



Blandford Forum Museum, Heritage and Arts Trust
Bere's Yard, The Market Place, Blandford Forum,
Dorset, DT11 7HQ
Charity Reg No 1190608
Phone: 01258 450388 or 01258 458911
Email: contact@blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk
Website: blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk

AGM

Chairman's Report for 2021/22 – Joy Reynolds

First, I should apologise to members that I will be unable to join you at this year's AGM, due to an inescapable diary clash, but I am extremely grateful to Bob Adams, our Vice-Chair, for agreeing to step in and chair the meeting this year. I'd also like to acknowledge Alan Cross's help in organising the venue for the AGM and our speaker for tonight.

Despite the continuing vicissitudes of Covid 19 and Lockdown, 2021 was a busy year for the Blandford Museum. The museum was closed from the beginning of 2021 until May 2021. It opened on 18 May and remained open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays until two weeks before Christmas, when we had to close, due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteer stewards, without whom the museum could not exist. They have continued to provide a wonderful service, despite the complications of sanitising, wearing masks and social distancing. I would particularly like to thank Joy Dickenson, who has worked enthusiastically as a steward for many years but has now had to step back, due to family commitments. I also want to thank Clara Tavernor, who has started a newsletter for the stewards to make sure they are fully up to date and of course, our Secretary, Nessa Hickish who has done a brilliant job, organising the steward rota and will continue to do so, despite stepping down from her job as Secretary.

We are always on the lookout for new stewards. We are lucky to have attracted some new stewards lately and are now able to open on Fridays, allowing us to open four days a week. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please give their names to Nessa.

For several years, the trustees have taken the view that we should not be charging an entrance fee to the museum and comparison data shows that visitor numbers are much higher when there is no charge for entrance. This means that shop sales and donations are vital contributions to our income. Terry Cooper, Lin Johnson and Anne Shire have done an excellent job managing the shops, reviewing sales and searching for new lines to sell. They are particularly keen to provide a shopfront for local crafts and welcome approaches from crafters who are interested in selling their creations in the shop. We would also like members to visit the shop when looking for gifts.

Another important source of income for the museum is our programme of events and talks. An events group has been established and an exciting programme of talks, with supper beforehand, has been drawn up for this year. The next one is this week, on Friday 20 May in the Parish Rooms, when Dr Anthony Firth will be talking about his work for English Heritage, on the archaeological and historical sites by the River Stour, as a case study for future national work looking at historical watercourses. In addition, the Archaeology Group has also organised a series of fascinating talks throughout the year.

Alongside these talks, the Museum also has a programme of social events: coffee mornings on the second Saturday of the month and drinks and supper on the last



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Friday evenings
in the month during the summer in the Museum Garden. Thanks go to all the members who regularly volunteer to help organise these events. We would also like to thank members of the Victorian Garden Group who work so hard to provide a lovely setting for the coffee mornings and summer evenings in the garden. It is also a beautiful peaceful spot to rest on the days when the Museum is open. If you have not yet attended one of these events, we urge you to come and join us and make the most of your Museum membership.

We also have a great programme of monthly art exhibitions in the Museum, showcasing the work of local artists. Our thanks go to Mike Lofthouse for his work organising these exhibitions, which cover a wide range of media and artistic styles.

One development this year which we are very proud of, is the redesign of our website. This has been the initiative of our webmistress, Shirley Dickenson, who has done a magnificent job of pulling together information about the Museum, communicating it in a clear and attractive way and keeping it up to date. It is a great way to find out what is going on at the Museum and if you have not already visited the site, please go to <https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/>

Another initiative in the past year has been the development of the Stour Valley Project, where a group of members are working together to explore the influence of the River Stour on the development of Blandford and surrounding villages, looking at the archaeology, natural history, economic, agricultural, and social history of the area. One of the offshoots of this work is another group which is working on a Stour Valley Sampler, a tapestry of the middle Stour, looking especially at the role of medieval women. If anyone is interested in joining in this work, please contact me on joy.e.reynolds@gmail.com

I should at this point highlight a recent development, which is the merger of the Blandford and District Civic Society with the Blandford Forum Museum, Heritage and Arts Trust, which took place at the end of March 2022. The involvement of the Civic Society will allow the Trust to focus on the external, architectural environment in Blandford. The Civic Society will remain as one of the groups within the Trust family.

The Museum has been very successful in attracting grant funding from the several sources. In addition to core funding from Dorset County Council and Blandford Forum Town Council, we have received several grants to compensate us for lost business during lockdown and grants for specific projects from Dorset Museum Association and South West Museum Development. The latest of these, is the South West Museum Development green grant for the Blandford CAN (Climate Action Now). This is a partnership with Blandford Environmental Trust, the Civic Society, Blandford War on Waste, Clean Up Blandford, Blandford Library and Wessex Water to involve local people in lectures, workshops and an exhibition on ways we can improve environmental sustainability in Blandford.

None of this would have been possible the commitment and fund-raising skills of our Director, Sylvia Hixson Andrews. Sylvia does a tremendous job of chasing down funding opportunities, as part of her central role in managing and developing the



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Museum,
alongside our curators: Michael Le Bas, Peter Andrews, Tessa Pearce, and Carolyn Martin.

We are also fortunate in securing a wonderful finance team. Kirsty Astin took on the role of Treasurer in Spring 2021, assisted by Heather Packwood, who also works with John Tanner to keep our membership information up to date. They bring their financial skills to keep our resources on track and to manage our budget effectively.

Two trustees are stepping down at this AGM – Dave Butler and Nessa Hickish.

Dave has done invaluable work supporting the refurbishment of the museum, during lockdown. He has always been available to help with building projects, sorting out the problems that arise in the management of any historic building. We wish him all the best and hope he will continue to be involved in the museum. While talking about building works, I should also mention Dave Hiscock, who has worked tirelessly with Sylvia to get plans to install solar heating panels on the Museum roof, approved and funded.

Nessa Hickish has been a trustee of the Museum for fifteen years, and for many of those was Chair of the Board of Trustees. When she stepped down as Chair, she took on the role of Secretary, as well as organising the stewards' rota and having a central role in the Victorian Garden Group. She is going to continue with the last two roles, but her very valuable contributions in shaping the Museum will be much missed.

Writing this report has reinforced my opinion of how important Blandford Forum Museum, Heritage, and Arts Trust in the life of our community. Everyone involved in the Museum gives their time and we are very fortunate to have so many willing and loyal volunteers who help us tell the history of this area.

**Closing Income and expenditure, for year ending 31 December 2021, for
Blandford Museum, Heritage and Arts Trust, charity number 1190608**

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <u>Income</u> | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Grants:Blandford Town Forum | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Grants:Rural Proofing Resilience Project Payment | | 200 | | |
| Grants:Originally for Fund Raising Workshop, used for rebranding | | 300 | | |
| Grants:Dorset County Council re Covid | 9,000 | 10,000 | | |
| Grants:Heritage Grant | | 8,000 | | |
| Grants:Dorset County Council | 498 | 1,334 | | |
| Grants:DMA Grant 2019 | | | 2,480 | |
| Grants:106 Funding | | | 2,000 | 3,000 |
| Grants:Leader Grant | | | 20,197 | |
| Grants: Local Restrictions Support | 4,097 | | | |
| Grants: Restart Grant | 8,000 | | | |
| Grants: Small Grant Big Improvement | 998 | | | |
| Interest | 120 | 846 | 756 | 879 |
| Gift Aid | - | 334 | 1,503 | 946 |
| Subscriptions | 1,690 | 1,468 | 1,291 | 1,243 |
| Donations | 2,388 | 1,181 | 4,276 | 2,302 |
| Honour & Friendship Chapter donation | | 0 | 150 | |
| Compensation from Barclays | | 50 | | |
| Net Income from Activities:- | | | | |
| Fund Raising Events (Gross £1730.57) | (179) | 157 | 371 | 445 |
| Curatorial (Gross £380) | (4,877) | - | 75 | - |
| Education (Gross £233.86) | 120 | (30) | (470) | 48 |
| Talks | - | 165 | 440 | 332 |
| Room Hire in Museum | - | 100 | | |
| Museum Shop Sales (Gross £559.24) | 134 | 230 | 1,299 | 775 |
| 10% Levy from Archaeology Club (2019 only) | | | 66 | |
| 10% Levy from Garden Club (2019 only) | | | 186 | |
| Adjustment in value of Stock up to 2020 | | -2,631 | | |
| Increase in value of Stock as at 31/12/21 as per Square | 3,006 | | | |
| Net Restricted Income:- | | | | |
| Railway | | 35 | 267 | 254 |
| Archaeology Club (Gross £5.30) | (455) | 238 | 318 | 541 |
| Garden Club (Gross £1088.64) | 253 | (177) | (406) | 678 |
| Total Income | 26,793 | 23,801 | 36,800 | 13,443 |

Expenditure

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Utilities & Council Tax & Insurance | (5,637) | (4,491) | (5,069) | (5,253) |
| Office & Admin Expenses | (5,249) | (907) | (1,627) | (2,281) |
| Building Maintenance | (3,109) | (2,259) | (3,988) | (1,092) |
| Hospitality | | (53) | - | (190) |
| Sundry Expenditure | (25) | (74) | (82) | (210) |
| Curatorial | 0 | (3,150) | (1,365) | (1,531) |
| Publicity/Advertising | (1,310) | (1,008) | (1,371) | (1,118) |
| Grant Expenditure | 0 | (5,608) | | |
| Financial Costs - Square Contactless Reader | (5) | (0.76) | | |
| Refurb project | 0 | | (31,295) | (8,247) |
| Total Expenditure | (15,334) | (17,550) | (44,797) | (19,922) |
| <u>(Deficit) /Surplus for year</u> | 11,459 | 6,251 | (7,997) | (6,479) |

Closing Balance Sheet, as at 31 December 2021, for Blandford Museum, Heritage and Arts Trust, charity number 1190608

Current Assets

| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
|---|-------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bank/Savings balances | | | | |
| Current Account: Barclays a/c | | 70 | 21,380 | 8,635 |
| Current Account: Lloyds main a/c | | 24,615 | | |
| Current Account: Lloyds 2 a/c re Archaeology Club | 2,070 | 2,117 | | |
| Current Account: Lloyds 2 a/c re Garden Club | 2,920 | 2,428 | | |
| Current Account: Lloyds new CIO a/c | 4,903 | 483 | | |
| Virgin Money Account (tfrd to CIO a/c during 2020) | 70,088 | 50,535 | 49,727 | 54,099 |
| Bath Building Society (tfrd to CIO a/c during 2020) | 25,888 | 17,215 | 17,176 | 37,048 |
| Petty Cash | 25 | 20 | 50 | 49 |
| Total Bank | 105,894.05 | 97,483 | 88,334 | 99,831 |
| Stock - As per Square | 4,824 | 1,818 | 1,153 | 852 |
| Total Current Assets | 110,718 | 99,301 | 89,487 | 100,683 |

Current Liabilities

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Creditors | 445 | 486 | 1,018 | 122 |
|-----------|-----|-----|-------|-----|

Net Current Assets (Current Assets less Current Liabilities)

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | 110,273 | 98,814 | 88,469 | 100,561 |
| Accumulated Fund | 98,814 | 92,563 | 100,560 | 107,039 |
| (Deficit) /Surplus for year | 11,459 | 6,251 | -7,997 | -6,479 |
| | 110,273 | 98,814 | 92,563 | 100,560 |

The foregoing Balance Sheet together with the Income & Expenditure Account have been properly prepared from the Books and Vouchers of Blandford Forum Museum Trust and are in accordance therewith.



Dr S Hixson Andrews
Director



K Astin
Treasurer



C Cross
Auditor



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

The Blandford Forum Museum, Heritage and Arts Trust

On accounts for the year ended

31st December 2021

Charity no (if any)

1190608

Set out on pages

Accounted for by the independent examiner

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

CA Cross

Date:

15.1.24

Name:

Mrs Carol Cross

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

(if any):

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Address: | 12 Old Bakery Close |
| | Pimperne |
| | Blandford Dorset DT11 8BS |

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| 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. | |
|--|--|