

THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1183397

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-05-14

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

Contact

Address Friends of Abingdon
18 Thames Street
Abingdon
OX14 3HZ

Phone 01235 525339

Email secretary@abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk

Website <https://friendsofabingdon.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN ABINGDON-ON-THAMES AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD;* TO PROMOTE HIGH STANDARDS OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE;* TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, NATURAL HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE AREA;* TO SECURE THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FEATURES OR AREAS OF HISTORIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST.

Activities: Working with local Councils and with other community groups to improve the civic life and vitality of the town;Events eg Heritage Weekend;Running Community FreeSpace;Campaigning on issues of public interest;Monitoring planning applications and commenting as appropriate;Monitoring larger-scale development plans;Raising public awareness where appropriate;Conservation Area monitoring.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£6,943	£5,804	-	-
2024-12-31	£5,569	£4,707	-	-
2023-12-31	£4,748	£4,004	-	-
2022-12-31	£4,509	£4,990	-	-
2021-12-31	£3,033	£2,246	-	-
2020-12-31	£3,816	£3,288	-	-

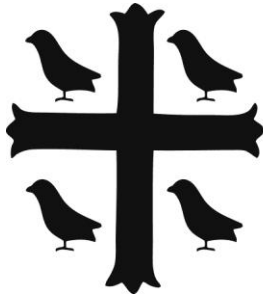
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
HESTER CAROLINE HAND	Chair	2018-09-05
Andrew Richard COKER		2024-06-12
Deborah Jane Watts		2026-07-08
Keith Eric Butler		2019-05-21
Peter Evan Owen Williams		2026-07-08

THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1183397

Accounts



THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON CIVIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the period from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

- 1) The Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the United Kingdom Charity Commission under registration number 1183397. Its governing document is a Constitution dated 8th May 2019
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 - To promote high standards of planning and architecture
 - To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the area
 - To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest

Examples of the ways we seek to achieve these objects are:

- Organising events and publishing articles to foster civic pride and promote the civic life, heritage and environment of the town
- Monitoring and commenting on planning applications and lobbying the relevant authorities to encourage high standards of historic conservation, planning and development worthy of the town's civic tradition and character
- Managing a town centre community space which other groups and not-for-profit organisations can use at little or no cost for activities, exhibitions etc
- Contributing in whatever other ways we can to help make Abingdon a great place to live, work and visit

5) The Trustees who served during the period were:

Hester Hand (Chair)	Appointed May 8 th 2019, re-appointed 24 May 2023
Caroline Bullock	Died 31 May 2024
Keith Butler (Secretary)	Appointed May 21 st 2019, re-appointed 24 May 2023
Andrew Coker	Appointed 12 June 2024
Sue Killoran	Retired 12 June 2024
Bobbie Nichols	Appointed May 8 th 2019, re-appointed 9 June 2022
Olga Senior (Treasurer)	Appointed June 11 th 2019, re-appointed 9 June 2022

The Trustees are supported by a wider Committee with members working on our various activities and projects.

6) Summary of the year's activities

- i. **Governance** – The Committee (including Trustees) met on six occasions during the year; the Trustees held one additional meeting to discuss strategic issues.
- ii. **Finance** - The bank balance at the end of the period was £11,860: full details are in the accounts.
- iii. **Membership** – the Society has 230 members, with over half being life members. The Committee has continued to try to engage and inform the membership of the Society's activities via regular e-newsletters
- iv. **Public Benefit**

Planning – the Society has monitored planning applications in the area and made submissions and comments where appropriate, with the aim of preventing developments which we believe would be detrimental to the town's character or vibrancy or to the wellbeing of residents in general. Members have also attended meetings with developers and councillors about the large-scale developments to the North of the town.

Consultations – the Trustees responded on behalf of the Society to consultations on the Neighbourhood Plan, the Local Plan and Dalton Barracks redevelopment and encouraged members to do likewise.

Heritage Open Days – as part of the national scheme, the society led the organisation of the town's Heritage Weekend. The theme was "Transport, Routes and Connections" and there was a wide range of events around the town, with an estimated 1,000 people attending across the whole weekend. In addition to the exhibitions we organised in the Roysse Room and Unit 24, we welcomed the participation of the Old Ticket Office at Culham station and the MG Car Club Museum at Kimber House, and the Model Railway Club's ever-popular Abingdon layout attracted enthusiasts of all ages in to Unit 24. Students from Abingdon

School and Fitzharrys School contributed to the exhibitions and other local groups such as Abingdon Artists and Flower Club also participated.

We were delighted to be able to increase our offering to families with children. The highlight for them was the Museum's Iron-age re-enactment day at the Abbey Buildings, but both our main exhibition venues included something for children which made it a lot easier for families to come along. The quiz trail was particularly popular, opening families' eyes to aspects of the town they might never have noticed.

Unit 24 Community Space – this was very well used during the year, by a wide range of groups for meetings, exhibitions, training courses, repair workshops etc. Groups who can afford it are encouraged to make donations and this has enabled us to pay for a cleaner and purchase some new equipment and we have also been grateful for practical assistance from some of the regular user groups.

OX14 Learning Partnership project – the partnership includes all but one of the local secondary schools and we held an interesting discussion with the partners about how we might be able to help them in their aims to encourage a sense of place among their students. We ran a pilot project where students completed a survey about their attitudes towards the town and hope to build on this with future projects.

Upper Reaches Hotel Site – this remains a matter of great concern to the town and the Society meets regularly with senior officers from the District Council. This has resulted in some improvements to the site, but there has been little progress on the underlying issue of its future use and we continue to press the Council to take a more pro-active approach to finding a resolution.

7) Anniversary Celebrations

May 2024 saw the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Abingdon and we marked this with articles in the local media, and a celebratory event in the Abbey Buildings, held jointly with our sister organisation, the Friends of Abingdon Abbey Buildings Trust. This offered the opportunity not just to look back on what our organisations have achieved over the years but also to highlight what we hope to achieve in future.

Hester Hand

On behalf of the Trustees of The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society
July 2025

FOACS Accounts
1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	non restricted	restricted	2024 total	non restricted	restricted	2023 total
Income						
Subscriptions	1038		1038	871		871
Donations	590		590	343		343
Heritage Festival 2023			0		2200	2200
DFA		430	430		34	34
HODS Grant		1700	1700			0
Unit 24 Donations		1073	1073			0
Unit 24 Grant		1000	1000			0
HODS 2024		60	60			0
HODS 2025		108	108			0
Walks Project			0		1300	1300
Total Income	1628	4371	5999	1214	3534	4748
Expenditure						
CS subscriptions	20		20	215		215
AbiBinit		95	95			0
HODS 2022			0		708	708
HODS 2023		622	622		737	737
HODS 2024		2103	2103			0
Unit 24		516	516		367	367
Printing	35		35			0
Insurance	243		243	206		206
Archive Project	334		334			0
DFA		565	565			0
Catering for AGM	75		75	78		78
Walks Project		549	549		926	926
Internet	115		115	767		767
Total Expenditure	822	4450	5272	1266	2738	4004
Surplus/Deficit	806	-79	727	-52	796	744
Opening Balance	7803	3330	11133	7855	2534	10389
Surplus/Deficit	806	-79	727	-52	796	744
Closing Balance	8609	3251	11860	7803	3330	11133

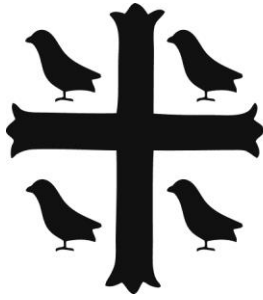
Restricted Funds

	opening	net movement	transfers	closing	opening	net movement	closing
Alan Bryden	294	0	-294	0	294	0	294
Unit 24	464	1557		2021	831	-367	464
HODS 2022	42		-42	0	750	-708	42
HODS 2023	1463	-622	-301	540	0	1463	1463
HODS 2024		-343	343	0			
HODS 2025		108		108			
Walks Project	374	-549	294	119	0	374	374
AbiBinit	359	-95		264	359	0	359
DFA	334	-135		199	300	34	334
	3330	-79	0	3251	2534	796	3330

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England & Wales - Charity number 1183397

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THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON CIVIC SOCIETY

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- Organising events and publishing articles to foster civic pride and promote the civic life, heritage and environment of the town
- Monitoring and commenting on planning applications and lobbying the relevant authorities to encourage high standards of historic conservation, planning and development worthy of the town's civic tradition and character
- Contributing in whatever way we can to help make Abingdon a great place to live, work and visit

- 5) The Trustees who served during the period were:

Hester Hand (Chair)	Appointed May 8 th 2019, re-appointed 24 May 2023
Caroline Bullock	Appointed May 8 th 2019, re-appointed 16 June 2021

Keith Butler (Secretary) Appointed May 21st 2019, re-appointed 24 May 2023
Sue Killoran Appointed March 18th 2022
Bobbie Nichols Appointed May 8th 2019, re-appointed 9 June 2022
Olga Senior (Treasurer) Appointed June 11th 2019, re-appointed 9 June 2022

The Trustees are supported by a wider Committee with members working on our various activities and projects.

6) Summary of the year's activities

- i. **Governance** – The Committee (including Trustees) met on five occasions during the year; the Trustees held one additional meeting to discuss strategic issues.
- ii. **Finance** - The bank balance at the end of the period was £11,133: full details are in the accounts.
- iii. **Membership** – the Society has c.244 members, with over half being life members. The Committee has continued to try to engage and inform the membership of the Society's activities via regular e-newsletters

iv. **Public Benefit**

Planning – the Committee is fortunate to have members with extensive experience of planning issues and the Society has monitored planning applications in the area and made submissions and comments where appropriate, with the aim of preventing developments which we believe would be detrimental to the town's character or vibrancy or to the wellbeing of residents in general. Members have also attended meetings with developers and councillors about the large-scale developments to the North of the town.

Conservation – Society members have continued to contribute to the Conservation Area Appraisal for the Albert Park area.

Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan – Society members have continued to contribute to the preparation of this.

Heritage Open Days – as part of the national scheme, the society led the organisation of the town's Heritage Weekend. The theme was "Creativity unwrapped" and there was a wide range of events in the Market Place, St Nicolas Church, the Abbey Buildings and elsewhere. There were the usual guided walks and a special exhibition featuring the Abingdon Missal, a book written and

illustrated by monks in the 15th Century. Particularly pleasing this year was the involvement of Abingdon School and other local groups such as Abingdon Artists and Flower Club

Photographic archive – following discussions with the Historical Society it was agreed to set up a project to create a publicly accessible digital archive of historical photos of the town. This project is now well advanced and the first batch of images will shortly be available to view online.

Upper Reaches – there is great disquiet in the town about the state of the derelict Upper Reaches Hotel site, both in relation to the very unfortunate impression it gives to those arriving in the town and to the serious problems of anti-social behaviour taking place there, causing distress and danger to local residents. Also, one of the buildings is listed and the site is in the Conservation Area and adjacent to the Abbey Buildings Scheduled Monument. The Society meets regularly with senior officers from the District Council which has resulted in some improvements to the site, but there has been little progress on the underlying issue of its future use.

Walks – the collection of nine self-guided leaflets illustrating walks around the town based on a variety of themes has been enormously popular and two more leaflets are currently being created, one a Poppy Walk and the other based on pubs in the town, some of which are no longer in existence. We also ran two successful programmes of guided walks, one at the May Bank Holiday and one at Heritage Weekend.

Unit 24 – during the year the Society was granted a short-term licence to occupy on a rent-free basis the former H Samuels shop in the Bury Street precinct, which had been empty for some time. This high-profile site has since been used as a focal point for numerous community uses including Heritage weekend, by the Carbon Cutters for apple pressing and repair workshops, the Woodcarvers, the local PCSOs for drop in sessions and the VWHDC for exercise classes. Following the success of the site the Society requested a licence to occupy the site for a further two years again on a rent-free basis, and this has been granted.

Hester Hand

On behalf of the Trustees of The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

June 2024

FOACS Accounts
1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	non restricted £	restricted £	2023 total £	non restricted £	restricted £	2022 total £
Income						
Subscriptions	871		871	1436		1436
Donations	343		343	43		43
Heritage Festival 2022			0		1250	1250
Heritage Festival 2023		2200	2200			0
DFA		34	34		300	300
Book Sales			0	80		80
Walks Project		1300	1300		1500	1500
Total Income	1214	3534	4748	1559	3050	4609
Expenditure						
Room Hire			0	81		81
CS subscriptions	215		215	215		215
AbiBinit			0		159	159
Heritage Festival 2021			0	75		75
Heritage Festival 2022		708	708		500	500
Heritage Festival 2023		737	737			0
Unit 24		367	367			0
Insurance	206		206	201		201
HIP Archive Project			0		867	867
Catering for AGM	78		78	81		81
Walks Project		926	926		2794	2794
Internet	767		767	17		17
Total Expenditure	1266	2738	4004	670	4320	4990
Surplus/Deficit	-52	796	744	889	-1270	-381
Opening Balance	7855	2534	10389	6966	3804	10770
Surplus/Deficit	-52	796	744	889	-1270	-381
Closing Balance	7803	3330	11133	7855	2534	10389
Restricted Funds						
	opening £	net movement £	closing £	opening £	net movement £	closing £
Alan Bryden	294	0	294	1588	-1294	294
Unit 24	831	-367	464	831		831
Archive project	0	0	0	867	-867	0
Heritage Day 2022	750	-708	42		750	750
Heritage Festival 2023	0	1463	1463			
Walks Project	0	374	374		0	0
AbiBinit	359	0	359	518	-159	359
DFA	300	34	334		300	300
	2534	796	3330	3804	-1270	2534

THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1183397

Accounts



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The Trustees are supported by a wider Committee whose members work on our various activities and projects.

6 Summary of the year's activities

6.1 Governance – The Committee met on five occasions during the year and the Trustees held one additional meeting, with all but the last two meetings of the year being held via videoconferencing owing to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

6.2 Finance - The bank balance at the end of the period was £10,389: full details are in the accounts.

6.3 Membership and members' meetings – the Society has c.251 members, with over half being life members. The Committee has continued to engage and inform the membership of the Society's activities, via regular e-newsletters, and were pleased to be able to hold two in-person members' meetings during the year.

6.4 Public Benefit

Planning – the Committee is fortunate to have members with extensive experience of planning issues and the Society has monitored planning applications in the area and made submissions and commented where appropriate, with the aim of preventing developments which we believe would be detrimental to the town's character or vibrancy or to the wellbeing of residents in general.

Conservation – Society members have continued to make a major contribution to the Conservation Area Appraisal for the Albert Park area. The Committee has also continued to work with local residents to press the District Council to resolve problems over the derelict Upper Reaches hotel site.

Local consultations: the Society was involved in stakeholder consultations for the District Council's CARF (Central Abingdon Regeneration Framework) project. Members were informed about this and other local consultations and encouraged to respond.

6.5 Projects

As reported in 2021, the Trustees have decided to put more focus on our projects, with a view to encouraging more members to take part in them.

Heritage Open Days – as part of the national scheme, the Society took a leading role in organising the town's Heritage Weekend. The theme was "Innovation and Invention", which was well-suited to Abingdon's position as a centre of science and technology, and there was a wide range of events in the Market Place, St Ethelwold's House and elsewhere. Feedback on the event was excellent and well over 500 people took part.

Photographic archive – a small group of volunteers has started work to create a publicly accessible digital archive of historical images of the town. Appropriate software has been purchased.

Walks project

Funded by a Town Council grant and a legacy from a former Society member, the Society produced a suite of 10 themed trail leaflets guiding people around interesting parts of the town. These have been made available via the Information Centre, Museum etc and can also be downloaded from our website. They were also used at the Jubilee Bank Holiday and Heritage Weekend as part of a programme of guided and self-guided walks. They were very well-received and it is hoped to expand the series.

7 National Organisations

The Society is a member of Civic Voice, the national organisation for Civic Societies, which gives access to the experience of other similar groups and to information about national developments in the areas of planning and development. It is also a member of the Historic Towns and Villages Forum. Both bodies arranged a number of low-cost streamed events during the year which proved very useful and informative.

Hester Hand

**On behalf of the Trustees of The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society
May 2023**



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

No (if any)
118 3397

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2022

To

Period end date
31/12/2022

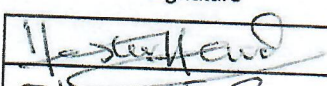
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	1,436	-	-	1,436	967
Donations	43	-	-	43	66
Grants	-	2,750	-	2,750	1,500
AbiBinit	-	-	-	-	500
Book Sales	80	-	-	80	-
Dementia Friendly Abingdon	-	300	-	300	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,559	3,050	-	4,609	3,033
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,559	3,050	-	4,609	3,033
A3 Payments					
Room Hire	81	-	-	81	24
Heritage Festival	75	500	-	575	1,530
Insurance	201	-	-	201	353
Subscriptions to Organisations	215	-	-	215	218
AbiBinit	-	159	-	159	121
Catering	81	-	-	81	-
Internet	17	-	-	17	-
HIP Archive Project	-	867	-	867	-
Walks Project	-	2,794	-	2,794	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	670	4,320	-	4,990	2,246
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	670	4,320	-	4,990	2,246
Net of receipts/(payments)	889	- 1,270	-	- 381	787
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,966	3,804	-	10,770	9,983
Cash funds this year end	7,855	2,534	-	10,389	10,770

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds				
		7,855	2,534	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	7,855	2,534	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
B2 Other monetary assets				
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
B5 Liabilities				

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	HESTER HAND	01/03/23
OLGA F. SENIOR	OLGA SENIOR	1.3.23

THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1183397

Accounts

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Olga Senior (Treasurer)	Appointed June 11 th 2019, re-appointed 7 October 2020

The Trustees are supported by a wider Committee with members working on our various activities and projects.

6) Summary of the year's activities

- i. **Governance** – The Committee met on seven occasions during the year, with all but the last two meetings of the year being held via videoconferencing owing to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ii. **Finance** - The bank balance at the end of the period was £10,770: full details are in the accounts.
- iii. **Membership and members' meetings** – the Society has c.253 members, with over half being life members. The Committee has continued to try to engage and inform the membership of the Society's activities, via regular e-newsletters, but owing to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic only one members' meeting could take place.
- iv. **Strategy Review** – following the 2020 membership survey the Committee met in February and March to discuss how we should focus our activities in future. We concluded that, in addition to our ongoing work on Planning and Conservation we should identify a number of projects – some of which would be in collaboration with other like-minded groups. It was important that we publicised these well as this would raise our profile and give people the opportunity to contribute to activities which they were interested in. Subsequently we met with the Historical Society to discuss ways of working together. There is more information about projects below.
- v. **Public Benefit**
 - **Planning** – the Committee is fortunate to have members with extensive experience of planning issues and the Society has monitored planning applications in the area and made submissions and comments where appropriate, with the aim of preventing developments which we believe would be detrimental to the town's character or vibrancy or to the wellbeing of residents in general.
 - **Conservation** – Society members have continued to make a major contribution to the Conservation Area Appraisal for the Albert Park area.
 - **Neighbourhood Plan** – the Society was represented on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and many members contributed to consultations
- vi. **Heritage Open Days** – as part of the national scheme, the Society took a leading role in organising the town's Heritage Weekend. The theme was "Edible England" and there was a wide range of events in the Market Place, St Nicolas Church, the Abbey Buildings and elsewhere. There were the usual guided walks and two new self-guided trails one called "History on a Plate" and one around the site of the former Workhouse. Feedback on the event was excellent and around 1,000 people took part.
- vii. **Photographic archive** – following discussions with the Historical Society it was agreed to set up a project to create a publicly accessible digital archive of historical photos of the town. Work on this is now under way and it is hoped in due course to extend it to include photos from many organisations and individuals.
- viii. **Upper Reaches** – there is great disquiet in the town about the state of the derelict Upper Reaches Hotel site, both in relation to the very unfortunate impression it gives

to those arriving in the town and to the serious problems of anti-social behaviour taking place there, causing distress and danger to local residents. Also, one of the buildings is listed and the site is in the Conservation Area and adjacent to the Abbey Buildings Scheduled Monument. The Society raised these concerns with the District Council and although little progress was made during 2021, discussions are now under way and some action is being taken.

- ix. **Community Freespace** - the licence for the former premises ended in September 2020. The Trustees felt that the project had made a significant contribution to community life in the town and were keen to find an alternative once the pandemic was over: this did not prove practicable during the year, but we continue to keep the situation under review.
- x. **National Organisations** - The Society is a member of Civic Voice, the national organisation for Civic Societies, which gives access to the experience of other similar groups and to information about national developments in the areas of planning and development. It is also a member of the Historic Towns and Villages Forum. Both bodies arranged a number of low-cost webinars and other streamed events during the year which proved very useful and informative.

Hester Hand

On behalf of the Trustees of The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

May 2022



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

No (if any)
1183397

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01-Jan-21

To

Period end date
31-Dec-21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	967	-	-	967	1,242
Donations	66	-	-	66	473
Grants	600	900	-	1,500	2,101
AbiBinit	-	500	-	500	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,633	1,400	-	3,033	3,816
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,633	1,400	-	3,033	3,816
A3 Payments					
Room Hire	24	-	-	24	24
Heritage Festival	217	1,313	-	1,530	952
Insurance	353	-	-	353	353
Subscriptions to Organisations	218	-	-	218	264
AbiBinit	-	121	-	121	61
Community Free Space	-	-	-	-	682
Members Survey	-	-	-	-	228
Archive Project	-	-	-	-	434
Refunds	-	-	-	-	210
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	80
Sub total	812	1,434	-	2,246	3,288
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	812	1,434	-	2,246	3,288
Net of receipts/(payments)	821	34	-	787	528
A5 Transfers between funds	-	139	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,284	3,699	-	9,983	9,455
Cash funds this year end	6,966	3,804	-	10,770	9,983

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		6,966	3,804	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,966	3,804	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	HESTER HANI	17/3/22
OLGA F. SENIOR.	OLGA SENIOR	17.3.22

THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1183397

Accounts



THE FRIENDS OF
ABINGDON
CIVIC SOCIETY

The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31st December 2020

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the period from 1st January 2020 to the 31st December 2020

- 1) The Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the United Kingdom Charity Commission under registration number 1183397. Its governing document is a Constitution dated 8th May 2019
- 2) The Society's registered address is 18 Thames Street, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3HZ
- 3) The Society was registered as a charity on May 14th 2019
- 4) The objects of the Society are:
For the benefit of the people of Abingdon-on-Thames
 - To promote high standards of planning and architecture
 - To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the area
 - To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest

Examples of the ways we seek to achieve these objects are:

- Organising events and publishing articles to foster civic pride and promote the civic life, heritage and environment of the town
- Monitoring and commenting on planning applications and lobbying the relevant authorities to encourage high standards of historic conservation, planning and development worthy of the town's civic tradition and character
- Contributing in whatever way we can to help make Abingdon a great place to live, work and visit

- 5) The Trustees who have served during the period were:

Hester Hand (Chair)	Appointed May 8 th 2019
Caroline Bullock	Appointed May 8 th 2019
Keith Butler (Secretary)	Appointed May 21 st 2019
Bobbie Nichols	Appointed May 8 th 2019
Olga Senior (Treasurer)	Appointed June 11 th 2019

6) Summary of the year

- i. **Governance** – The Committee met bi-monthly during the year, with all but the first two meetings of the year being held via videoconferencing owing to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to these, the Trustees met on two occasions again via videoconferencing.
- ii. **Finance** - The bank balance at the end of the period was £9,983: full details are in the accounts.
- iii. **Membership and members' meetings** – the Society has c265 members, with just over half being life members. The Committee has continued to try to engage and inform the membership of the Society's activities, although owing to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic only one members' meeting could take place. This included a talk by Councillor Alison Rooke on new developments in the town and was well attended. Communication with members was also maintained through a regular newsletter.
- iv. **Survey of Members** – during the year the Society conducted a detailed survey of what members wanted it to focus on and what it ought to be doing. A total of 55 responses to the survey were received, and the principal findings were as follows:
 - 1) The overwhelming majority of members feel that the format and frequency of members' meetings was about right.
 - 2) There is a desire in the membership to learn more about the history of Abingdon. Some issues (e.g. Old Abbey House and The Upper Reaches) were indeed referred to by several members.
 - 3) The amount of communication with members was felt to be appropriate. The Society was felt to be an important source of information as to what is happening in the town
 - 4) Transport issues and the availability of cycle routes were a clear concern

The committee were reassured by these findings and are focussing on continuing to deliver in these areas given the restrictions imposed by the pandemic
- v. **Public Benefit**
 - **Planning** – the Committee is fortunate to have several members with extensive experience of planning issues and the Society has thus monitored planning applications in the area and made submissions and comments where appropriate, with the aim of preventing developments which we believe would be detrimental to the town's character or vibrancy or to the wellbeing of residents in general.
 - **Conservation** – Society members have made a major contribution to the Conservation Area Appraisal for the Albert Park area.
 - **Neighbourhood Plan** – the Society is represented on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and will thus be able to play a part in the plan's development
- vi. **Old Abbey House** – the Society led a campaign to preserve the site for the community and stop it being sold to developers. A petition was organised and extensive publicity obtained to persuade the Council to consider alternatives to a sale, or to sell to a community group or groups. A decision was however, made in December 2020 to sell to a developer for conversion to an hotel.
- vii. **Heritage Festival** – as part of the national Heritage Open Days, the Society participated in organising the Town's Heritage Weekend, and ran an information stall in the Market Square



- viii. **Relations with Town and District Councils** - the Committee agreed that the Society should continue to be a “critical friend” of the Councils and has commented on several council initiatives
- ix. **Community Freespace** – the pandemic restrictions meant that usage of the freespace was severely curtailed during the year. It was, however, used as a centre for Abimeds, who were a group of volunteers who arranged for deliveries of medicines to those unable or unwilling to attend pharmacies. Owing to the lack of willingness by the landlord to extend the licence for use of the unit, the occupation ceased in November 2020.
- x. **National Organisation** - The Society is a member of the national organisation for Civic Societies which gives access to the experience of other similar groups and to information about national developments in the areas of planning and development.

Hester Hand

On behalf of the Trustees of Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

June 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Jan-20

To

31-Dec-20

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	1,242	-	-	1,242	310
Donations	473	-	-	473	275
Heritage Festival	-	-	-	-	157
Grants	-	2,101	-	2,101	9,400
Members Lunch	-	-	-	-	385
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,715	2,101	-	3,816	10,527
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,715	2,101	-	3,816	10,527
A3 Payments					
Room Hire	24	-	-	24	125
Heritage Festival	347	605	-	952	10,140
Insurance	353	-	-	353	353
Members Lunch	-	-	-	-	495
Community Free Space	-	682	-	682	50
Members Survey	228	-	-	228	-
Archive Project	-	434	-	434	-
Local Events	141	-	-	141	-
Subscriptions to organisations	264	-	-	264	-
Refunds	210	-	-	210	-
Sub total	1,567	1,721	-	3,288	11,163
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,567	1,721	-	3,288	11,163
Net of receipts/(payments)	148	380	-	528	636
Old Charity allocation				-	10,091
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,136	3,319	-	9,455	-
Cash funds this year end	6,284	3,699	-	9,983	9,455

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		6,284	3,699	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,284	3,699	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Print Name _____

Date of approval

HESTER HAND

27.1.2021

27.1.2021