

# **THE CENTRE FOR MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE  
PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 to 31 MARCH 2025**

# **The Centre for Maidenhead Heritage**

## **Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the Period**

### **1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The Centre for Maidenhead Heritage is an Association Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission. It was registered on 25 January 2021. Following a vote by members of Maidenhead Heritage Trust in 2019 the CIO was created in order to assume responsibility for the activities of the Trust, which was an unincorporated body.

### **Objectives and activities**

The purposes for which the charity was set up are: to advance the education of the public by providing a heritage museum for the exhibition to the public of objects, documents, photographs and other items connected with the history of Maidenhead and its surrounding districts.

The principal activities undertaken by the charity are:

- providing physical access to the museum to members and the general public and to the collections;
- providing online access to an extensive catalogue of historical documents and artefacts;
- giving talks and presentations to interested groups, ranging from schools and youth groups to retired adults and care homes. This engagement with the whole local community is of the utmost importance
- presenting the history of the Second World War aircraft ferrying organisation Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), which had its headquarters at nearby White Waltham airfield from February 1940 until November 1945.

Throughout, the trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

We rely heavily on the input of a band of volunteers without whom the museum would have to cease to operate. We are extremely grateful for all the support they provide. They assist us in multiple ways, including:

- setting up and dismantling exhibits;
- manning the museum on a daily basis;
- answering queries;
- handling sales through our online shop and the museum shop;
- running the ATA gallery and the Spitfire simulator;
- delivering historical talks and workshops to schools, youth groups and adult groups.

- assisting with bookkeeping and accounts.

In the year 2025-2025 we employed two part-time staff, a manager/administrator and a curator. We owe them a debt of thanks for all their efforts. The curator left our employment in April 2025.

### **Achievements and performance**

The total number of visitors between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2024 was very similar to the previous year and therefore still below pre-Covid levels. However the number of school and young people (ie cubs/brownies/etc) workshops and talks to adult groups increased over the previous period. We continued to provide access to a wealth of historical information and artefacts for the benefit of all of our visitors, whether in person or remotely via our two interconnected websites.

The internationally important ATA Collection continued to grow. In particular, we know how much people outside the UK appreciate access to the ATA archive because many of the pilots who served with ATA came to Britain from overseas during the Second World War.

We also receive requests for access to the archive for television programmes and for research purposes and regularly cooperate with the authors of fiction based on the ATA story. The Spitfire simulator, part of the ATA gallery, branded as *Grandma Flew Spitfires*, continues to be extremely popular with people of all ages and visitors from all over the world.

### **Financial review**

The enclosed financial statements cover the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, during which an admission charge for all visitors was introduced to support the balance sheet. Charges for group visits and talks to outside groups were also increased in line with inflation.

The balance sheet has been adversely affected by a substantial increase in support costs (i.e. repairs and maintenance, energy, other services).

As the SoFA shows, our principal sources of income are entry charges and Spitfire simulator charges, donations, cultural and educational activities, and to a smaller degree than previously physical and online shop sales.

The popular Spitfire simulator contributes a useful sum to the balance sheet. The trustees will seek ways of increasing the utilisation of the simulator and therefore the income from it.

As explained more fully in the notes to the accounts, these financial statements reflect the day-to-day operations of the museum which operates 5 days per week from freehold premises at 18 Park Street, Maidenhead purchased in December 2006 by Maidenhead Heritage Trust with the help of a Loan from the Baylis Trust, which is secured on the property. The formal legal processes of transferring this loan and ownership of the property to the CIO have not yet been completed and, accordingly, these accounts do not include the property or the loan. Reserves equivalent to the net equity position in the property have also not been transferred but will be once the legal formalities have been completed, estimated by early 2026. The book value of the property as at 1 October 2021

was £700,561 and the Loan is £455,000, so the net figure of reserves still held by the Trustees of Maidenhead Heritage Trust is £245,561. The loan is interest-free. Excluding the property and the loan, the balance of reserves totalling some £94,888 was transferred from the Maidenhead Heritage Trust with effect from 1 October 2021.

A deficit for the year to 31 March 2025 has arisen amounting to £20,304.

We do not have a specific policy determining the level of reserves that we should hold but we are always conscious to keep annual expenditure within income where at all possible.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. This assumes that the freehold property and the associated Loan are transferred to the CIO. The Loan will be repayable in December 2026. If Trustees are unable to renegotiate or repay the loan in the meantime, the property may have to be sold to repay the loan.

The principal risks currently facing the CIO are:

- whether we will be able to repay the Loan from the Baylis Trust by December 2026; and
- difficulties raising substantial funds at a time when people's incomes are under continuing pressure due to the cost-of-living crisis.

To address these risks Trustees must

- 1) Strengthen the board of trustees by recruiting at least 3 additional trustees,
- 2) undertake major fund raising initiatives with the utmost urgency,
- 3) open discussions with the Baylis Trust CIO as soon as the property and loan transfers discussed above have been completed.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The CIO is governed by a Constitution adopted on 25 January 2021.

The Trustees are all members of the CIO but as an Association CIO we have members other than the Trustees. The liability of all members in the event of the CIO having to be wound up is zero.

In selecting new trustees we endeavour to broaden the board's business and charitable experience as much as possible. Members or existing trustees can appoint trustees. There must be at least three trustees at all times and no more than 12.

## **Reference and administrative details**

The CIO is registered in England and Wales. The registered charity number is 1193240. The charity operates the Maidenhead Heritage Centre and as the Air Transport Auxiliary museum and gallery.

Our principal address is: Maidenhead Heritage Centre, 18 Park Street, Maidenhead SL6 1SL.

## Trustees

The names of the current CIO Trustees, who were appointed on 25 January 2021 and who were in office throughout the period since incorporation are:

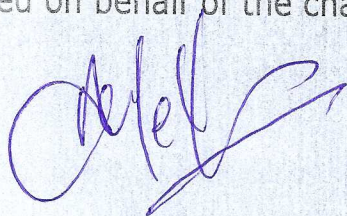
- Alan Mellins (Chairman)
- Richard Poad MBE
- Stewart White

Operating with the minimum number of Trustees is not a satisfactory situation; this was emphasized in early 2025 when the Chairman became ill and was temporarily unable to fulfil all his duties. Potential additional trustees have been identified and should be in position by early 2026.

Richard Poad is one of five people who hold the legal title to 18 Park Street, along with four former trustees of Maidenhead Heritage Trust. They have held the title since the property was acquired in 2006. As explained above, steps are being taken to transfer legal ownership to the CIO.

**The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above**

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees by Alan Mellins (Chairman)



Date 22 December 2024

# THE CENTRE FOR MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

|                                     |       | 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025      |                     |               | 2024          |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                     | Notes | Unrestricted<br>General Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds | £             | Total         |
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>           | 2     |                                    |                     |               |               |
| Donations and legacies              |       | 24,057                             | -                   | 24,057        | 19,905        |
| Subscriptions                       |       | 1,290                              | -                   | 1,290         | 1,175         |
| Cultural and educational activities |       | 13,104                             | -                   | 13,104        | 12,345        |
| Grants                              |       | -                                  | -                   | -             | -             |
| Interest received                   |       | 375                                | -                   | 375           | -             |
| Other trading activities            |       | 2,953                              | -                   | 2,953         | 2,388         |
|                                     |       | <u>41,779</u>                      | <u>-</u>            | <u>41,779</u> | <u>35,813</u> |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>           | 3     |                                    |                     |               |               |
| Expenditure on:                     |       |                                    |                     |               |               |
| Raising funds                       |       | 3,350                              | -                   | 3,350         | 4,462         |
| Staff costs                         |       | 35,944                             | -                   | 35,944        | 32,405        |
| Legal and professional fees         |       | 170                                | -                   | 170           | 3,750         |
| Support costs                       |       | 21,964                             | 654                 | 22,618        | 26,410        |
|                                     |       | <u>61,429</u>                      | <u>654</u>          | <u>62,083</u> | <u>67,027</u> |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                   |       | (19,650)                           | (654)               | (20,304)      | (31,214)      |
| TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS             |       | -                                  | -                   | -             | -             |
| NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS               |       | (19,650)                           | (654)               | (20,304)      | (31,214)      |
| OPENING BALANCE                     |       | 27,091                             | 25,028              | 52,119        | 83,333        |
| CLOSING BALANCE                     |       | <u>7,441</u>                       | <u>24,374</u>       | <u>31,815</u> | <u>52,119</u> |

**THE CENTRE FOR MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

|                                              | NOTES | <u>2025</u> |        | <u>2024</u> |        |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
|                                              |       | £           | £      | £           | £      |
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                          |       |             |        |             |        |
| Other Fixed Assets                           | 4     | 1,963       |        | 2,617       |        |
|                                              |       |             | 1,963  |             | 2,617  |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                        |       |             |        |             |        |
| Stock and collections                        |       | 6,233       |        | 5,934       |        |
| Debtors and prepayments                      |       | 2,167       |        | 1,925       |        |
| Cash at bank and in hand                     |       | 25,833      |        | 43,397      |        |
|                                              |       | 34,233      |        | 51,255      |        |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                   |       |             |        |             |        |
| Creditors and accruals                       |       | (4,381)     |        | (1,753)     |        |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                    |       |             | 29,852 |             | 49,503 |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> |       |             | 31,815 |             | 52,119 |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                            |       |             | 31,815 |             | 52,119 |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>                    |       |             |        |             |        |
| Accumulated fund                             |       |             |        |             |        |
| Brought forward                              |       | 27,091      |        | 57,433      |        |
| Transfer from Restricted Funds               |       | 0           |        |             |        |
| Movement for the period                      |       | (19,650)    |        | (30,342)    |        |
| Closing balance                              |       |             | 7,441  |             | 27,091 |
| <b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>                      | 6     |             |        |             |        |
| Brought forward                              |       | 22,411      |        | 24,708      |        |
| Transfer to Restricted Capital Funds         |       | 0           |        | (2,297)     |        |
| Transfer to Restricted Funds                 |       | 0           |        | 0           |        |
| Movement for the period                      |       | 0           |        | 0           |        |
| Closing balance                              |       |             | 22,411 |             | 22,411 |
| <b>RESTRICTED CAPITAL FUNDS</b>              | 6     |             |        |             |        |
| Brought forward                              |       | 2,617       |        | 1,192       |        |
| Transfer from Restricted Funds               |       | 0           |        | 2,297       |        |
| Movement for the period                      |       | (654)       |        | (872)       |        |
| Closing balance                              |       |             | 1,963  |             | 2,617  |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>                           |       |             | 31,815 |             | 52,119 |

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:-

A Mellins, Chairman

**THE CENTRE FOR MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

- (a) These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011. Figures are stated in pounds sterling. The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP (update bulletin 1) not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows. The Centre for Maidenhead Heritage meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.
- (b) The accounts have been prepared under the going concern basis.
- (c) These statements are for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The Charity took over the operations of Maidenhead Heritage Trust with effect from 1 October 2021. As described in Notes 3 and 4, the freehold property, 18 Park Street, Maidenhead, from which the museum operates, is not reflected in these figures because legal title to the property and a new grant of the Loan from the Baylis Trust, which is to be secured on the property and which was used to help purchase the property originally, have not yet been transferred into The Centre for Maidenhead Heritage.
- (d) Where funds are received for dedicated purposes they are allocated to funds according to the restrictions placed on them by the donor or payer.
- (e) Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Individual items under £500 are expensed in the year acquired.
- |           |     |                  |
|-----------|-----|------------------|
| Equipment | 25% | Reducing balance |
|-----------|-----|------------------|
- (f) Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity (i) becomes entitled to the resources, (ii) it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and (iii) the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- (g) Donated goods and services are not recorded in the accounts because of the difficulties assessing their fair value and because the time and effort to do so would be disproportionate.
- (h) Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.
- (i) The Centre for Maidenhead Heritage is not liable to tax on its income or gains as these are applied for charitable purposes.
- (j) Shop stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

THE CENTRE FOR MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

|                                                        | 2025          | 2024          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                                        | £             | £             |
| <b>Charitable cultural and educational activities:</b> |               |               |
| Grandma Flew Spitfire Simulator and ticket sales       | 8,959         | 7,806         |
| Talks                                                  | 1,509         | 2,244         |
| River trips                                            | 2,325         | 1,370         |
| School visits                                          | 311           | 925           |
|                                                        | <b>13,104</b> | <b>12,345</b> |
|                                                        |               |               |
|                                                        |               |               |
|                                                        |               |               |

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

|                                                                    | 2025          | 2024          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                                                    | £             | £             |
| <b>Raising funds:</b>                                              |               |               |
| Goods for resale                                                   | 940           | 1,573         |
| Advertising and marketing                                          | 1,018         | 791           |
| Cost of events and exhibitions                                     | 1,392         | 2,098         |
|                                                                    | <b>3,350</b>  | <b>4,462</b>  |
|                                                                    |               |               |
| <b>Staff costs</b>                                                 |               |               |
| Wages and salaries                                                 | 35,361        | 31,842        |
| Defined contribution scheme pension contributions                  | 583           | 563           |
|                                                                    | <b>35,944</b> | <b>32,405</b> |
|                                                                    |               |               |
| <b>Support costs:</b>                                              |               |               |
| Property costs                                                     | 14,336        | 16,130        |
| Volunteer expenses                                                 | 131           | 403           |
| Print, post and stationery                                         | 1,100         | 1,503         |
| Telephone                                                          | 837           | 738           |
| Equipment repairs and maintenance                                  | 1,491         | 2,677         |
| Bank charges                                                       | 181           | 11            |
| Credit card and Paypal charges (including rental and support fees) | 834           | 762           |
| Internet and website                                               | 1,595         | 1,373         |
| Depreciation                                                       | 654           | 872           |
| Miscellaneous                                                      | 1,458         | 1,940         |
|                                                                    | <b>22,618</b> | <b>26,409</b> |

All resources expended ultimately relate to running our charitable activities.

**THE CENTRE FOR MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

|                       | <u>Equipment</u> | <u>Total</u>  |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>Cost</b>           | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>      |
| Brought forward       | 99,622           | 99,622        |
| Additions             | -                | -             |
| Disposals             | -                | -             |
| At 31 March 2025      | <u>99,622</u>    | <u>99,622</u> |
| <b>Depreciation</b>   |                  |               |
| Brought forward       | 97,005           | 97,005        |
| Disposals             | -                | -             |
| Charge for Period     | 654              | 654           |
| Disposals             | -                | -             |
| At 31 March 2025      | <u>97,659</u>    | <u>97,659</u> |
| <b>Net Book Value</b> |                  |               |
| At 31 March 2024      | <u>2,617</u>     | <u>2,617</u>  |
| At 31 March 2025      | <u>1,963</u>     | <u>1,963</u>  |

As explained above, the freehold property from which the museum operates has yet to be transferred to TCMH and so has not been reflected in these accounts because the legal title has yet to be transferred. This process is underway.

**4. LOAN GRANT**

The Louis Baylis Maidenhead Advertiser Trust lent the Trustees of the Maidenhead Heritage Trust £455,000 to help finance the purchase and refurbishment of 18 Park Street, Maidenhead. Liability has not yet been formally transferred to The Centre for Maidenhead Heritage but the legal process is underway. Repayment of the loan is to be extended to December 2026. The loan will be secured on the freehold property when that has been transferred to the CIO. The loan must be repaid in full on the earliest of: the charity ceasing business, the property being sold or December 2026.

**5. RESTRICTED FUNDS ANALYSIS**

|                                 | Brought Forward | Transfer in year | Change in period | Carried forward |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                                 | £               | £                | £                | £               |
| <b>Restricted capital funds</b> |                 |                  |                  |                 |
| Grandma Flew Spitfires Exhibit  | <u>2,617</u>    | -                | <u>(654)</u>     | <u>1,963</u>    |
| <b>Other restricted funds</b>   |                 |                  |                  |                 |
| Grandma Flew Spitfires Appeal   | 12,870          | --               | -                | 12,870          |
| Lobby                           | 5,859           | -                | -                | 5,859           |
| Other                           | 3,682           | -                | -                | 3,682           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <u>22,411</u>   | -                | -                | <u>22,411</u>   |

**THE CENTRE FOR MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**6. TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING FROM MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE TRUST**

In furtherance of a resolution passed by the members of Maidenhead Heritage Trust at their 2019 Annual General Meeting, The Centre for Maidenhead Heritage ("TCMH") was created as an Association Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and approval of the Charity Commission to transfer operations to the CIO from the Maidenhead Heritage Trust was obtained. On 30 September 2021 the Trust ceased day-to-day operations and at midnight on that day the operations were transferred to TCMH.

The Heritage Centre's operations have continued unchanged and TCMH has assumed the all but one of the liabilities of Maidenhead Heritage Trust. At the time of this report the legal title in the freehold property from which the charity operates and the assignment of the Loan Grant from the Baylis Trust are still in the course of being transferred, subject to final agreement of terms and regulatory approval.

Although Maidenhead Heritage Trust is to be wound up in due course, no adjustment to the carrying values of the assets or liabilities in these financial statements is considered to be necessary as the transfer to TCMH has been arranged to allow the Centre to continue operate unchanged.

The liability of members to contribute to the CIO's liabilities in the event of a winding up is capped at zero, under the Constitution.

**7. TRUSTEES' EXPENSES AND BENEFITS**

None of the trustees received any remuneration or benefits in the period. Any expenses that were reimbursed were all for acting as agent for the CIO.

**8. EMPLOYEES**

The average number of employees in the period was 2.

**9. PENSIONS**

The CIO provides a defined contribution pension scheme for eligible employees. Contributions are paid as they fall due and are held in separately administered funds.



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 Centre for Maidenhead Heritage

#### On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1193240

#### Set out on pages

5-10

(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 March 2025.

#### 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 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:

Date:

22/12/2025

Name:

Laura Hobson

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

Address:

30, Lancaster Road,  
Maidenhead,  
SL6 5EP