

THE ONLINE MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM OF PRISONERS OF WAR

England & Wales · Charity number 1200975

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-11-10

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 10 Kingsmead Avenue
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 6GA

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Website <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/>

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC ON THE SUBJECT OF PRISONERS OF WAR BY:A. PROVIDING A PERMANENT, ONLINE MEMORIAL & MUSEUM IN OF PRISONERS OF WAR BY MAINTAINING AND REGULARLY UPDATING AN INTERACTIVE, HISTORICAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERNET RESOURCE WHICH ENABLES THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING PRISONERS OF WAR.B. BY ORGANISING SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND TOURS THAT EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE EXPERIENCES OF PRISONERS OF WAR, AND TO PURSUE ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT THESE PURPOSES.C. HE COMMEMORATION AND REMEMBRANCE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, OF FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR AND THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE

Activities: Providing a permanent, interactive, historical and educational internet resource which enables the collection and preservation of information concerning prisoners of war. Organising seminars, conferences and tours about the experiences of prisoners of war, and any other activities that support these purposes.The commemoration and remembrance of former prisoners of war.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-31	£23,669	£18,949	-	-
2024-10-31	£7,078	£2,818	-	-
2023-10-31	£3,910	£63	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Warburton		2025-07-15
David Cecil Lovell OBE		2022-06-23
Dr John West		2026-05-14
Dr Stacey Astill		2025-07-15
John William Smith		2025-07-15
Michael John Sharratt		2023-04-11
Peter Michael Scott		2025-07-15
Robert Sharratt		2022-06-23

THE ONLINE MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM OF PRISONERS OF WAR

England & Wales - Charity number 1200975

Accounts



The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered charity number 1200975,

The objects of the CIO # 1200975 are:

To advance the education of the public on the subject of prisoners of war by:

- a. Providing a permanent, online Memorial & Museum of Prisoners of War by maintaining and regularly updating an interactive, historical and educational internet resource which enables the collection and preservation of information concerning prisoners of war
- b. By organising seminars, conferences and tours that educate the public on the experiences of prisoners of war, and to pursue any other activities that support these purposes.
- c. The commemoration and remembrance for the public benefit, of former prisoners of war and the sacrifices they made

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025

List of Trustees October 2024:

Dave Lovell (Chair), Brian Cooper (Treasurer), Robert Sharratt, Katie Foster, Ian Bowley, Michael Sharratt. A total of six.

List of Trustees October 2025:

Dave Lovell (Chair), Peter Scott (Treasurer), Alan Warburton, Allan Hunn, John Smith, Katie Foster, Michael Sharratt, Rhian French, Robert Sharratt, Stacey Astill. A total of ten.

During this year, Brian Cooper retired for personal reasons. Philip Baker was appointed but subsequently retired for personal reasons. The trustees express their gratitude and appreciation for their significant contribution to the charity.

Background

In our third year we have built upon the foundations established during 2023/2024.

At the 2024 Annual General Meeting we set the following priorities:

- a) Preparing for POW80 a commemorative event marking 80 years since the release of British, Commonwealth and Dominion, prisoners of war (POW) held in Europe;
- b) Improving web functionality;
- c) Recruiting additional trustees with necessary skills and knowledge;
- d) Establishing a 3-year strategy for funding & development;
- e) Advancing the public education of the POW experiences with commemoration and remembrance events and conferences.

The Trustees continue to meet online every 2 months, with some discussions, via email, between meetings. During 2025 the trustees held five meetings.

We continue to depend upon volunteers as we build and add information to our website and Facebook groups. This has proved to be a rich source of information and a contact point for people, around the world, who are interested in researching their family history and the experience of relatives during WWII.

The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War

Achievements

During the year our trustees, voluntary researchers and data loaders have made significant progress in achieving these priorities. We thank each of them.

POW80 took place on 7th June 2025 at the Midland Hotel Manchester. 140 tickets were sold for the event, with delegates attending from Britain, Commonwealth and Dominion Countries.

Six expert speakers gave excellent talks on:

- The lived experiences of a POW,
- What happened in the Work Camps,
- Creativity in captivity,
- Escape and Evasion,
- The Mental Health of POWs upon their return,
- The Long March and POW liberation.

An A4 brochure, consisting of 28pps, was printed at no cost to the charity, thanks to a generous donation, and issued to all delegates.

The conference was concluded with the speakers answering questions from delegates. There was insufficient time to answer all of these during the session, so the remaining questions & answers were compiled and sent to delegates after the event.

The feedback from speakers and delegates was very positive.

The event provided a good opportunity for delegates to make connections with people with similar interests and provided much information to help them research their own family members who were POWs.

The conference sessions were, thanks to several generous donations, video recorded and subsequently made available online to delegates.

The trustees confirm their thanks to all those taking part, especially the speakers.

Website functionality and development <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/>

In November 2024 we were successful in securing a, £7,000 donation from the Sir Roger de Haan Charitable Trust, with the money given to support development of the website and availability of additional content.

We used this to move the site from a shared to a dedicated server. This significantly improved the response time from site queries. However, as a result of a very significant BOT attack, we took the decision to put the service behind a 'Cloudflare' user verification service.

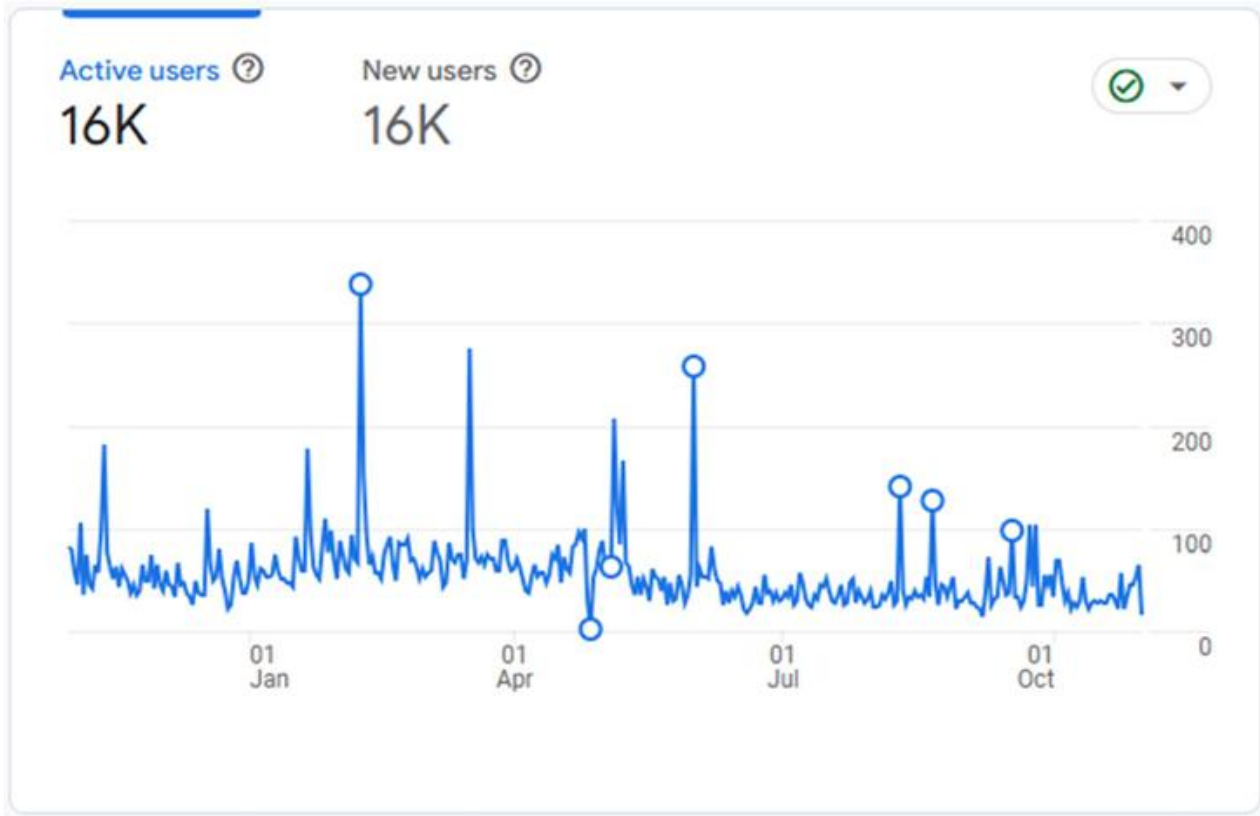
In June one of our volunteers uploaded a second batch of some 50,000 additional POWs records from the TNA. Giving us a total of 129,759 POW records.

Some of the grant was also used to commercially scan personal accounts and associated historical material donated to us by .

Website traffic has of course fluctuated, significantly so in the latter part of the year with the introduction of Cloudflare.

User numbers for the year are below

The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War



The Charity is registered with the Information Commission Office and has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO). Resources, both Trustees and volunteers have worked upon our website/databases to add information and to eliminate duplicates and resolve errors in the TNA source data.

Recruiting additional Trustees with necessary skills and knowledge.

A skills audit was produced, outlining existing trustee skills and experience, and was used as the focus for the recruitment of new trustees to complement our skill mix. Five new trustees were selected and approved as trustees. Induction has been completed.

Towards the end of the year, we set up six working groups, each comprising several trustees, to look into potential activities for the future. The intention is for these to feed into a three Year Strategy for Funding and Development.

Topic	Composition
1. Business Model	Alan Warburton, Peter Scott
2. Funding	Alan Warburton, John Smith, Katie Foster.
3. Educational Activities	Stacey Astill, John Smith
4. Public Affairs	Rhian French, Dave Lovell
5. Future Events / Tours	Allan Hunn, Peter Scott
6. Membership	Alan Warburton, Peter Scott

These will report back to the full board in November 2025

The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War

The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War

Statement of Accounts 01 November 2024 to 31 October 2025

Opening Balance (as at 31 October 2024) 8,107.29

Income

Budgeted Donations (Direct Debit)	985.53		
Other Donations	3109.12		
Lamsdorf Tour 2026 (via Stripe)	946.88		
Donations via Paypal	1,091.61		
Donations via Book Royalties (PB)	373.33		
POW80	9710.00		
De Haan Grant	7,000.00		
Citibank Charitable Giving	200.00		
HMRC Gift Aid	252.15		
Miscellaneous (Amazon test)	0.01	23,668.63	31,775.93

Less Expenditure

Operating costs

Website Costs	2,186.20		
ICO Registration	35.00		
Domain Name	13.85		
Other Costs			
Document Options	284.88		
Miscellaneous*	109.50		
POW80	16,319.76	18,949.19	12,826.73

Balance Carried Forward (31.10.25) 12,826.73

Surplus/deficit on year (£12,826.73 – 8,107.29) = £4,719.45

* Notes:

Miscellaneous expenditure of £109.50 refers to expenditure in relation to the Christmas Raffle
Document Options refers to the scanning of archive documents arranged by David Lovell

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A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered number 1200975.,

The objects of the CIO are:

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- a. Providing a permanent, online Memorial & Museum of Prisoners of War by maintaining and regularly updating an interactive, historical and educational internet resource which enables the collection and preservation of information concerning prisoners of war
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ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

List of Trustees October 2023:

Dave Lovell, Robert Sharratt, Brian Cooper, Katie Foster, Ian Bowley, Michael Sharratt.

List of Trustees October 2024:

Dave Lovell, Robert Sharratt, Brian Cooper, Katie Foster, Ian Bowley, Michael Sharratt, Katie Foster, Rhian French. Mike Davis 8/4/2024 to 12/8/2024.

Charity subject advisor: Philip Baker.

The Trustees meet online via Zoom every 2 months, with discussions via email between meetings: During 2024 the Trustees held five meetings.

In our second year we have built upon the foundations established during 2022/2023. We depend upon volunteers as we build and add information to our website and Facebook page, this has proved to be a rich source of information and also a contact point for people around the world who are interested in researching their own family history and the role they contributed during WWII.

At the 2023 Annual General Meeting we set the following priorities:

- a) Secure Funding.
- b) Preparing for POW80
- c) Improving WEB functionality.

During 2024 our trustees and volunteers/researchers have made significant progress to achieving these priorities:

- a) Secure Funding for our Website, activities and POW80.

In October we secured funding from Roger De Haan Charitable Trust for £7,000 for website development.

We have applied for a grant of £9,769 towards POW80 conference costs

b) Preparing for POW80 - Conference in June 2025.

POW80 marks 80 years since the prisoners of WWII, held in Europe were released from captivity.

A working group was established, the trustees issued terms of reference/guidance, the group have been very active and have since produced: outline speaker programme, selected a venue, agreed with the Trustees an event date, decided upon ticket prices, built a comprehensive plan with key decision dates in order to keep the arrangements on schedule.

Speakers have been confirmed with contingency speakers arranged.

Tickets are now on sale and hopefully will achieve our target as the conference date approaches; considerable effort is being directed towards media promotion of POW80.

c) Website Development and Functionality <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com>

Our organisation has registered with the Information Commission Office and appointed a General Data Protection Officer (GDP). Resources both Trustees and volunteers have worked upon our website/databases to add information and to collate duplicates, resolve data errors etc.

Our website can now accept donations from interested people, such contributions will be used to fund our group's aims and activities.

In the year ending 31.10.2024 we received donations of £1,170:94p

Website analysis:

Users = Total has risen to 15,948

Typical users per week = 300 to 400.

Average 40 per day. (This started low then reached a peak in November 2023 and has now remained constant - this distorts the average)

Source: majority of users come from: Google, Facebook and Bing.

d) Additional Achievements.

Our bank account now has two Trustees with two being added, who can authorise payments.

A Review of our Organisations Development, Scope, Vision & Mission statement took place, this agreed that for the time being we would limit our core activities to Allied WWII Prisoners in occupied German territories.

Approved by the Trustees 11th December 2024

[End]

THE ONLINE MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM OF PRISONERS OF WAR

England & Wales - Charity number 1200975

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The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Introduction

The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War was registered as a charity, #1200975, in November 2022.

Its objects are: To advance the education of the public on the subject of prisoners of war by:

- a. Providing a permanent, online Memorial & Museum of Prisoners of War by maintaining and regularly updating an interactive, historical and educational internet resource which enables the collection and preservation of information concerning prisoners of war;
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- c. The commemoration and remembrance, for the public benefit, of former prisoners of war and the sacrifices they made.

Developing the Charity

During the year we have:

- i. opened a bank account with the Co-operative Bank and transferred the money donated by people who had paid to attend the POW75 commemorative event in 2020, cancelled as a result of Covid restrictions, and who did not seek a refund;
- ii. developed policies to support management of the charity and the volunteers who undertake work for it <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/charity-policies/>;
- iii. held 4 trustee meetings;
- iv. appointed one new trustee following the retirement of Philip Baker as a trustee;
- v. met with representatives of the Friends of Stalag IVB association to explore synergies and invited them to provide a trustee, which has now been enacted;
- vi. spoken to a trustee of the Children and Families of the Far East Prisoners of War (COFEPOW) about the potential for some form of collaboration.

Delivering the charity's objects

a) Providing a permanent, online Memorial & Museum of Prisoners of War

Development of a new website was undertaken by a volunteer prior to registration of the charity. It was operational at the start of the charity's life with hosting provided by a commercial provider.

A small team of volunteers undertook the loading of the content of all the websites managed by Philip Baker, the charity's founder, to the new site.

In March 2023 some 75,000 records of POWs, sourced from The National Archives, was loaded to the site. Before loading, extensive work was done by two volunteers to correct errors in the data.

In October 2023 trustees approved an upgrade to the hosting service to provide a more responsive service. Unfortunately the upgrade proved not to be successful and a different approach will be required.

Website Analysis – July 30th 2023 to 24th November 2023

- 5800 users in total. The number of users per week has doubled over this period (250 users per week to 519 per week);
- Average ~ 42 users per day, Peak Usage = 150 users on Remembrance Sunday
- Average engagement time = 5 mins;

- Majority of users come via Google search & facebook referral;
- A large proportion come direct to the site = “regulars”;
- Viewed from 30/40 different countries – largest is from UK (50%);
- Most viewed pages - STALAG VIIIIB LAMSDORF / STALAG 344.

b) Organising seminars, conferences and tours

None has been delivered during this first year but significant assistance has been given via email and Facebook to the many individuals who have sought help to research POWs of importance to them.

One of our volunteers also compiled a new 55 page ‘Help with Research’ guide which was published on the website.

c) Commemoration and remembrance

No commemorative or remembrance activities, separate from our website, have been delivered in this first year but trustees have initiated investigations into the possibility of organising an international commemorative event ‘POW80’ to be held in 2025.

We have also met with the National Memorial Arboretum to discuss future maintenance and possible replacement of the existing memorial to all POWs which they host.

Approved by trustees 11th December 2023

[End]

FOR AGM DEC 2023

The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War							
Registered Charity Number 1200975							
Accounts Summary							
Period 1 Nov 2022 to 31 October 2023							
							£
INCOME							
Donation by founder.							3630.5
Donations				Jul-23	70		
				Aug-23	70		
				Sep-23	70		
				Oct-23	70		
				Total	280		280
EXPENDITURE							
Website new domain registration				Oct-23	9.09		
Website hosting				Oct-23	54		
				Total	63.09		63.09
Balance at end Oct 2023							3847.41