

**Trustees' Annual Report and
Statement of Financial Activity
for the period 2 August 2024 to 31 August 2025**

**Ashford Heritage and Memorial Charitable Foundation
(also referred to as AHMCF)**

Aim and purpose

We seek to preserve, maintain and promote public awareness of heritage artefacts of real historical importance to the people of Ashford in Kent.

Objectives and activities

- To establish and maintain a historic collection in relation to the district's military and civic history for the benefit of the public.
- To advance the education of the public in the subject of the military and civic history of the district of Ashford.

Achievements and performance

Since the Foundation's inception in August 2024, the Trustees have focused on four key heritage assets.

The First World War tank

In October 2024, the Foundation applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £1.4 million to begin essential repair work on this nationally and internationally acclaimed monument. Out of 52 applicants, AHMCF progressed to the final three, and although ultimately unsuccessful, it was strongly encouraged to reapply in the future.

Ashford Borough Council has since earmarked £300,000 from its reserves to support the restoration of the Tank. AHMCF is now submitting an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will form the basis of a full application.

The bid will be significantly strengthened by the Council's match funding and by the results of a comprehensive public engagement programme, which demonstrated overwhelming community support for the project.

The Foundation is preparing a new application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, seeking support to begin the project in 2026.

The statue of Queen Marie of Romania

October 2025 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Queen Maria, and the Foundation organised a screening of the film of her life alongside presentations from the Ambassador of Romania and Dr Tessa Dunlop.

The creation of Newtown monument and memorial

Ashford Borough Council is delivering a £250 million town centre regeneration project on a historic brown-field site, and as part of that programme the Foundation proposed the creation of a monument and memorial to honour the people who tragically lost their lives during the World War II attack on Newtown Works.

AHMCF has designed a sensitive and appropriate tribute to the fallen, following extensive engagement with the local community. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating strong public support for the memorial. The Foundation has already secured funding for the project and is currently in the process of seeking planning permission to move the scheme forward.

The creation of a Nepalese Centre

Ashford has a strong Nepalese community, and the Foundation wanted to create a community centre that is open to everyone while also helping Nepalese residents reconnect with their traditions and heritage. A developer is committed to bringing this vision to life, with the Foundation taking a leading role in making this dream a reality.

In addition, the Foundation is being gifted two acres of land, which will be held in trust for the people of Ashford. This space will be protected and enjoyed by future generations, ensuring a lasting legacy for the community.

Looking ahead

Given the critical state of the tank, the Trustees' focus will be to seek funding for the restoration and preservation of this, and will work with stakeholders to find a viable way to raise the necessary funds. As part of these efforts, there will be strong public engagement to garner support.

They will also run a schools engagement project about the life of Queen Marie of Romania and her links to Ashford.

Structure, governance and management

AHMCF is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a Constitution.

Charitable objects

- To establish and maintain a historic collection in relation to the district's military and civic history for the benefit of the public.
- To advance the education of the public in the subject of the military and civic history of the district of Ashford.

Declaration

The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Trustee selection

There must be at least three charity trustees. The maximum number of trustees is 12.

In accordance with the Constitution, Trustees are appointed or re-appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In appointing Trustees, due consideration is given to ensuring that the Trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law.

Administrative information

Charity Registration No. 1209410

Principal address

Ashford Volunteer Centre

Berwick House

8 Elwick Road

Ashford

TN23 1PF

Email: contact@ashfordvc.org.uk

Trustees who have served since its inception until this report was approved are:

Sir George Jessel DL - Chair

Appointed January 2025

Peter Feacey - Deputy Chair and founder member

Appointed August 2024

Lee Michael Foreman - Treasurer

Appointed January 2025

Bethan Peal - Trustee

Resigned April 2026

Stephen Gallagher

Appointed March 2025

Gopi Lingam

Appointed March 2025

Mark Quinn

Appointed March 2025

Administration

Lindsay Wratten - Charity administrator

Bank

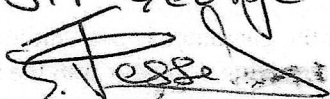
Metro Bank, 95 High Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8SA

Approved by Trustees and signed on their behalf.

Full name

Sir George Jessel BE DL

Signature



Date

May 17th 2026

Financial review

Financial position

The Foundation had a good first reporting period with Grants and Donations totalling £9,529.84 being received.

While the first reporting period only saw modest expenditure, the funding has enabled the Queen Marie project to be undertaken after the reporting period.

While these contributions are fantastic, and enable smaller scale events, additional significant external funding will need to be sought to undertake some of the aspirational projects the Foundation has.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position for the reporting periods is shown at Appendix A to this report.

Policy on reserves

The Foundation will retain restricted and unrestricted funds on the balance sheet derived from the source of the funding. There is currently no explicit policy on reserves and this will be developed as the need arises.

Principle sources of funding

The current primary source of funding is from Grants and private donations.

Remuneration of Trustees

All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration or other material benefits from their services to the Charity.

Out-of-pocket expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by Trustees in promoting the purposes of the Charity are reimbursed at cost.

Statutory statement on liabilities

The Trustees declare that:

- The charity has given no guarantees where potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement (eg: any outstanding/ongoing contract or legal undertaking to buy or provide specific services);
- The charity has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO (eg: a mortgage on property owned by the charity)

Ashford Heritage and Memorial Charitable Foundation

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31/08/2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Fixed Assets	-	-	0.00
Current Assets			
Stock			0.00
Debtors			0.00
Donations			
Cash at Bank	9,502.75	0.00	9,502.75
Total Current Assets	9,502.75	0.00	9,502.75
Current liabilities			
Creditors	-	-	0.00
Net Current Assets	9,502.75	0.00	9,502.75
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	9,502.75	0.00	9,502.75
Net Assets	9,502.75	0.00	9,502.75
Funds			
Unrestricted Funds	9,502.75		9,502.75
Restricted Funds	0.00		0.00
Total Funds		0.00	9,502.75

Ashford Heritage and Memorial Charitable Foundation

Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

Period 02/8/2024 - 31/08/2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Income			
Donation	529.84		529.84
Grants	9,000.00		9,000.00
Investment Income	32.75		32.75
Total Income	9,562.59	0.00	9,562.59
Expenditure on Charitable Activities			
Governance Costs			0.00
Event Expenditure			
Queen Marie 2025	0.00		0.00
Queen Marie 2026	0.00		0.00
Administration	(59.84)		(59.84)
Total Expenditure	(59.84)	0.00	(59.84)
Net Income	9,502.75	0.00	9,502.75