

Thank you all for coming tonight. The museum is very grateful for all the support given by its members and volunteers.

At the start of this report, I would like to commemorate three stalwart members of the museum, who sadly died in the last six weeks of 2022. Tony Owen, had been President of the Museum Trust for several years before he became ill; Anne Shire had been a steward for several years and helped manage the museum shop and Michael Le Bas, who had been our Deputy Curator for over twenty years, also had the freedom of Blandford for his contribution to local historical studies. They are all greatly missed.

2022 continued to be a busy time for Blandford Town Museum, opening four days a week: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The number of visitors doubled from 2021 to 2022, reflecting the greater tourist activity after lockdown.

We are constantly on the lookout for new stewards, as the Museum cannot open without them, but we are fortunate in having a dedicated group of stewards who work really hard to make the visitor's experience to the Museum, interesting and rewarding. Their success is mirrored in the many complimentary comments we receive. Praise is due to Nessa Hickish and Clara Tavernor for their work in organising the stewards. The trustees are also planning a volunteer recruitment drive for 2023, which will include a focus on newcomers to Blandford on the new estates which are being built in the area.

We need to thank our curatorial team, Tessa Pearce and Carolyn Martin, who work weekly to maintain our collections and create our exhibitions, which is the core of why people come to the museum, and is what so many visitors comment favourably on. In addition, our archivists: Mark Churchill, Michael Le Bas, Pippa Lausen, Carol Argles, and John Tory, who, with input from Carolyn Martin and Tessa Pearce, answer queries about Blandford and its past and its residents, from all over the world. We get several of these each month and it is a time consuming task to reply to each!

Our learning team works with school groups and young people who come to do their work experience at the museum. Many thanks to Nigel Connelly, Sue Fletcher, Anne Quinney and Chrissie Wathen-Neal.

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 and as I said earlier, Anne's contribution will be sadly missed.

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. In September, Veronica Strang, a world renowned cultural anthropologist gave a talk on Living with the River: New Ways of Thinking about water, which drew on her fieldwork on the River Stour.

In October, we hosted a talk by Dr Steve Poole of the University of the West of England about the riots which took place in various locations, in 1831, prior to the Great Reform of 1832. Dr Poole gave a vivid commentary on the riot that took place in Blandford on 17 October 1831 and the day after the talk he led a guided tour of the key locations in that riot. Two Blandford men were transported to Van Dieman's Land, after being arrested for riotous behaviour and the Museum has now established links with descendants of one of them, who live in Australia. The UWE Team also brought with them an exhibition about the events of 1831, which was on display in the Corn Exchange for several weeks after the talk. Work is

also underway on a sound tour of Blandford, where visitors will be able to listen on their smart phones to the story of the Blandford riot, as they pass key places, where the events took place. The Museum is also forming a 1831 Research Group to work with the UWE team and carry out genealogical research on key players in the riot.

In addition, our Archaeology Group hosted talks on:

- Finding Mesolithic People under the Solent
- The Real Roman Britain: a skeletal and isotopic analysis of rural and urban populations
- Experimental archaeology at Wytch Farm

Members of the group also took part in an exploratory dig at Tarrant Launceston, which produced finds from the Early Neolithic period and some Bronze Age flints.

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 Friday evenings in the month during the summer in the Museum Garden. Thanks go to the members of the Museum's Victorian Garden Group who work so hard to provide a lovely setting for the coffee mornings and summer evenings in the garden.

The latest project for the Museum Garden Group is to change two areas bordered by paths and each with a bench for quiet contemplation. They will be developed to demonstrate cultivation and planting suitable for our changing climate. With increased temperatures and less predictable rainfall there is an urgent need for UK gardeners to use plants with climate resilience. These can be readily available familiar garden plants, rather than more expensive and less available alternatives. Changing to sustainable techniques will reduce the amount of water and time needed to tend the plants. Work started in autumn 2022, to design these areas. The planting will be resilient to dry conditions using mostly flowering plants very attractive to pollinating insects. Progress will be recorded and regularly updated on the Museum website and Facebook, as well as in the Garden itself

Our webmistress, Shirley Dickenson, continues to do 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. The address is <https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/>

Work continues on 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 and to produce an electronic exhibition about the river, for display in the museum. 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.

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, has been well accepted and has boosted museum membership. 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. In August, this group organised a guided geological tour of Blandford and in September, a guided Town Centre Heritage Walk.

The Museum has been successful in attracting grant funding from the Southwest Museum Development green grant for the Blandford CAN (Climate Action Now). A new Blandford Museum Environmental Group has been set up to work on events and projects with an environmental focus such as sustainability fairs, tree planting, rubbish

collection, and working to make Blandford a “Plastic Free” town. The Group, which incorporates Blandford War on Waste and the Clean Up Blandford Campaign, will also arrange craft and children’s events, lectures, and discussions on environmental topics. In August, the Museum helped organise two environmental fairs in Blandford and on 17 December, a Have a Green Christmas event was held at the museum.

One big step towards sustainability has been the installation of solar panels on the rear face of the museum roof. We are already reaping the dividends of the solar panels, as our fuel bills have reduced.

As a result of all the activities at the Blandford Town Museum, we are seeing a growth in our membership, which is very heartening.

Before I finish, I would like to say a few words of thanks to particular people. Thank you to Tim Coats and John Tanner, who have been trustees for some time now but are stepping down due to personal reasons. Also Kirsty Astin, who has done sterling work as our treasurer for the past two years and will much missed. Thankyou also to the four people who are putting their names forward to be trustees in the coming year: Gillian Jones (as Garden Club rep), Martyn Gleaden (Stewards rep), Heather Packwood, who has done a brilliant job managing our Membership list and is now putting her name forward to be the named Membership Secretary and Franki Campbell who is putting her name forward as Treasurer. I must not forget all the work Dave Hiscock has done to manage our energy costs and get the solar panels installed. And last but definitely not least I want to pay tribute to our Director, Sylvia Hixson Andrews, who is the driving force behind this museum and has continued to give her all in the past year despite several periods of ill health.

Closing Income and expenditure, for year ending 31 December 2022, for Blandford Museum, Heritage and Arts Trust, charity number 1190608

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<u>Income</u>		£	£	£	£
Grants:Blandford Town Forum SLA	2,000	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: Dorset County Council Organisational Grant	10,502				
Grants:Heritage Grant			8,000		
Grants:Dorset County Council		498	1,334		
Grants:DMA Grant	500			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			
Grants: CAN2022 Civic Society	500				
Interest	369	120	846	756	879
Gift Aid		-	334	1,503	946
Subscriptions	1,874	1,690	1,468	1,291	1,243
Donations	1,794	2,388	1,181	4,276	2,302
Honour & Friendship Chapter donation			0	150	
Other income	196				
Compensation from Barclays			50		
Net Income from Activities:-					
Fund Raising Events & Sundry	1,838	(179)	157	371	445
Curatorial	(2,424)	(4,877)	-	75	-
Education	(294)	120	(30)	(470)	48
Talks	284	-	165	440	332
Room Hire in Museum		-	100		
Museum Shop Sales	548	134	230	1,299	775
10% Levy from Archaeology Club (2019 only)				66	
10% Levy from Garden Club (2019 only)				186	
Decrease in value of stock	-346		-2,631		
Increase in value of stock		3,006			
Net Restricted Income:-					
Railway			35	267	254
Archaeology Club	(595)	(455)	238	318	541
Garden Club	(314)	253	(177)	(406)	678
Civic Society	9,131				
Total Income	25,563	26,793	23,801	36,800	13,443

Expenditure

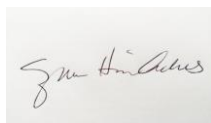
Utilities & Council Tax & Insurance	(6,338)	(5,637)	(4,491)	(5,069)	(5,253)
Office & Admin Expenses	(2,838)	(5,249)	(907)	(1,627)	(2,281)
Building Maintenance	(10,850)	(3,109)	(2,259)	(3,988)	(1,092)
Hospitality			(53)		(190)
Sundry Expenditure		(25)	(74)	(82)	(210)
Curatorial		0	(3,150)	(1,365)	(1,531)
Publicity/Advertising	(1,505)	(1,310)	(1,008)	(1,371)	(1,118)
Grant Expenditure		0	(5,608)		
Financial Costs - Square Contactless Reader	(42)	(5)	(0.76)		
Refurb project		0		(31,295)	(8,247)
Honorarium	(1,500)				

Total Expenditure	(23,072)	(15,334)	(17,550)	(44,797)	(19,922)
<u>(Deficit) /Surplus for year</u>	2,491	11,459	6,251	(7,997)	(6,479)

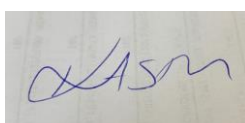
Closing Balance Sheet, as at 31 December 2022, for Blandford Museum, Heritage and Arts Trust,
charity number 1190608

<u>Current Assets</u>	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Bank/Savings balances</u>					
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	1,916	2,070	2,117		
Current Account: Lloyds 2 a/c re Garden Club	2,254	2,920	2,428		
Current Account: Lloyds 2 a/c re Civic Society	9,131				
Current Account: Lloyds new CIO a/c	4,129	4,903	483		
Virgin Money Account (tfrrd to CIO a/c during 2020)	70,290	70,088	50,535	49,727	54,099
Bath Building Society (tfrrd to CIO a/c during 2020)	21,048	25,888	17,215	17,176	37,048
Petty Cash (Including Arch Petty Cash)	152	25	20	50	49
Total Bank	108,920.03	105,894.05	97,483	88,334	99,831
Stock - As per Square	4,478	4,824	1,818	1,153	852
<u>Total Current Assets</u>	113,398	110,718	99,301	89,487	100,683
<u>Current Liabilities</u>					
Creditors	634	445	486	1,018	122
<u>Net Current Assets (Current Assets less Current Liabilities)</u>	112,764	110,273	98,814	88,469	100,561
Accumulated Fund	110,273	98,814	92,563	100,560	107,039
(Deficit) /Surplus for year	2,491	11,459	6,251	-7,997	-6,479
	112,764	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



R Hatchard
Accountant



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

THE BLANDFORD FORUM MUSEUM, HERITAGE AND ARTS TRUST

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1190608

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2022**.

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

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:

rhatchard

Date:

31st October 2023

Name:

Robert Hatchard

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

ACCA

Address:

13a Mill Lane

Wimborne
BH21 1LN

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.