

Bakewell and District Historical Society

Trustees' Annual Report

1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Charity Name: Bakewell and District Historical Society

Other Names it is known by: Bakewell Old House Museum (BOHM), BDHS

Registered Charity Number: 1184842

Charity's Principal Address: Bakewell Old House Museum, Cunningham Place, Bakewell, DE42 1DD

Names of Trustees who manage this charity

Name	Office	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Ken Smith	Chair		
Marian Barker		To AGM 23/5/24	
Lesley Ayers	Treasurer		
Emily Bowyer		To AGM 23/5/24	
Eleanor Whitehead	Secretary		
Megan Jones			
Alison Edwards			
Lisa Simpson			
Peter Mahood		To 20/4/24	
Richard Hildebrand			

Structure and governance and management

Type of governing documents: Bakewell and District Historical Society – constitution at incorporation – August 2019

How the charity is constituted: Incorporated

Trustee Selection methods: Adverts and consultation with MDEM, interviews

Trustees Report 2024

Overview

The Bakewell and District Historical Society (BDHS) and the Bakewell Old House Museum (BOHM) have seen significant successes over 2024. These mostly involve the Museum where we appointed a Museum Assistant and moved back to opening 7-days per week. The visitor experience was greatly improved with the change in layout on the ground floor and relocation of the Reception Area to the new building. The Museum Team did superb work (research and painting), and with the new Tudor costumes, the impact has been noticeable. The museum continues to enjoy Arts Council England Accredited Museum status.

The reinstated talks programme has continued, with a wide range of subjects being delivered to Society members and non-members. These included such diverse subjects as the archaeology of Sheffield castle, Georgian rural life in the Peak District, the life and works of Barnes Wallis and three Peakland villages in the Second World War. Average attendance at the talks was 24. A full programme exists for 2025 and work continues to populate the calendar into 2026.

Society membership has increased slightly over the year and stood at 173 in December. It seems that the increased opening times for the Museum and our presence at events such as the Bakewell Country Festival and pop-up exhibitions in the Information Centre, have raised our profile and this has manifested itself in a 5% increase in membership compared with 2023.

The trustees continue to meet on a monthly basis, increased from 2-monthly from 2023. This has been particularly fruitful while addressing issues such as ensuring our policies are both up-to-date and appropriate. We are pursuing grant-aid to address such disparate issues as the maintenance of the Bakewell Old House Museum, where its status as a listed building brings with it both constraints and opportunities, and an initiative to identify where the Society and the Museum should be heading over the next 10-15 years, and what steps need to be taken to ensure we get there. While we were not successful with an application for MEND grant towards the costs of these initiatives, we have been having fruitful talks with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and an initial application is likely early in 2025.

Our Vision

To offer a gem of a museum that is fun, interesting, and inspiring to all, loved by locals and visitors alike. We will tell the story of our areas and its people in a unique and compelling way, creating connections with the past and our visitors.

Our Mission

We will preserve and vitalise our collections for future generations so that our communities continue to engage with and discover the history of Bakewell and this part of the Peak District

Our Values

Brand values are the behaviours we consistently adopt to achieve our purpose. The following are such 'behaviours' but using that term may feel slightly officious.

- **Welcoming** – do everything with open arms
- **Providing satisfaction** – great customer experiences lead to happy faces
- **Learning** – our curiosity knows no bounds and its fruits are widely shared
- **Engaging** – harness Arkwright's energy and entrepreneurialism
- **Leading** – bravely forge new paths
- **Belonging** – foster a sense of place with passion
- **Being accountable** – it's up to all of us, we all play a part

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to stimulate an interest and love for Bakewell and the wider Peak District by bringing to life our shared stories.

The Business Plan is designed to meet the following strategic goals, with the first being of the highest priority:

- Ensure the financial sustainability of the museum
- Increase our visitors and develop new audiences, widening access
- Develop the workforce
- Maximise the use of collections and maintain the building's fabric
- Strengthen the governance of the organisation
- Increase the effectiveness of our marketing and promotion
- Improve the customer experience; introduce quality metrics

People

We continue to be very grateful and thankful for the commitment of Mark Copley our museum's Manager Curator for organising volunteers, seeking out grants and managing the museum and our volunteer cohort and bringing the museum to the lively centre and hub of activity that it is now. A huge thank you goes to Mark for his enthusiasm and dedication to the museum. Thanks also go to Kelsey Power, our new Museum Assistant, in her support and commitment to the museum.

Up to the AGM, in May, the Society had 10 Trustees (though it is permitted a total of 12). However, 2 trustees (Peter Mahood and Emily Bowyer-Kazadi) have stood down for personal reasons and another, Marian Barker, reached the end of her tenure, leaving only 7 trustees to run the Society. Steps have been put in place to advertise for more trustees in the first quarter of 2025, whereafter it is hoped that successful candidates will be acknowledged at the Society's AGM on 22 May 2025.

We remember *Trevor Brighton* who passed on during 2024. In the autumn, we learned the sad news of the death of Trevor Brighton after a short illness. Trevor was an early member

of the Society and a former Chair and President, contributing significantly to the development of Bakewell Old House Museum and the overall development of the Society since its inception 65 years ago, as well as making many contributions to the Society's Journal. He will be sorely missed. A full Obituary appears in the 2025 Journal.

Thank you also to Linda Latif who is our Membership Secretary and assists Mark in the office, for her work in keeping members informed of events and opportunities over the year.

Once again it is our pleasure to acknowledge the debt that we owe to our volunteer task force, for the work they do both front of house, welcoming our visitors, imparting information and persuading people to spend in the shop, as well as those who toil behind the scenes, to ensure that the displays and their contents are appropriate and in the best possible condition. This includes Pat Green and the catering crew for the provision of food at our various events and a heartfelt thank you is made to all those who volunteered during 2024. The museum activities in 2024 were supported by over 80 volunteers, who provided 3335 hours of volunteer time in 2024.

Thanks also go to Marian Barker who has edited the Society Journal for a number of years. Marian now feels that it is time to pass the baton on to someone else. A volunteer or volunteers are needed to take on this task in the next 12-18 months.

Thanks to Mandy and Stephen Coates for providing a series of talks and object handling sessions for various groups. They have provided our main source of community outreach. These include 28 members of the Millhouses Local History Society in Sheffield, the residents at the Old Vicarage Care Home, and the Bakewell Friday Club in town.

Activities

The museum benefited from being open 7 days a week, 5 hours a day, in 2024, and with the help of a £11,436 grant awarded by the Derbyshire Dales UKSPF Community Resilience Grant Scheme we were able to recruit a new part-time Museum Assistant. Given the success of this initiative, the arrangement continues into 2025.

Overall, the Bakewell & District Historical Society (BDHS) engaged audiences totalling 8966 in 2024 (up 41% from 2023). Over the 226 days the museum was open general visitors to the museum were 7760 (up 47% from 2023), reflecting the additional days opened (up 35%) and the attractiveness of our *Treasured Quilts: Warmth and Wealth* exhibition. Access to collections and stories was enhanced through off-site workshops, demonstrations and talks. Online audiences were reached via social media posts centred around our shared heritage.

Our main exhibition was very well attended with an estimated 900 people coming especially for the show: *Treasured Quilts: Warmth and Wealth*. A huge thank you to all members of the Exhibition Team, led by Diane MacArthur, who created such a professional exhibition. The exhibition was kindly sponsored by Fabric & Furnishings Solutions (Darley Dale).

The Learning team welcomed schools to the museum on 7 occasions, providing town tours and museum sessions. We further welcomed 6 other groups to the museum, usually for a combined town tour and museum visit.

The talks programme has continued, with a wide range of subjects being delivered to Society members and non-members. We have been experimenting with streaming the talks, to enable Society members who cannot attend in person, to see and hear the presentations. Inevitably, there have been some teething troubles but we hope to be able to make this facility available to members in the first quarter of 2025.

We had social gatherings at the beginning and end of the season for volunteers and members, as well as the Summer Social for members of the Society. Grateful thanks are extended to Pat Green and the catering team for providing the food and drinks.

Over the year, the Society gained three grants totalling £ 11,881, £220 of which was unrestricted.

- £11,436 grant awarded by the Derbyshire Dales UKSPF Community Resilience Grant Scheme for recruitment and wages for a Museum Assistant (12 months) and laptop
- Bakewell Rotary Club £220 Unrestricted grant
- Derbyshire Dales District Council Local Projects Fund £225 Restricted grant for the purchase of tables (bought in 2025)

Social Media continued to reach out to our audiences. The top performing Facebook post was 20 June 2024 – Concert: Eliza is the Fairest Queen by Sirinu (5387 reach, paid-for advert). And 4434 reach was obtained organically from our October half term post: This Half Term, visit the Terrifying Tudor House” part of our Ghouls’ Games promotion.

The collections team continues to evolve with Kelsey Power (Museum Assistant) concentrating on the textiles/costume collections, and Marian Barker and other volunteers providing collections management support. The new costumes in the Tudor Hall for ‘dressing up’ are a real bonus. The quality of the work from our BOHM Sewing Circle is amazing. Visitors of all ages really do enjoy dressing up and sitting at the new, replica Tudor table with all the props. This, with the new interpretation and the medieval games has increased the dwell time in the Tudor Hall.

Other activities throughout the year included:

- Two Bakewell Remembered reminiscence drop-in sessions were held where members of the public were invited to share, for us to record, their stories of Bakewell. They were held in the main hall at the Medway Centre, and covered Pubs & Nightlife and Shops & Businesses, with over 150 local participants.
- Pop-up exhibitions at the Bakewell Visitor Centre, included images of *Bakewell: then and now*, and we also co-curated a museum display with the Youlgrave Well Dressing Team, providing a Winter Well Dressing display.
- The new BOHM Sewing Circle made items for the Christmas Tree Festival, they made around 100 baubles for the tree and to sell.

- Vivien Finch's last public talk was given at the museum on 12 September 2024; the talk was part of the programme of three talks and workshops linked to the Treasured Quilts exhibition.
- Sirinu provided a lively concert of Tudor-era music on replica instruments in the Tudor Hall in July.
- Attendance at Bakewell Country Festival on 14 July 2024 to demonstrate the new Walking Wheel which was purchased as part of the Tudor Hall refurbishment.
- Performance of a play written and performed by Ray Castleton "Without Malice or Ill Will" In the Tudor Hall in July
- A Poetry evening: Voices from the Peak – Mark Gwynne Jones in May
- On Thursday 30 May we wished Happy 65th Birthday to the Museum!
- On Tuesday 22 October we wished Happy 70th Birthday to the Society!
- Plant and Cake Sale in early June
- During Heritage Open Days in September, we continued to lead a Bakewell-wide offer through the Bakewell Heritage Group, providing the public free access to heritage
- Our Community Exhibition Space was used taken up by Over Haddon History Group and then by Peak Rail Association; in both cases we co-produced small, pop-up exhibitions.
- The Terrifying Tudor House made a reappearance in October, with this year's theme being the Ghouls' Games, and proved to be a hit among families.

Bakewell Old House Museum projects

The public entrance to the museum was moved, over the closed season, to the former Industrial Gallery and the main hall was refurbished into something akin to its Tudor usage. This change has been successful on a number of fronts, including an improved entrance to the museum for visitors; a more-appropriate flow through the ground-floor Tudor rooms; a much warmer environment for volunteers at the welcome desk; and, not least, an improved visitor spend through the shop.

The nett effect of these improvements and attractions has been one of if not the best visitor figures in 22 years, with a total of 8966 people entering the Museum. Inevitably, the gross figures hide some variations, so while overall numbers were up 41% against 2023, the numbers of schools visitors and town tour participants were down against target, although group visitor numbers exceeded target.

Another result of these activities and increased visitor numbers is that income for 2024, 97% of which is derived from Museum activities, stands at around £69.2 k (earned income) an increase on 2023 of some 42% (on earned income). While that is to be welcomed, overall the Society made a loss of around £8,000 as a result of one-off expenditure on surveys and the like needed to inform what repairs, and at what cost, are needed to the Old House. The re-organisation of the entrance and Tudor Houseplace also incurred significant cost providing insulation, decoration and props.

The Old House

The Covid pandemic and its associated social distancing meant that some maintenance and repair work remained in abeyance for several years and a backlog has now built up. While we were not successful with an application for MEND grant towards the costs of these initiatives, we have been having fruitful talks with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and an initial application is likely early in 2025. If successful, it will mean that many pieces of work can be done in one go, rather than spread over a number of years, with the associated disruption carrying on for longer than necessary. While such disruption would mostly be carried out during the period when the Museum is closed, disruption even during that quiet period would nevertheless occur.

While the maintenance and repair work that has been identified is costly and beyond our means to pay for in one go – hence the seeking of grant support – it is reassuring to note that there are no significant or serious works needed; the Old House remains in good heart but in a building of such antiquity there will always be necessary works. With a listed building, the additional need for listed building consent adds both to the time needed to make arrangements and often adds to the costs.

Conclusions

2024 has undoubtedly been a good year for the Society and for Bakewell Old House Museum. Our visitor numbers are up, our income is up (though our costs outstripped our income nevertheless) and we have benefited from Kelsey's appointment as Museum Assistant to support Mark in running the Museum on a 7 days per week basis during our open period. Thanks to both of them for their sterling work and thanks also to our band of hardy volunteers for their work front of house and behind the scenes, as well as to our Trustees for all their work over the year. We, of course, hope that this year's successes will translate into 2025. Although the economic outlook looks less than favourable, I am sure everyone will be doing their best to ensure that 2024 was not a one-off and we wish everyone every success.

BAKEWELL & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Charity Number: 1184842

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended - 31st December 2024

	Charity 1184842		Charity 1184842	
	2024		2023	
	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
Incoming resources				
<i>Voluntary Income</i>				
Members subscriptions		2,096		1,852
Society events		69		1,548
Donations and Bequests		2,606		1,542
Grants	11,661	220	2,099	2,289
<i>Activities for Generating funds</i>				
Museum receipts		57,916		40,446
Gift Aid		7,360		4,442
<i>Investment Income</i>				
Bank Interest		1,311		989
Total Incoming resources	11,661	71,578	2,099	53,108
Resources expended				
<i>Governance costs</i>		100		100
<i>Charity Expenses</i>				
Publications and talks		1,648		1920.94
Projects/Grant Spend	1,883	15,030	3482.47	
<i>Charitable Trading Activities</i>				
Wages	10,648	26,123		20471.65
Service and subs		7,344		5511.53
Insurance		2,605		2349.5
Capital Items and repairs		14,533		1361.23
Marketing		3,284		2848.75
Activities and Stock		4,542		4041.95
Miscellaneous and Petty Cash		3,491		1997.18
Total resources Expended	12,531	78,700	3482.47	40602.73

Movement of Balances				
Net Incoming resources for year	-870	-7,122	-1,384	12,505
Fund balance bf 1 Jan	1,298	103,244	2,682	90,739
Fund balance cf 31 Dec	428	96,123	1,298	103,244

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at year end	
BANK BALANCES at 31st December 2024	£
Saffron Account	53,910
Co-op	42,558
Petty Cash	82
Total Assets	96,550
Liabilities	None - Income and expenditure accounting used
Assets	Museum building transferred in January 2021 - see note
Retained funds	£96,550

Note to the Accounts:

The accounts have been prepared with reference to SORP Section 27.12 in relation to the charity reconstruction and merger of the unincorporated charity 1027732 and the incorporated charity 1184842. The heritage asset of the museum building has not been valued and has been transferred from the one charity to the other. There is no requirement to put the building on the balance sheet.

The above accounts have been prepared by the Treasurer and Chairman of the Trustees, who are content with an independent examination rather than a full audit.

Signed Ken Smith Name Ken Smith (On behalf of the Board)

24th April 2025

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A -Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of: **Bakewell & District Historical Society**

On accounts for the year ended: **31 December 2024**

Charity Number: **1184842**

Set out on pages 8 and 9

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2024**. As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of 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 in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities 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.

Signed: B. Sands

Date: 18.3.2025

Name: BRENDA SANDS

Address: 1 YORK ROAD, BROTTON
SALTBURN BY THE SEA TS12 2XF

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

Section B: Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.