

**FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER**  
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
FOR  
**12 MONTHS TO 31st DECEMBER 2023**

## FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER

### Charity Information

#### Trustees

Jeremy David Cotton	Chairman
Joseph James David Matile	Treasurer
Paula Ball	
Raymond John Chamberlain	
Stuart Alan Jones	
Shirley Ann O'Mara	
Bronwen Brazell Ross	
Karen Jane Welch	
Peter William Lawrence	Appointed 27.06.23
Ian Richard Law	Appointed 27.06.23
Rev Elizabeth Ann Chamberlain	Resigned 27.06.23
Rita Hancocks	Resigned 27.06.23
David Frank Salter	Resigned 27.06.23

#### Independent Examiner

K. H Goldsworthy  
Incorporated Financial Accountant  
Goldsworthy & Co  
30 Fotherley Road  
Shenstone  
Lichfield  
WS14 0NJ

#### Principal Office

25C 24A Main Street  
Shenstone  
Lichfield  
Staffordshire  
WS14 0LZ

#### Registered Charity Number

1187173

## **FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER**

### **The report of the trustees for the 12 months to 31st December 2023**

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the 12 months to 31st December 2023. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Reporting Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2015).

### **Objectives and Activities of the Charity**

Restore, preserve, repair, maintain and improve for the wider public, the historic grade 2\* listed (at risk) old church tower (list entry number 10388300); specifically to : develop the community use of the tower for the advancement of the education of the public; as an intimate centre for the arts; as a historical learning centre and as a viewing platform on the established Shenstone Heritage Trail

### **Achievements and Performance**

During 2022, we completed the renovation of the Tower, started fitting it out, and opened it to the public. During 2023 we continued to fit out the Tower to enhance a visitor's experience, and anticipate completing this in 2024:

1. We have installed benches, information boards and a notice board outside the Tower;
2. We have installed uplighters to softly illuminate the outside of the Tower.
3. We have planned 13 historical information boards to be fitted on each floor inside the Tower, and we have installed half of them.
4. We are installing a video system which will allow people to experience the Tower without having to climb the stairs;
5. We will install a toposcope to explain the view from the top of the Tower.

We have also continued to open the Tower to visitors on the first Saturday of each month and a Sunday afternoon during the summer. The key is also available from the local library desk. In addition, we continue to open the Tower to visiting groups at a time that suits them, and for example we have hosted an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party and a number of visits from Scout and Guide groups. Ensuring we are open at a time to suit our visitors is an important part of what we do, and we will continue to talk to our community and be creative about how we can do this.

We are blessed with a good number of volunteers who look after all aspects of our operation; including Trustees, historical research and production of information boards, cleaning and opening the Tower for visitors.

In all this, we recognise and thank St John's for its support.

The Trustees are aware of the charity Commission guidance on public benefit and make decision with due regard to this guidance.

### Fund Raising

We completed fundraising for the renovation prior to starting the work in 2021. Some of the grants were paid on completion of the works; and the grant from Lichfield District Council within the 2023 accounts relates to this initial renovation.

We are also very grateful to Pilgrim's Trust, Shenstone Parish Council, and the Staffordshire Community fund for further grants we have received towards fitting out of the Tower for visitors. We have also been awarded a significant grant from the Heritage Lottery to fund the historical information boards; this is paid on completion of the installation of the boards, which will be within 2024.

We also continue to receive donations from the local community and visitors.

These grants and donations will enable us to complete the fitting out of the Tower and to build some reserves towards future operating costs and good maintenance.

In all our fund-raising we are cognizant of the Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator's guidance; and we are registered with the Fundraising Regulator. All our funds are raised to support our objectives of repairing and opening the Tower for the public.

### Financial Review

The accounts show income of £12,880 and expenditure of £29,468; thereby showing a deficit of income over expenditure of £16,588.

This leaves funds of £24,654. We have budgeted each activity in fitting out of the Tower, and when this is complete, we estimate we will have around £15,000 of charitable funds, which we will use for ongoing maintenance and running costs.

The principal risks facing the charity are laid out in our Risk management register which is updated annually. The main risk is that ongoing costs exceed our income and reserves, but at the moment we are budgeting all costs carefully and are well placed.

The charity has a reserves policy, and we aim to carry sufficient reserves to complete the fitting out, and then limited reserves to ensure timely ongoing maintenance and to buffer the ongoing costs of the charity.

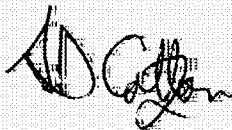
The charity has an investment policy to keep any funds in its Unity bank savings account.

The only payment to Trustees were to recompense expenses for which receipts were submitted.

### Future Plans

During 2024, we will complete the fitting out of the Tower, and continue to advertise and open the Tower for the community and visitors from wider afield, to enjoy.

JID Cotton  
Chairman



Dated

5th June 2024

## FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER

I Report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of  
Shenstone Tower for the year ended 31st December 2023

#### Responsibilities and basis of report:

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

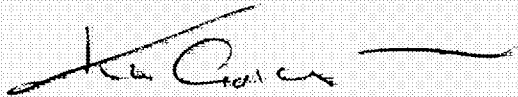
I report in respect of my examination of the Charities accounts carried out under section 145  
of the Act and in carrying out of my examination I have followed all applicable directions  
given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

#### Independent Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination and I can confirm that no material matters have come to  
my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any  
material respect :

- 1 Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section  
130 of the Act or
- 2 The accounts do not accord with those records or
- 3 The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the  
form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports)  
Regulations 2008 other than any requirements 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 respect in order to enable proper understanding of  
the accounts to be reached.



K H Goldsworthy FFA FIPA FTA  
Goldsworthy & Co  
Incorporated Financial Accountants  
30 Fotherley Road  
Shenstone  
Lichfield  
WS14 0NJ

Date

5/6/24

**FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
12 MONTHS TO 31st DECEMBER**

	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>
	£		£
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants :-			
Pilgrim Trust	5,000		5,000
Lichfield DC	5,000		
Shenstone Parish Council	1,000		
Community Foundation of Staffordshire	1,000		1,000
Historic England	-		233,001
HS2	-		56,170
Leche Trust	-		2,000
Donations	880		2,399
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES:</b>	<b>12,880</b>		<b>299,570</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Groundworks	16,497		306,800
Landscaping			9,000
Fixtures & Fittings/Fitting Out	7,703		3,762
Professional Fees			23,534
Insurance	4,842		4,941
Electricity	150		575
Bank Charges	72		72
Sundry Expenses	204	29,468	1,567
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	<b>16,588</b>		<b>50,681</b>

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER**

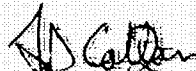
	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>
	£		£
<b>The assets and liabilities of the charity</b>			
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Cash at Bank and in hand	24,654		41,242
	<b>24,654</b>		<b>41,242</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted Income Funds -brought forward	41,242		91,923
Excess of Expenditure over Income	(16,588)		(50,681)
<b>Total Charity Funds:</b>	<b>24,654</b>		<b>41,242</b>

**Note:-**

Total Direct Costs to Date of the Tower Renovation 546,067

J D Cotton - Chairman

Approved by the Trustees on

5th June 2024  


## FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER

### Notes to the Accounts - 31st December 2023

#### 1. Accounting Policies

##### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The accounts of the charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019, Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011'

##### **Accounting Convention**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

##### **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the charity is exempt from Income and Corporation Tax to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity and it is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities

##### **Funds Structure**

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held to finance both working capital and capital investment.

##### **Income Accounting Policy**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.