hire	£	3,954.50	
Donations	£	8,933.50	
Talks/Events	£	692.50	
Sales	£	2,552.89	
Membership	£	1,121.00	
Grants	£	13,000.00	
100 Club	£	1,681.00	
Interest from Savings Account	£	204.11	
Rebate	£	686.74	£ 40,273.44
Total	£	<u>40,273.44</u>	<u>£ 106,928.10</u>

Expenditure

Rates	£	-	
Electric	£	4,536.99	
Gas	£	9,091.69	
Water	£	494.07	
Phone/Broadband	£	631.59	
Insurance	£	4,072.78	
TV & Music Licence	£	159.00	
Website	£	108.86	
Security	£	2,168.18	
Exhibitions	£	30.55	
Building	£	1,515.82	
Storage	£	257.40	
Purchases	£	32,013.41	
Admin	£	713.61	
100 Club	£	660.00	
Subscriptions	£	71.00	
Petty Cash	£	23.33	
Total	£	<u>56,548.28</u>	<u>£ 56,548.28</u>
			<u>£ 50,379.82</u>

Balance per Bank Statement	31/03/2024	£	50,341.51
Petty Cash Balance	31/03/2024	£	38.31
		£	<u>50,379.82</u>

I have examined the books & records for the above year & found everything to be correct & in order
D Walsh 5/6/24



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Darwen Heritage Centre

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2024

Charity no (if any)

1183239

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

D Walsh

Date:

5/6/24

Name:

DIANE WALSH

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

/

Address:

10 BOSKEY CLOSE
DARWEN
LANCS BB3 3LF

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England & Wales - Charity number 1183239

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Darwen Heritage Centre, Railway Road, Darwen, Lancs, BB3 2RG. Tel: 01254 433140
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In all of the activities arranged throughout the year the Trustees have had the Charity Commission's Guidance on Public Benefit in mind.

The charity continues to invest a lot of time in gathering, archiving and storing items which demonstrate the town's heritage.

GOVERNANCE

The CIO is governed by its Constitution which allows for a Committee of Trustees (No less than 3 and no more than 12) elected by the Membership

at the Annual General Meeting to carry out the day to day running and decision making during the year. In accordance with that Constitution at the last AGM Pat Smith became the latest Trustee, taking the place of Lisa Edge who moved down to a non-Executive post. All Members have the same voting rights. If there are no new applications for the position of Trustee then the Constitution allows for the re-instatement of the retiring Trustees with the acceptance of the Membership. Currently the CIO has the maximum 12 Trustees on the Committee.

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE OBJECTS

The Business Plan was updated in August 2022 with one main Objective – to work towards attaining Independent Museum Status. To this end a revision to the powers of the Charity was agreed at an Extraordinary Meeting in May 2022 and this had been accepted by the Charities Commission in July 2022, namely to:

operate a museum and hold a collection for the public benefit;

acquire artefacts to expand and improve the collection;

Since the adoption of the latest Business Plan much work has been completed in fulfilling our requirement to produce and operate within policy documents and this work is ongoing.

The cataloguing of items and donations which we receive has now been revised to reflect the museum standard categories and our thanks go to those volunteers who have had an impact on this, in particular Ann McNally. There is still much work to be done in this area including the organisation of the storage and retrieval of items we hold.

The Heritage Centre has received funding from the Covid Recovery Fund and the National Lottery to provide a range of IT equipment to be used in fulfilling our Objectives. In April 2022 two Family History Courses were run at the Centre which attracted interest from the public and this was repeated in February 2023. The latest development is the arrival of the Touchscreen which is proving very useful in allowing visitors to reminisce whilst scrolling through the images we have uploaded. Thanks for this go to Sue Gavagan and Lesley Leah for making the bid in the first place and then uploading the galleries of images and liaising with the manufacturers.

The Centre's 5th Birthday Celebrations took place in September 2022 and a very successful party was held at the Centre to which we were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen. Also in September the

opening times of the Centre were rationalised to avoid confusion amongst the public and since then we have been open from 10am to 3pm each day of opening.

Thanks go to Matt Donnelly who created the 2023 Calendar for the Heritage Centre after obtaining a £300 sponsorship from Gibsons of Darwen. The Calendar proved very popular and raised welcome funds for the Centre as all copies were sold.

The Major Exhibition for 2022 was the Music Exhibition organised and produced by Ian Gillibrand. This proved very successful in bringing many new visitors to the Centre and the digital files are available for uploading on the touchscreen. With assistance from Terry Walsh the music archive is now held at the Darwen Heritage Centre.

A number of volunteers have used the blue display boards to create their own displays throughout the year and these can be seen around the Centre. Thanks for these go to Joyce Hudson, Pat Smith, Anne Holden, Michel Bauer and Mick Kelly.

The Heritage Centre has been publicised on both Radio and Television during the year. Tony Foster and Pat Smith were interviewed at the Centre by Radio Lancashire whilst Albert Gavagan and Anne Holden went to the Tower with Owain Wyn Evans.

With all of the developments and the hard work of the Trustees and volunteers in promoting the Centre we grew our visitor attendance for the year to over 3,000, an increase of more than 600 on the previous year. Once again the visitor book reveals that many of our visitors are coming from the length and breadth of the UK plus a significant number of visitors from across the world.

The maintenance crew have been very busy throughout the year making sure that the building remains in a good state of repair and bringing their particular skills to the fore. They have also used their contacts to bring in outside companies when required. Projects include replacing the toilets upstairs, completing roof repairs and the painting of down pipes, fitting a new back door all in August 2022. Fitting roof insulation in the whole of the back room and the kitchen area in September. In February 2023 one of the upstairs windows required urgent repairs and in March a new door lock was fitted to the front room North. The projector was fitted to the ceiling to make it easier for using with the talks plus many other painting and electrical works which allow for an enhanced visitor experience. Thanks for

these go to John Marsden, George Swanton, Gordon Smith, Alan Southworth and Steve Hargreaves.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & SUPPORT

Darwen Heritage Centre was registered as a warm space where people of Darwen could come along to get a warm drink for free and spend time in warm surroundings to help those who may be finding it difficult to cope with the increasing energy costs.

A number of Darwen Schools have accessed the resources at the Darwen Heritage Centre this year including:

- St Barnabas April 2022 1 class
- Sudell Road June 2022 3 classes
- Ashleigh July 2022 1 class
- DACA October 2022 the whole of year 7
- Sudell Road November 2022 1 class on history walk
- St James January 2023 1 class
- St Barnabas March 2023 1 class
- Longshaw Infants talk to whole assembly

The Central URC Fellowship came to the Centre in March 2023 for a talk on Darwen Tower.

The Centre hosted the Blackburn Library Community History Volunteers in July 2022.

In September 2022 the Centre provided a stall at the Rotary Fun day in the Market Square. This gave the volunteers the opportunity to hand out leaflets, Membership Forms and the like to the Fun Day visitors.

In the Best of Blackburn Most Loved Charity we received a nomination from Lisa Edge and our supporters voted us the Best. Thanks to all our supporters for visiting the Centre, making donations, becoming Members, joining the 100 Club, writing positive comments in the visitor book and making many donations of artefacts over the year.

Tony Foster arranged the series of Autumn and Spring talks which are open to the public. These were well attended and provided an enjoyable evening's entertainment for all.

Our online presence has been growing with Lesley Leah looking after the Heritage Centre website and Facebook being maintained by Albert Gavagan. This has proved useful in reaching our supporters and keeping them informed on developments right across the world. We have also been receiving positive mentions on the Facebook pages of other organisations based in Darwen.

THE WAY AHEAD

In January 2023 Phil Riley, leader of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council visited the Centre along with Andrea Sturgess and David Livesey. At that time Phil Riley's attention was drawn to the fact that there are a number of items which were removed from Darwen to Blackburn in 1974 and they are not available for viewing on an open basis for the people of Darwen. There is a degree of animosity in some circles in Darwen as a result of the loss of the Borough in 1974 and these items only provide fuel to keep that animosity going. It was suggested that a spirit of co-operation demonstrated by the return of those items for display at the Heritage centre may go a long way to dampen the flames.

Since then we have been in discussion with Phil and Andrea with a view to bringing the first three identified items back to the Heritage Centre to be put on display for local people to view.

In order to proceed with this project it has been necessary to increase the security of the building and provide a lockable museum quality display case for the project. With the help of a £10,000 grant from the Lloyd Trust this has now been ordered and we hope to move towards bringing the first three items back during this financial year. The three identified items include the Darwen Mace, Timothy Lightbown's Silver Gilt Casket and Scroll and a silver challenge cup provided by S J Fish.

This will go a long way in helping the Centre to achieve its main objective for the future which is to gain Independent Museum Status and increase its credibility as a Museum capable of engaging with Blackburn Museum for the return of Darwen items held under their roof.

Receipts and Payments for the Year to 31 March 2023

31 March 2022 bank Balance	£	57,746.67
31 March 2022 cash Balance	£	13.02
	£	<u>57,759.69</u>

Income

Rent	£	6,590.52	
Room Hire	£	3,641.00	
Donations	£	3,211.00	
Talks/Events	£	372.00	
Sales	£	3,097.55	
Membership	£	755.00	
Grants	£	10,575.00	
100 Club	£	1,817.00	
Rebate- HMRC Gift Aid	£	1,524.94	
Total	£	<u>31,584.01</u>	£ 31,584.01
			<u>£ 89,343.70</u>

Expenditure

Rates	£	-	
Electric	£	1,971.18	
Gas	£	4,462.90	
Water	£	591.93	
Phone/Broadband	£	582.86	
Insurance	£	2,306.12	
TV & Music Licence	£	159.60	
Website	£	155.79	
Security	£	-	
Exhibitions	£	1,102.37	
Building	£	4,248.49	
Storage	£	307.28	
Purchases	£	5,269.14	
Admin	£	627.02	
100 Club	£	660.00	
Subscriptions	£	192.98	
Petty Cash	£	£51.38	
Total	£	<u>22,689.04</u>	£ 22,689.04
			<u>£ 66,654.66</u>

Balance per Bank Statement	31/03/2023	£	66,643.02
Petty Cash Balance	31/03/2023	£	11.64
		£	<u>66,654.66</u>

I have examined the books & records & found everything to be correct & in order.
D Walsh 1/6/23



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Darwen Heritage Centre

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2023

Charity no (if any)

1183239

Set out on pages

to include the page number of any final pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Diane Walsh

Date:

1/6/23

Name:

DIANE WALSH

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

-

Address:

10 Bosley Close, Darwen

DARWEN HERITAGE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1183239

Accounts



Darwen Heritage Centre, Railway Road, Darwen, Lancs, BB3 2RG. Tel: 01254 433140
Email – darwenheritagecentre@hotmail.com Website: www.darwenheritagecentre.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT of the Trustees for the year ending 31st March 2022

Darwen Heritage Centre is a CIO Association, Registered No. 1183239, established on the 2nd May 2019.

Our aim is to provide a service to the people with an interest in the town and its Heritage which will satisfy the Objects of the Charity.

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF DARWEN AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS AND THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS BY THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF AN EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE. NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH [SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005] AND [SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008]

In all of the activities arranged throughout the year the Trustees have had the Charity Commission's Guidance on Public Benefit in mind.

The charity continues to invest a lot of time in gathering, archiving and storing items which demonstrate the town's heritage.

GOVERNANCE

The CIO is governed by its Constitution which allows for a Committee of Trustees (No less than 3 and no more than 12) elected by the Membership

at the Annual General Meeting to carry out the day to day running and decision making during the year. In accordance with that Constitution at the last AGM Pat Smith became the latest Trustee, taking the place of Lisa Edge who moved down to a non-Executive post. All Members have the same voting rights. If there are no new applications for the position of Trustee then the Constitution allows for the re-instatement of the retiring Trustees with the acceptance of the Membership. Currently the CIO has the maximum 12 Trustees on the Committee.

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE OBJECTS

Covid restrictions had an impact on the opening of the Heritage Centre for the second year running. After initially opening on the 19th May this was cut short and deferred until the 4th August. As a result the room bookings were affected and the season of talks suspended. School visits were curtailed to protect the volunteers and new ways of keeping links open had to be explored.

In April with funding from both the Lloyd Trust and Darwen Town Council a photographic copy on board of the Hollins Grove War Memorial mosaic was delivered to the Centre. This has been admired by many visitors to the Centre.

Also in April, the Lease for Holker House was finalised with the Livesey Foundation and the Heritage Centre agreed to take on the cost of insuring the buildings and contents from the next renewal date in March 2022.

The Peel Mill War Memorial was brought to the Centre in May for a long term loan by Kath Cooney; this has since been purchased for the Centre.

In June we further developed our online presence with the development of a dedicated Darwen Heritage Centre Youtube Channel.

August 2021 brought a phone call from Lytham offering a painting of Alderman Bury as a donation. This turned out to be Moses Duxbury and the painting was established as an enlargement of a photo by Timperley, (Postmaster for Darwen and Photographer) then finished by a professional artist. This now hangs in the front room.

In September we received a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn with Darwen and they spent time at the Centre being shown around by the volunteers. Our credibility as an institution worthy of attracting visitors is growing and it is nice to know that Blackburn can acknowledge this fact.

September 2021 also brought a strange offer from Paul Whitehead. 3 Model Boats in need of some renovation. This ended with the donation of

many items relating to the Chadwick family for which we are most grateful. Paul had in fact repaired the Lions on the War Memorial which his Great Grandmother had unveiled 100 years before.

The long awaited audit report from the Lancashire County Council Museum Services – Conservatory Studios was received and with their assistance we have successfully applied to be recognised by the Arts Council to be working towards Independent Museum Status.

September was a very busy month for the Heritage Centre as the report from the Conservators on the Alexander Thomas Eccles painting was received. The Committee agreed to go with the middle figure for restoration and this has since been carried out and the painting hangs in the front room.

October saw the return to Darwen for the spade used by Alexander Carus in 1897 to dig the first sod for Darwen Tower. David Duckworth has donated this to the Centre. In the same month a popular exhibition was set up under the title of a Century of Remembrance to coincide with the Centenary of the opening of the Darwen War Memorial in Bold Venture Park. Material from both the WW1 Roll of Honour completed by our Chairman Tony Foster and the WW2 Roll of Honour completed by the Secretary of the Centre was used in the construction of this display.

At the AGM in October, Lisa Edge took the post of non-Executive Trustee to make way for Pat Smith to join the Committee as a new Trustee. Pat has worked tirelessly since to help fulfil the Objects of the Heritage Centre and is a valuable member of the team.

Hubert Bentley returned with another successful exhibition of his paintings in November and December, with almost all of his paintings being sold to visitors. Hubert made a generous donation of 20% of total sales to the Centre and a further 20% to Cancer Research.

Increasing the number of volunteers has been high on the Agenda for this year and we have been successful in enlisting a number of new volunteers including 3 Post Graduate Students who have made a positive contribution to the Centre and in return we have been able to add to their CV and provide character references. All volunteers were invited to a gathering for Christmas at the Centre on our final opening day and the costs had been kept as low as possible to make this a very inclusive event.

In January a second Exhibition by Adrian Turner supported by Harold Heys proved very popular. Again, the Heritage Centre is grateful to Adrian for the donation he made from the sales of his paintings. Continued

exhibitions by local artists are enjoyed by many of the visitors to the Centre and we hope to continue this type of exhibition in future.

An exhibition of the Darwen Girls Choir attracted the attention through our Facebook page of Betty Baron in March 2022. This prompted Betty to visit the Exhibition as her mother Gertrude Kay had been the choirmaster when they won the Trophies for Junior Choir at The Festival of Britain and also Eisteddfod in 1951. Betty has donated the Eisteddfod Trophy to the Centre. Mildred Riley has loaned the Festival of Britain Trophy.

Also in March, thanks to the Lloyd Trust again, the self-portrait by James Hargreaves Morton was donated to the Centre and will form the centre piece for a Morton Exhibition in collaboration with Hans Lowe of Cavalier Carpets.

Several Displays have been organised throughout the year to attract visitors to the Centre and these include: A Century of Weddings; Darwen Versus Arsenal, 1932; Holden Transport; Bill Hunt, Darwen's strongman; The Development of Green Street, 1929; Houghtons The Saddlers plus others. Further displays are planned to keep the Centre fresh to casual visitors.

The Maintenance Crew have also been very active throughout the year creating storage units for the many paintings which we hold, Organising new shelving in the cupboards, carrying out essential repairs to the building to make sure it remains an impressive part of the central Conservation Area and maintaining the external appearance of the building. The roof has been repaired which makes the building sound from the effects of the weather, and thanks go to all those volunteers who have been engaged in this area.

FINANCES

The main source of funds remains the sub-letting of the upper floor rooms which usually generates enough income to cover our annual fixed expenses.

A sum equal to half that rent has been raised by Room Hire charges for groups making use of the Centre. This is a crucial part of raising extra funds to cover the costs incurred with rising inflation and in particular energy bills. For this effort we have to thank all those key holders who are prepared to open the Centre at times when we are closed to the public, in particular Les Calvey.

At the end of the financial period of the return the Charity's finances remain in a reasonably healthy state and the next phase of our growth can be embarked upon with confidence. At the start of the financial year the

balance held was £49,611.75. The income for the year was £32,195.27 and our expenditure was £24,047.33 which has resulted in an increase of the balance held at the end of the year to £57,759.69. The increase in balance has been brought about by the successful Lottery Bids, Covid Recovery Grants and a donation of £2,500 by Terry Walsh in January 2022 to create the Music Archive for Darwen.

The Treasurer has set a budget plan for the Charity setting aside funds for Building Maintenance, Administration costs and Exhibitions. A reserve fund has also been set at £20,000.

At this moment in time there is no uncertainty about the future of the Heritage Centre. The principal risks come from the maintenance of the building and attracting sufficient volunteers to continue running the Centre. With a maintenance programme in hand under the guidance of one of our Trustees the risk of sudden expenditure requirement for repairs is minimalised. The enhanced presence on social media has been generating more interest in volunteering and as people realise the range of opportunities available this is increasing our support in this area.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & SUPPORT

In April 2021 Blackburn College came to us with a suggestion for a partnership to introduce Adult Learning classes back into Darwen. They were furnished with keys and had the Main Room booked for sessions. Only one full course ran as they found it difficult to enlist enough people to fill the courses.

Shortly after re-opening we were approached by several schools who wanted to either visit the Heritage Centre with students or for a member of the volunteer staff to go into school to talk with pupils. As Covid was still a problem at that time we directed two of the schools to our website where they could find all the information they required. For Sudell Primary and St Peter's Primary we provided a powerpoint with notes together with artefacts on loan.

In November three of our volunteers took part in a History Walk with students from Sudell Primary looking at the locations of the cotton and paper making mills along the River Darwen from Hardman Way to Cross Street. A second trip has been booked for this year.

January 2022 saw two book launches to raise money for charity held at the Centre. In total £11,600 was raised for the East Lancashire Hospice with the aid of the Lloyd Trust. The books by Harold Heys and Matt Donnelly were both sold out.

In February 2022 the much delayed Family History Courses took place and were well received. Further requests have been received to run the courses again.

February 2022 brought an event which was held at the Darwen Cemetery to mark the placing of CWGC headstones on the last resting places of two Darwen men who had finally received recognition after exhaustive research by volunteers at the Darwen Heritage Centre. Gordon Smith, one of our Trustees, attended in uniform to pipe the men home.

In March 2022 Blackburn Artists visited the Centre to use our artefacts and images as inspiration for their art work. A repeat booking has since been received.

Also in March 2022 the Centre hosted Great Harwood U3A and all the visitors appreciated the hard work done by the volunteers at the Centre in gathering the evidence of Darwen's past and creating informative and interesting displays.

THE WAY AHEAD

Following the audit report from the Lancashire Museum Service and the successful application for 'Working Towards Status' the next Business Plan has only one Objective – working towards Independent Museum Status within the next three years. This will involve a lot of hard work at the same time as we aim to maintain the current level of success with the Centre. Last year we had for the twelve months after re-opening 2,431 visitors to the Centre. The Centre is attracting visitors into the Centre of Darwen and this can only be good for the local economy. So far this year, for the same corresponding periods we have almost tripled the number of visitors to the Centre. The Visitors Book has been signed by so many people both from Darwen and out of town with comments full of praise for the experience they get when visiting the Centre. There is clear support for the continuation of the Darwen Heritage Centre and long may this last.

Receipts and Payments for the Year to 31 March 2022

31 March 2021 bank Balance	£ 49,593.21
31 March 2021 cash Balance	£ 18.54
	<hr/>
	£ 49,611.75

Income

Rent	£ 4,749.96	
Room Hire	£ 2,531.00	
Donations	£ 4,319.93	
Talks/Events	£ -	
Sales	£ 1,332.70	
Membership	£ 814.00	
Grants	£ 16,667.00	
100 Club	£ 1,531.00	
Rate Rebate	£ 22.16	
Rebate	£ 227.52	
	<hr/>	
Total	£ 32,195.27	£ 32,195.27
		<hr/>
		£ 81,807.02

Expenditure

Rates	£ 22.16	
Electric	£ 1,551.22	
Gas	£ 2,193.18	
Water	£ 658.48	
Phone/Broadband	£ 300.40	
Insurance	£ 2,037.50	
TV & Music Licence	£ 238.99	
Website	£ 159.34	
Security	£ 945.30	
Building	£ 1,316.63	
Purchases	£ 12,298.13	
Admin	£ 1,435.48	
100 Club	£ 770.00	
Subscriptions	£ 65.00	
Petty Cash	£ 55.52	
	<hr/>	
Total	£ 24,047.33	£ 24,047.33
		<hr/>
		£ 57,759.69

Balance per Bank Statement	31/03/2022	£ 57,746.67
Petty Cash Balance	31/03/2022	£ 13.02
		<hr/>
		£ 57,759.69

I have examined the records for the above year and found everything to be correct and in order
Diane Walsh 27/6/22



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Darwen Heritage Centre

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1183239

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

D Walsh

Date:

27/6/22

Name:

DIANE WALSH

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

10 BOSKEY CLOSE, DARWEN, LANCBS BB3 3LF

DARWEN HERITAGE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1183239

Accounts



Darwen Heritage Centre, Railway Road, Darwen, Lancs, BB3 2RG. Tel: 01254 443310
Email – darwenheritagecentre@hotmail.com Website: www.darwenheritagecentre.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT of the Trustees for the year ending 31st March 2021

Darwen Heritage Centre is a CIO Association, Registered No. 1183239, established on the 2nd May 2019.

Our aim is to provide a service to the people with an interest in the town and its Heritage which will satisfy the Objects of the Charity.

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF DARWEN AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS AND THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS BY THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF AN EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE. NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH [SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005] AND [SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008]

In all of the activities arranged throughout the year the Trustees have had the Charity Commission's Guidance on Public Benefit in mind.

The charity continues to invest a lot of time in gathering, archiving and storing items which demonstrate the town's heritage.

The items collected are then used to present exhibitions of the Town's Heritage in its many guises and this requires materials used specifically for public exhibition. We have free wifi access which is necessary for some of the illustrated talks on offer, and assists when visitors require access to research facilities on-line.

GOVERNANCE

The CIO is governed by its Constitution which allows for a Committee of Trustees (No less than 3 and no more than 12) elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting to carry out the day to day running and decision making during the year. In accordance with that Constitution one third of Trustees will stand down at the next AGM to allow for prospective new Trustees to apply for those positions. All Members have the same voting rights. If there are no new applications for the position of Trustee then the Constitution allows for the re-instatement of the retiring Trustees with the acceptance of the Membership.

Four of the Trustees hold specific responsibilities, those being Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Office Manager. All Trustees whether holding office or not have the same responsibility to work collaboratively towards the Objects of the CIO.

All of the Trustees and Members are volunteers and no-one can benefit financially from their association with the Charity. In running the Charity we have a number of volunteers who may not necessarily become Members, though they have the opportunity, who carry out a wide range of substantial activities to help in the smooth operation of the Darwen Heritage Centre. Where possible volunteers can make use of their skills and knowledge in carrying out their duties and volunteers have produced the Newsletter, Arranged displays, Greeted Visitors, Run the website, controlled the cataloguing of artefacts as well as assisting in the care and maintenance of the building and exhibition rooms.

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE OBJECTS

Firstly, we operate in a period property in the middle of a conservation area in the centre of town. The public benefits from the maintenance of both buildings and grounds for which we use some of the funds we raise. They also benefit by having the facility to enter this period property, free of charge and where required they can hire the rooms for specific uses. Some of the volunteers have taken on the responsibility of maintaining and developing the fabric of the building and bring their specialist skills to the task.

Secondly, we gather items which are important in demonstrating the Heritage of the town and repair, maintain and preserve these items for use in displays and other activities which the public have free access to. Most of the items we hold have been donated. The most notable donation this

year has been the Silver Gilt Casket awarded to James Cocker with the scroll conferring Freedom of the Borough for which we are most grateful to Gwen Cocker.

This year has been difficult with the restrictions placed upon us by Covid and the normal practice of producing displays on local topics for the public has had to be put on hold. The Centre has been closed for most of the year with only short openings in between the spikes of the virus. Whilst we have been disappointed to close our doors to the public the time has been used well to thoroughly clean the Centre internally and complete the upgrading of the cellar to provide storage facilities and workshop rooms. In preparation for re-opening safely we purchased materials necessary for the compliance with Government guidance and regulations e.g. hand sanitiser units, masks, signage etc. The rooms within the Centre were reorganised extensively to create a one way system to allow for social distancing between visitors once re-opened. As a result of the changed working practices we bought in new display boards which not only helped with the one way system by providing barriers but also allowed us to put more evidence of the Heritage of Darwen on display without the necessity of visitors being able to handle folders, maps etc. as would normally be the case.

The Century of Weddings Exhibition which was put on hold at the start of the year was retained as the opening exhibition once the restrictions were lifted and this will remain in place for at least 3 months after the re-opening. This will give the people of Darwen the opportunity to see how their contributions to the display have been used for the benefit of all.

Our links with the local schools have also been halted in terms of pupil visits to the Centre and Volunteers going into schools, and the series of talks given at the Centre in the evenings has been halted.

To compensate for the lack of interaction on a face to face basis we have concentrated on developing our online presence and the website has been extensively developed by one of our Trustees. There is now a wide variety of material which has been digitised and put on the website so that whilst visitors cannot benefit by visiting the Centre in person, they have had an increasing access to the many photos and sources of information which we hold on their behalf. Our Facebook page has been growing in popularity

and the engagement between visitors to our page and the posts which they find there has been most rewarding.

Trustees have met regularly on Zoom meetings to keep abreast of the latest developments and we have been following the Covid Guidance, Data and Regulations through the Gov.uk website in order to ensure that any decisions we took were in the best interests of both our volunteers and visitors. Members have been kept informed of developments through regular Newsletters which have been sent out as emails where possible and by post for those who do not have access to the internet.

FINANCES

The main source of funds is the sub-letting of the upper floor rooms which usually generates enough income to cover our annual fixed expenses. However, we have responded to the needs of the business in these unusual times and with lockdown we halved the rent for the upper floor. This has meant that we have been able to retain our tenant. We currently receive a grant of £3,500 per annum from the local town Council. We have a Membership Scheme which raises extra funds and also a 100 Club which is run by a volunteer. The room hire has not been a source of income this year and we are grateful to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council for considering the needs of the Centre in distributing the Covid National Restrictions Support Grants. This year we have received a rebate of business rates from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council which has increased our income above the normal annual level. All other monies raised for use in the Centre come from donations.

At the end of the financial period of the return the Charity's finances were in a reasonably healthy state and the next phase of our growth can be embarked upon with confidence. At the start of the financial year the balance held was £30,765.72. The income for the year was £41,710.79 and our expenditure was £22,864.76 which has resulted in an increase of the balance held at the end of the year to £49,611.75 and this will be used to purchase the necessary display and storage furniture to allow us to develop the Centre's facilities and capacity to enhance the visitor experience.

Two grants were sought from the Livesey Foundation and the Lloyd Trust amounting to £10,200 to replace the three boilers used for heating the Centre with remote heating controls to provide comfortable surroundings

for visitors to the building and constant temperatures for the storage of artefacts.

£2,000 was invested in a new security and fire protection contract to upgrade the current facilities and a further £2,300 was spent on damp proofing the cellars to improve storage and workshop facilities.

The new Treasurer has set a budget plan for the Charity setting aside funds for Building Maintenance, Administration costs and Exhibitions. A reserve fund has also been set at £20,000.

At this moment in time there is no uncertainty about the future of the Heritage Centre. The principal risks come from the maintenance of the building and attracting sufficient volunteers to continue running the Centre. With a maintenance programme in hand under the guidance of one of our Trustees the risk of sudden expenditure requirement for repairs is minimalised. The enhanced presence on social media has been generating more interest in volunteering and as people realise the range of opportunities available this is increasing our support in this area.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & SUPPORT

Covid interrupted our Community involvement in order to protect our Volunteers.

Attempts were made together with Darwen Town Council and the Lloyd Trust to preserve the WW1 War Memorial at Hollins Grove Congregational Church. The Memorial which is a glass mosaic fixed directly to the wall in the church (now closed) was surveyed using the Mosaic Restoration Company at a cost of £630. The result of this survey was disappointing as the cost of removal and safe restoration at the Heritage Centre was prohibitive at approximately £250,000. With further assistance from both DTC and the Lloyd Trust a professional photograph on board was created for the Centre by Norwyn Photography and this now hangs in the Centre.

Plans are still in hand to commence Family History Sessions at the Centre. The necessary equipment has been purchased with help from the Lottery Covid Mental Health Recovery fund and sessions will commence as soon as is practicable.

Darwen Heritage Centre

Receipts and Payments for the Year to 31 March 2021

31 March 2020 bank Balance	£	30,747.18
31 March 2020 cash Balance	£	18.54
	£	<u>30,765.72</u>

Income

Rent	£	4,749.96	
Room Hire	£	-	
Donations	£	870.62	
Talks/Events	£	25.00	
Sales	£	-	
Membership	£	320.00	
Grants	£	24,269.21	
100 Club	£	1,476.00	
Rate Rebate	£	10,000.00	£ 41,710.79
Total	£	<u>41,710.79</u>	<u>72,476.51</u>

Expenditure

Rates	£	-	
Electric	£	768.19	
Gas	£	2,325.11	
Water	£	359.48	
Phone/Broadband	£	518.19	
Insurance	£	522.37	
TV & Music Licence	£	236.64	
Website	£	67.54	
Security	£	3,795.21	
Building	£	10,730.90	
Purchases	£	2,220.41	
Admin	£	756.24	
Exhibitions	£	77.48	
100 Club	£	425.00	
Subscriptions	£	62.00	£ 22,864.76
Total	£	<u>22,864.76</u>	<u>49,611.75</u>

Balance per Bank Statement	31/03/2021	£	49,593.21
Petty Cash Balance	31/03/2021	£	18.54

I have examined the books & records for the above year and found everything to be correct & in order. Diane Walsh. 17/5/21.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

DARWEN HERITAGE CENTRE

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/03/2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1183239

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

D. Walsh

Date:

17/05/21

Name:

DIANE WASH

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

*10 BOSLEY CLOSE, DARWEN
LANCASHIRE BB3 3LF*