



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
- 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
- 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