

**FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER**  
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
FOR  
**12 MONTHS TO 31st DECEMBER 2024**

## **FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER**

### **Charity Information**

#### **Trustees**

Jeremy David Cotton	Chairman
Joseph James David Matile	Treasurer
Paula Ball	
Stuart Alan Jones	
Ian Richard Law	
Peter William Lawrence	
Shirley Ann O'Mara	
Bronwen Brazell Ross	
Karen Jane Welch	
Raymond John Chamberlain	Resigned 05.06.24

#### **Independent Examiner**

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

#### **Principal Office**

25C 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 2024

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the 12 months to 31st December 2024. 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

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### Achievements and Performance

We completed the renovation of the Tower in October 2022 and since then have been fitting it out to enhance a visitor's experience, and opening it to the public.

We have installed benches, 3 outdoor information boards and a notice board outside the Tower; uplighters to softly illuminate the outside of the Tower; historical information boards on each floor inside the Tower, and we are installing a video system which will allow people to experience the Tower without having to climb the stairs and a toposcope to explain the view from the top of the Tower. We also offer graveyard and church tours to enhance a visitor's experience.

We continue 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 have hosted a number of visits from Community and Family 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. We are well supported from our local community.

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 decisions with due regard to this guidance.

#### Fund Raising

We are also very grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Shenstone Parish Council, Staffordshire Community Fund and the Shenstone Festival for further grants we have received towards fitting out of the Tower for visitors.

We also continue to receive generous 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 £9,695 and expenditure of £11,151; thereby showing a deficit of income over expenditure of £1,457.

This leaves funds of £23,197. We have budgeted the remainder of fitting out of the Tower, and when 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.

J D Cotton



Dated

22nd September 2028

## **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 2024

#### **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 keep 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

# FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER

## STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 12 MONTHS TO 31st DECEMBER

	2024		2023
	£		£
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants :-			
National Lottery Heritage Fund	7,254		
Community Foundation of Staffordshire	150		1,000
Shenstone Parish Council	1,000		1,000
Shenstone Village Festival	150		-
Donations	1,141		880
Pilgrim Trust	-		5,000
Lichfield DC	-		5,000
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>9,695</b>		<b>12,880</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Groundworks	-		16,497
Fixtures & Fittings/Fitting Out	5,609		7,703
Insurance	4,549		4,842
Alarm Maintenance	418		-
Advertising/Marketing	285		-
Electricity	150		150
Bank Charges	71		72
Sundry Expenses	69	11,151	204
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	<b>1,457</b>		<b>16,588</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER

	2024		2023
	£		£
<b>The assets and liabilities of the charity</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank and in hand	23,197		24,654
	<b>23,197</b>		<b>24,654</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted Income Funds -brought forward	24,654		41,242
Excess of Expenditure over Income	(1,457)		(16,588)
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>	<b>23,197</b>		<b>24,654</b>

Note:-

Total Direct Costs to Date of the Tower Renovation  
and fitting out

551,676

J D Cotton - Chairman

Approved by the Trustees on

## FRIENDS OF SHENSTONE TOWER

### Notes to the Accounts - 31st December 2024

#### 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.