

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

England & Wales - Charity number 310521

Details

Other names	COWPER AND NEWTON MUSEUM - HOME OF OLNEYS HERITAGE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	1962-07-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	10 Gravel Walk Emberton Olney MK46 5JA
Phone	01234713099
Email	house-manager@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk
Website	cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

Activities

Objects: MUSEUM TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THE POET WILLIAM COWPER.

Activities: The museum commemorates the poet William Cowper, who lived in the house from 1768 to 1786, and his friend the preacher, hymnwriter and slave trade abolitionist John Newton (author of 'Amazing Grace'). It holds an important collection of lace and items relating to the archaeology and history of Olney and its surrounding villages. The historic gardens include Cowper's original summer house/study.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Milton Keynes

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£117,113	£120,520	-	-
2024-01-31	£172,144	£223,016	-	-
2023-01-31	£184,867	£138,223	-	-
2022-01-31	£73,720	£53,835	-	-
2021-01-31	£83,796	£59,063	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
TOM JONES	Chair	2013-09-19
AMANDA MOLCHER		2016-01-13
David George Purvis		2024-11-20
Elaine Vera Merchant		2025-03-20
GEOFFREY SWINDELLS		2017-01-18
Liam George Good		2025-09-10
Malcolm John Jones		2024-01-01
Pamela Daley		2018-08-26
Trevor Aldred		2022-09-13

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

England & Wales - Charity number 310521

Accounts

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST JANUARY 2025

CHARITY NUMBER: 310521

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

OLNEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2025

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2025 which are set out in pages 2 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

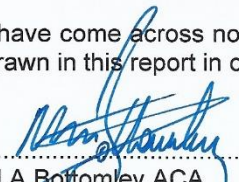
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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 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.


.....
M A Bottomley ACA
Collett Hulance Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
40 Kimbolton Road
Bedford
MK40 2NR

27th February 2025

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

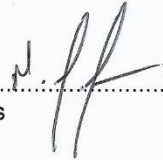
AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Land and Buildings		Not Valued	Not Valued
Exhibits, Equipment, Furniture		Not Valued	Not Valued
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash in Hand and Deposit	(2)	183,580.61	185,659.45
COIF Investment	(3)	21,814.78	21,814.78
Stock		8,818.94	10,209.35
Prepayment		2,749.68	2,717.81
		<u>216,964.01</u> =====	<u>220,401.39</u> =====
<u>FINANCED BY:-</u>			
Museum Fund		140,137.78	135,680.50
Restoration and Improvement Fund		76,826.23	84,720.89
		<u>216,964.01</u> =====	<u>220,401.39</u> =====

Trustees



Trustees



COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2025
RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Donations/Grants	38,386.00	63,475.04
National Heritage Grant	9,876.00	39,504.00
	48,262.00	102,979.04
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
National Heritage	-	58,486.90
Sundry	56,156.66	109,804.93
	56,156.66	168,291.83
(Deficit) for Year	(7,894.66)	(65,312.79)
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	84,720.89	150,033.68
	76,826.23	84,720.89
<u>Accumulated Fund Carried Forward</u>	<u>76,826.23</u>	<u>84,720.89</u>

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2025

MUSEUM FUND

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
		£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Admissions		29,231.25	29,806.48
Rents and Dividends		17,511.77	14,551.46
Donations		7,418.23	6,548.55
Other		8,533.11	7,802.53
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		62,694.36	58,709.02
Surplus on Saleable Goods	(1)	6,156.57	10,456.60
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		68,850.93	69,165.62
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
Salaries		30,353.61	23,472.60
Printing, Postage and Consumables		888.27	2,159.62
Advertising and Web Support		1,965.96	1,519.72
Stationery		199.77	588.66
Insurance		3,267.73	4,039.15
Electricity		3,726.96	3,231.13
Gas		3,508.42	2,281.00
Water		629.58	386.47
Cleaning		1,323.18	1,324.86
Telephone		1,025.60	817.14
Maintenance – Buildings		11,884.57	6,319.38
Maintenance – Exhibits, etc.		637.78	-
Subscriptions		1,629.53	1,419.49
Other Fees and Expenses - Training		2,097.81	1,993.89
Finance Fees including Credit Card		920.56	819.95
Cottage		-	2,169.00
Vegetable Garden		334.32	2,182.29
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		64,393.65	54,724.35
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for Year		4,457.28	14,441.27
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward		135,680.50	121,239.23
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund Carried Forward		140,137.78	135,680.50
		=====	=====

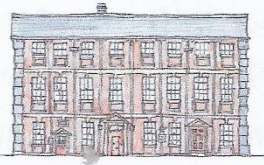
COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
1) <u>Saleable Goods Trading</u>		
Income for Year	12,670.19	14,625.23
Less: Cost of Sales	6,513.62	4,168.63
	<u>6,156.57</u> =====	<u>10,456.60</u> =====
2) <u>Cash in Hand and on Deposit</u>		
House Manager's Float/Imprest	46.70	34.97
COIF Deposit (Endowment Fund)	60,120.84	28,790.07
Barclays Business Premium Account	5,707.35	40,290.53
Barclays Current Account	16,615.34	14,175.13
PayPal Account	210.73	210.73
Buckinghamshire Building Society	20,879.65	20,312.54
Cambridge & Counties Bank	80,000.00	81,845.48
	<u>183,580.61</u> =====	<u>185,659.45</u> =====
3) <u>COIF Investment</u>		

The value of this investment as at 31st January 2025 was £33,159.53 (2024 £31,003.08).



COWPER & NEWTON MUSEUM

Chair of Trustees Report 2025

It's been something of a mixed year at the museum. Attempts to gain a major National Lottery Heritage Fund grant for a new Garden Room (with toilet, kitchen, education and exhibition space), and an Arts Council England MEnD grant for building fabric improvements sadly failed.

We are trying again with both. MEnD as we could easily spend £70k on renovations recommended by our latest Conservation Building survey. But our chances are still slim. The NLHF are now only renovating old buildings within their large project category. We have a much better chance for a new building with a sub £250k grant application so we are giving it a try.

We also tried to get a Heritage England Blue Plaque last year as it was the first year it was extended outside of London. There were close to 500 applications so an old poet didn't make it this time, but we will be trying again this year.

Visitor numbers were fairly flat last year, weather being a big factor, but as I've mentioned before we are almost unique in the UK exceeding our pre-Covid numbers. Our Historic Houses Association membership is paying off and numbers still seem to be creeping up.

The downpours in Sept also highlighted old weaknesses in the fabric of the building. We do not wait for grants where health and safety or a threat to the building and collections is concerned if we have the cash. These have largely been fixed, although there is some window work to do to complete Cowper's kitchen.

But there were many positives and highlights. I'm just picking a few. We have added around 50 volunteers in the last year or so, with a total family now in excess of 170. Along with our Trustees they take care of Finances, Admin, Marketing, Policies & Procedures, Front of House, Shop, Gardens, Buildings, Outreach, Community Partnerships, Collection Care, Events, Catering, Dancing, Archives, Library, Historical Research, Gallery & Fundraising.

I feel the different areas in the museum are complementing each other more now. For example, Wayne Warren's exhibition spilled outside and left us with a legacy of fun items around the garden that the guides can highlight. He's doing his stuff again around the Church as we speak. You can now see a Bank Underground sign next to the Newton's tomb.

We have our newly restored counterpane back on a new specially made bed with a fascinating audio-visual story and this tied in with the Gift of Stitch exhibition and a continuing relationship with the exhibitors such as the Westbury Arts Group.

I've noticed an increased interest in the Lace Room exhibition from visiting religious tours as an illustration of the arrival of non-conformist migrants in the area. Those tours are also noticeably better coordinated with the Church with Malcolm and Derek giving us a very useful linkage. And look out for the Church's 700th anniversary History Day on 5th July.

Our gardeners will tell/have told their own stories but are complementing each other really well. And with increased and very visible plant sales are enhancing the overall visibility of the museum in the town.

We have boosted our Festive Season offering by adding Christmas lighting and consolidating activities such as the already new candlelit tours with an added Christmas theme. And a Turn the

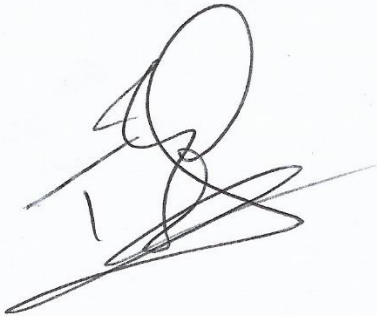
Lights On Santa event to tie in to late night shopping, bringing in pre-school children and their parents. We can add a Jane Austen element this time as it is her 250th birthday in December too. The Spooky History Walk was improved with the added illumination and had 70 turn up – and a new ghost as a bonus.

This year MK City Council have funded a marquee again for a month from 8th August to support and help us justify the Garden Room bid. We will have musical events again, local history talks, arts, crafts, gardening, wellbeing activities including yoga, and other garden events such as our summer social. Local wellness business Nook By Nature will be running many of these.

Our first Refreshments in the Courtyard have bought in about £1000 earmarked this year to subsidize our roof repairs.

We've had visitors from all over the world already this year and will have a couple of dozen tour groups by the end of the year. Thank you to Paula & Linda for reeling those in for us.

I doubt there is a more active museum around. We could not do what we do without our staff, volunteers and trustees, and I thank you for all your fantastic efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Linda', written in a cursive style.

4th June 2025.

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

England & Wales - Charity number 310521

Accounts

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST JANUARY 2024

CHARITY NUMBER: 310521

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

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OLNEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

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Basis of independent examiner's statement

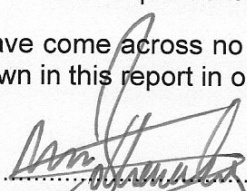
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M A Bottomley ACA
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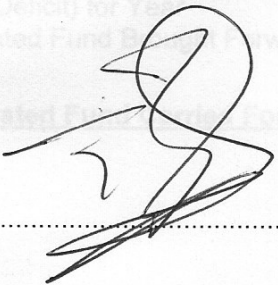
26th February 2024

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2024

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Land and Buildings		Not Valued	Not Valued
Exhibits, Equipment, Furniture		Not Valued	Not Valued
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash in Hand and Deposit	(2)	185,659.45	236,860.81
COIF Investment	(3)	21,814.78	21,814.78
Stock		10,209.35	9,134.67
Prepayment		2,717.81	3,462.65
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		220,401.39	271,272.91
		=====	=====
<u>FINANCED BY:-</u>			
Museum Fund		135,680.50	121,239.23
Restoration and Improvement Fund		84,720.89	150,033.68
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		220,401.39	271,272.91
		=====	=====
.....			
Trustees			Trustees




COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2024
RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Donations/Grants	63,475.04	75,482.42
National Heritage Grant	39,504.00	49,380.00
ODHS Charity Takeover	-	5,702.14
	102,979.04	130,564.56
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
National Heritage	58,486.90	59,452.51
Sundry	109,804.93	37,113.28
	168,291.83	96,565.79
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	(65,312.79)	33,998.77
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	150,033.68	116,034.91
<u>Accumulated Fund Carried Forward</u>	84,720.89	150,033.68

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2024

MUSEUM FUND

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Admissions		29,806.48	19,928.75
Rents and Dividends		14,551.46	11,649.89
Donations		6,548.55	6,205.89
Other		7,802.53	10,880.23
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		58,709.02	48,664.76
Surplus on Saleable Goods	(1)	10,456.60	5,638.63
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		69,165.62	54,303.39
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
Salaries		23,472.60	22,128.53
Printing, Postage and Consumables		2,159.62	600.11
Advertising and Web Support		1,519.72	1,643.86
Stationery		588.66	299.24
Insurance		4,039.15	3,936.55
Electricity		3,231.13	1,491.01
Gas		2,281.00	1,172.85
Water		386.47	-
Cleaning		1,324.86	1,020.69
Telephone		817.14	671.58
Maintenance – Buildings		6,319.38	4,551.49
Maintenance – Exhibits, etc.		-	135.00
Subscriptions		1,419.49	1,434.85
Other Fees and Expenses - Training		1,993.89	1,334.62
Finance Fees including Credit Card		819.95	1,238.60
Cottage		2,169.00	-
Vegetable Garden		2,182.29	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		54,724.35	41,658.98
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for Year		14,441.27	12,644.41
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward		121,239.23	108,594.82
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund Carried Forward		135,680.50	121,239.23
		=====	=====

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
1) <u>Saleable Goods Trading</u>		
Income for Year	14,625.23	12,381.40
Less: Cost of Sales	4,168.63	6,742.77
	10,456.60	5,638.63
	=====	=====
2) <u>Cash in Hand and on Deposit</u>		
House Manager's Float/Imprest	34.97	46.75
COIF Deposit (Endowment Fund)	28,790.07	27,461.12
Barclays Business Premium Account	40,290.53	173.48
Barclays Current Account	14,175.13	108,863.48
PayPal Account	210.73	210.73
Buckinghamshire Building Society	20,312.54	20,105.25
Cambridge & Counties Bank	81,845.48	80,000.00
	185,659.45	236,860.81
	=====	=====

3) COIF Investment

The value of this investment as at 31st January 2024 was £31,003.08 (2023 £29,578.95).

Chair of Trustees Report to the Cowper & Newton Museum AGM 2024

At the end of my first year as Chair of Trustees I must begin on a sad note. Following Charles Knight's passing we lost Liz Knight & and then Jane Stuart over the last year. Jane was a friendly and highly knowledgeable presence in the garden and a Fundraising Friend for some years. Liz of course was a local history legend and her knowledge of local and family history will never be equalled. She was a Trustee for years and Honorary Archivist, associated with the museum for nigh on 50 years I believe. Her town tour was one of the first things I did when I moved into the town over 30 years ago. There will be events carrying her name over the next few months.

A special welcome to our new Olney Town Council Trustee Debbie Whitworth who has always shown a great interest in the work and development of the Museum. Lindsay and Malcolm you all know well and they are up and running and are both involved, for example, with the next year's parish Church 700th anniversary celebrations. House-Manager, Paula is now working a 5-day week.

We were halfway through the highly successful Amazing Grace 250 project this time last year but still had quite a way to go with many events remaining. The highlight was, perhaps, the hosting of an event at Lambeth Palace Library with our funders, Lords Lieutenants, Member of Parliament, Mayors and even the Bishop of Dover. Even now we have activities ongoing from the project – for example we have a touring exhibition that is still travelling the country.

The writer Rommi Smith and composer Roddy Williams, who also sung solo at the King's Coronation, were visiting here last year and filming ahead of the first performance of *Forever!* at the Stables. James Walvin the leading British Academic on the slave trade came to speak, including telling us about his new book on Newton. A wide diversity of interest groups affected by the longer-term impacts of enslavement, from the wider area, participated. We continue to explore the means of widening our demographics as much as possible.

We are now active members of the Historic Houses Association (in good company with Sandringham and Knebworth House for example), and this brought in 300 new visitors last year. This year, despite the awful spring weather, we seem to be 50% up on last year at this point. We are also starting to take advantage of the training and support services that come with membership.

After two successful £100k+ projects in recent years – we have an excellent reputation with our funders, especially National Lottery Heritage Fund, for delivering successful, value for money projects, to time and within budget.

Applying for grants could be a full-time job. We have two applications in. Following our first full conservation grade building survey we have applied for an Arts Council England MEND grant for building repairs. which is really tough to get. In any event the building survey allows us to assess the level of reserves we need to accumulate or retain.

The other grant is a smaller Milton Keynes City Council cultural grant which we have a high chance of being awarded in the next fortnight, which will fund a marquee and the Museum Development Officer for a few more months and cover other costs enabling us to run a series of additional events this summer.

We have re-grown visitor numbers back to pre-pandemic levels. But we want to keep the momentum going and keep increasing visitor numbers in order to thrive. We want to increase the number and types of events and educational visits we can handle. We have at

least 120 activities and events we currently organise and host each year. But we could do more to make ourselves more resilient.

As most of you will know, the one significant thing that holds us back is lack of larger indoor space for groups, limited and old catering facilities and lack of toilets. So, we are now applying for grant funding for a Garden Room with a toilet and small kitchen. Imagine a small, but prestigious, village hall. If we succeed it will also generate green electricity which we hope to use to help power the museum itself: Please note that our utilities budget for 2024 is now £8,000. It has to be in the second Summer House garden for conservation and practical reasons.

To improve its position, comply with the requirements of the conservation officer over historic lines of sight etc, and to give a range of other benefits we have been looking into buying a small strip of the adjoining land in the Guinea Orchard. We have offered to pay one guinea. We will be as sensitive about any changes as we possibly can be.

I think I can also say we have slipped into Summer mode in May, even if the weather hasn't, with both gardens looking fantastic, a very busy and successful first Refreshments in the Courtyard, several significant tour groups and a good turnout for our first history walk to Cowper's Alcove. The Night & Day exhibition has been very well received and raised a number of interested questions from visitors, and the Gallery has been busier than ever.

One event to look out for is coming up in June. Wayne Warren, an internationally known artist, is putting on an exhibition in the gallery for a month and an *Intervention* trail around the museum. This is a means of forcing you to think differently about aspects of the museum in a quirky and fun way. A lot of interesting works will be popping up everywhere so watch out for that.

When you start thanking people you don't know where to stop and there are many deserving of comment. Here are just a few. Our Trustees and staff, Paula and Linda, of course. Daniel and Scott took over responsibility for the Summer House garden when we really needed some help and have transformed it. But sadly, pressure of work. has meant we are losing them. We wish them all the best in the future. Jane and Clare took over Refreshments in the Courtyard last year and are a fantastic addition to our volunteers. I would like to thank them for our refreshments this evening too! Our tour guides such as Derek and Fiona deserve a mention. Perhaps most significantly I should mention the unsung man behind the scenes who pulls together our financial results from a myriad of sources, negotiates favourable contracts with suppliers and controls our outgoings, namely our Treasurer, Gary Evans who has achieved a landmark of 25 years in the role.

So, we have plenty happening and I have only scraped the surface. Even more than cash we need our fantastic volunteers more than ever. I thank you for what you have done and, if you are not one already, please consider signing up. We need people with a breadth of capabilities from gardening to front of house, from catering and event support, to collections. You will become part of a big friendly, sometimes quirky family.

Tom Jones

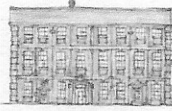
Chair of Trustees

21st May 2024

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

England & Wales - Charity number 310521

Accounts



COWPER & NEWTON MUSEUM

AGM – Chair of Trustee's Report **19th June 2023 / Meeting held in Olney Church Hall – 7-7:30pm**

This February I took over as Chair of Trustees at the Cowper & Newton Museum. We're now about a year out of the pandemic and we are in a surprisingly strong position and I'd like to pay credit and give thanks to my predecessor Paul for leaving the museum in a stronger position than many other heritage institutions around the country at present and less fragile than when he began.

We have continued to be very active. We have a timetable of events and activities that our office staff Paula and Linda compile which could be anything from visiting tour groups to coffee mornings to outreach walks, and talks, gallery bookings etc and the list for this year stands in excess of 130 of which around 25 are group tours, bringing people into the town who otherwise would not be coming in. And we always take full part in the town events such as pancake day, Dickens of a Christmas, Riverfest, Open Gardens, National Garden Scheme so have become a very a very active and visible part of town life.

We are not huge, but we are not only a local museum, and we can be quite edgy in our subject matter, touching on slavery, poverty, melancholy (depression), and have broader national and international connections. The international significance has been brought home by our Amazing Grace 250 anniversary events which brought in significant Heritage Lottery, Arts Council and other funding again. That's not easy to acquire and it takes some clout. You may be aware we were all over the BBC, on Songs of Praise soon afterwards and also on CBS on Christmas Day in the US. We have had several other TV documentary makers here. There are still more events still to come over the next few months and, in particular, watch out for the upcoming performance by the Chineke Orchestra of *Forever?* by Rommi Smith and Roddy Williams, a new work commissioned by the Museum and The Stables, responding to the different meanings Amazing Grace has for people in the 21st century.

More than half of our visitors are day trippers, many drawn by the museum and for others we extend their stay in the town and we point them in the direction of the various tea and coffee shops and restaurants around the town. Some are quite distinguished: The Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Mica Paris on History of Gospel music for the BBC, the Sierra Leone High Commissioner, David Harper/Irita Marriot from Antiques Road Trip and Clare McCollum from Songs of Praise. A few weeks ago, we had Victoria & Albert Museum and Hampton Court Palace experts looking at Cowper's coat, one of only 3 in the country (and the best).

You are probably aware that we are a charity and receive no subsidy towards our running costs, so we operate as a lean business but with a very expensive building to maintain. Income is from admission, shop sales, cottage rental, gallery rental, donations, fund raisers like courtyard refreshments and a host of other smaller sources. We could not do this without our fantastic, dedicated volunteers, who are of course, already holders of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Like other heritage institutions we are coming out of the pandemic with fewer visitors than immediately before. And we don't know the propensity of our core visitor demographics to come back again but numbers are increasing steadily. We've now also joined the Historic Houses Association (HHA) which is starting to pay dividends, and which provide us with revenue after a few months lag. Some visitors go to Costa but completely miss the Museum.

Finally, I'd like to thank all those who work at the museum. We have 1.2 permanent paid individuals, thank you Paula and Linda, our Trustees and the 120 plus other volunteers who enable the museum to operate, manning the shop, maintaining the garden, bookkeeping and administration, applying for grants, social media publicity, curating and looking after the collection, managing art exhibitions, baking cakes, running coffee mornings, making costumes, researching talks, acting as tour guides, maintaining the structure, maintaining IT, woodworking, etc. etc.

We will continue to look for ways of increasing visitor numbers by making the Museum even better; more accessible, useable, and visible. Please keep volunteering, sign up if you are not already a volunteer and keep giving us your ideas for how we can further improve Olney's star attraction. **BY TOM JONES**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

OLNEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2023

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2023 which are set out in pages 2 to 5.

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the independent examiner

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the accounts for the year ended 31st January 2023 in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is required. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year.

31ST JANUARY 2023

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under **CHARITY NUMBER: 310521**
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 146(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement


My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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 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.


M A Barromley ACA
Cofeilt Hulance Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
40 Kimbolton Road
Bedford
MK40 2BW

14 March 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

OLNEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2023

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2023 which are set out in pages 2 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

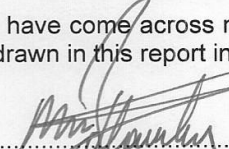
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Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
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I 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.


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M A Bottomley ACA
Collett Hulance Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
40 Kimbolton Road
Bedford
MK40 2NR

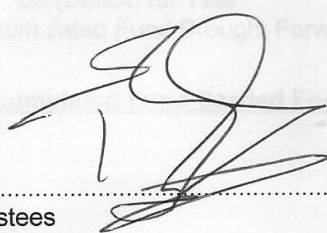
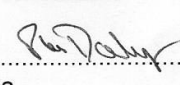
1st March 2023

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Land and Buildings		Not Valued	Not Valued
Exhibits, Equipment, Furniture		Not Valued	Not Valued
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash in Hand and Deposit	(2)	236,860.81	188,765.78
COIF Investment	(3)	21,814.78	21,814.78
Stock		9,134.67	10,805.15
Prepayment		3,462.65	3,244.02
		<u>271,272.91</u>	<u>224,629.73</u>
		=====	=====
<u>FINANCED BY:-</u>			
Museum Fund		121,239.23	108,594.82
Restoration and Improvement Fund		150,033.68	116,034.91
		<u>271,272.91</u>	<u>224,629.73</u>
		=====	=====
.....			
Trustees			Trustees

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2023
RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Donations/Grants	75,482.42	16,600.37
National Heritage Grant	49,380.00	-
ODHS Charity Takeover	5,702.14	-
	130,564.56	16,600.37
Surplus on Saleable Goods	33,998.77	3,912.06
	164,563.33	20,512.43
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
National Heritage	59,452.51	-
Sundry	37,113.28	12,688.31
Printing, Postage and Consumables	96,565.79	12,688.31
Advertising and Web Support	-	-
Stationery	-	-
Insurance	-	-
	193,131.58	12,688.31
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	33,998.77	3,912.06
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	116,034.91	112,122.85
	150,033.68	116,034.91
<u>Accumulated Fund Carried Forward</u>	<u>150,033.68</u>	<u>116,034.91</u>
Maintenance - Buildings	135.00	400.56
Subscriptions	1,434.82	1,563.95
Other Fees and Expenses - Training	1,334.82	1,695.95
Finance Fees including Credit Card	1,238.00	1,101.00
Cottage	-	175.00
	41,858.98	39,421.72
Surplus for Year	12,644.41	15,973.32
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	108,594.82	92,621.50
	121,239.23	108,594.82

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2023

MUSEUM FUND

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
		£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Admissions		19,928.75	11,433.93
Rents and Dividends		11,649.89	11,624.96
Donations		6,205.89	6,335.19
Other		10,880.23	6,131.72
HMRC JRS and Business Grants		-	14,299.32
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		48,664.76	49,828.12
Surplus on Saleable Goods	(1)	5,638.63	5,566.92
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		54,303.39	55,395.04
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
Salaries		22,128.53	20,889.60
Printing, Postage and Consumables		600.11	373.24
Advertising and Web Support		1,643.86	393.36
Stationery		299.24	197.31
Insurance		3,936.55	3,769.47
Electricity		1,491.01	1,358.64
Gas		1,172.85	1,439.70
Water		-	416.00
Cleaning		1,020.69	1,037.34
Telephone		671.58	641.73
Maintenance – Buildings		4,551.49	3,968.87
Maintenance – Exhibits, etc.		135.00	400.56
Subscriptions		1,434.85	1,563.95
Other Fees and Expenses - Training		1,334.62	1,695.95
Finance Fees including Credit Card		1,238.60	1,101.00
Cottage		-	175.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		41,658.98	39,421.72
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for Year		12,644.41	15,973.32
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward		108,594.82	92,621.50
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund Carried Forward		121,239.23	108,594.82
		=====	=====

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2023
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
1) <u>Saleable Goods Trading</u>		
Income for Year	12,381.40	7,291.41
Less: Cost of Sales	6,742.77	1,724.49
	5,638.63	5,566.92
	=====	=====
 2) <u>Cash in Hand and on Deposit</u>		
House Manager's Float/Imprest	46.75	35.82
COIF Deposit (Endowment Fund)	27,461.12	27,195.79
Barclays Business Premium Account	173.48	173.32
Barclays Current Account	108,863.48	36,150.12
PayPal Account	210.73	210.73
Buckinghamshire Building Society	20,105.25	20,000.00
Cambridge & Counties Bank	80,000.00	80,000.00
Hampshire Trust Bank	-	25,000.00
	236,860.81	188,765.78
	=====	=====

3) COIF Investment

The value of this investment as at 31st January 2023 was £29,578.95 (2022 £29,785.71).

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

OLNEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2023

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2023 which are set out in pages 2 to 5.

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the independent examiner

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the accounts for the year ended 31st January 2023 in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is required under section 144(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year.

31ST JANUARY 2023

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under **CHARITY NUMBER: 310521**
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 144(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement


My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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I 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.


M A Baromisy ACA
Covent Hulance Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
40 Kimbolton Road
Bedford
MK40 2BW

14 March 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

OLNEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2023

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Basis of independent examiner's statement

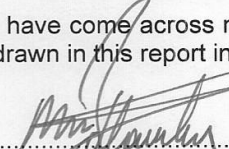
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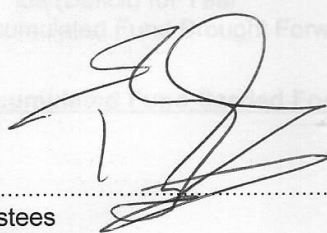
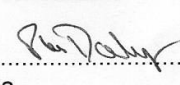
1st March 2023

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Land and Buildings		Not Valued	Not Valued
Exhibits, Equipment, Furniture		Not Valued	Not Valued
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash in Hand and Deposit	(2)	236,860.81	188,765.78
COIF Investment	(3)	21,814.78	21,814.78
Stock		9,134.67	10,805.15
Prepayment		3,462.65	3,244.02
		<u>271,272.91</u>	<u>224,629.73</u>
		=====	=====
<u>FINANCED BY:-</u>			
Museum Fund		121,239.23	108,594.82
Restoration and Improvement Fund		150,033.68	116,034.91
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		=====	=====
.....			
Trustees			Trustees

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2023
RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
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National Heritage Grant	49,380.00	-
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Surplus on Saleable Goods	33,998.77	3,912.06
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<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
National Heritage	59,452.51	-
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Insurance	-	-
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Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	116,034.91	112,122.85
	150,033.68	116,034.91
<u>Accumulated Fund Carried Forward</u>	<u>150,033.68</u>	<u>116,034.91</u>
Maintenance - Buildings	135.00	400.56
Subscriptions	1,434.82	1,563.95
Other Fees and Expenses - Training	1,334.82	1,695.95
Finance Fees including Credit Card	1,238.00	1,101.00
Cottage	-	175.00
	41,858.98	39,421.72
Surplus for Year	12,644.41	15,973.32
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	108,594.82	92,621.50
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COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2023

MUSEUM FUND

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		£	£
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		<hr/>	<hr/>
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		=====	=====

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2023
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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Barclays Business Premium Account	173.48	173.32
Barclays Current Account	108,863.48	36,150.12
PayPal Account	210.73	210.73
Buckinghamshire Building Society	20,105.25	20,000.00
Cambridge & Counties Bank	80,000.00	80,000.00
Hampshire Trust Bank	-	25,000.00
	236,860.81	188,765.78
	=====	=====

3) COIF Investment

The value of this investment as at 31st January 2023 was £29,578.95 (2022 £29,785.71).

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

England & Wales - Charity number 310521

Accounts

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST JANUARY 2022

CHARITY NUMBER: 310521

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

OLNEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2021

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2022 which are set out in pages 2 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

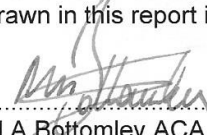
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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 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.


.....
M A Bottomley ACA
Collett Hulance Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
40 Kimbolton Road
Bedford
MK40 2NR

4th March 2022

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2022

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Land and Buildings		Not Valued	Not Valued
Exhibits, Equipment, Furniture		Not Valued	Not Valued
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash in Hand and Deposit	(2)	188,765.78	194,344.09
COIF Investment	(3)	21,814.78	1,814.78
Stock		10,805.15	5,464.81
Prepayment		3,244.02	3,120.67
		<u>224,629.73</u> =====	<u>204,744.35</u> =====
<u>FINANCED BY:-</u>			
Museum Fund		108,594.82	92,621.50
Restoration and Improvement Fund		116,034.91	112,122.85
		<u>224,629.73</u> =====	<u>204,744.35</u> =====

P. R. Call
.....
Trustees

P. R. Call
.....
Trustees

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2022
RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Donations/Grants	16,600.37	12,409.40
National Heritage Grant	-	16,100.00
	16,600.37	28,509.40
 <u>PAYMENTS</u>		
National Heritage	-	15,963.02
Sundry	12,688.31	6,990.82
	12,688.31	22,953.84
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	3,912.06	5,555.56
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	112,122.85	106,567.29
<u>Accumulated Fund Carried Forward</u>	116,034.91	112,122.85

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2022

MUSEUM FUND

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
		£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Admissions		11,433.93	3,105.05
Rents and Dividends		11,627.96	11,115.01
Donations		6,335.19	6,222.36
Other		6,131.72	4,292.83
HMRC JRS and Business Grants		14,299.32	28,887.25
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		49,828.12	53,622.50
Surplus on Saleable Goods	(1)	5,566.92	1,664.94
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		55,395.04	55,287.44
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
Salaries		20,889.60	20,374.45
Printing, Postage and Consumables		373.24	408.59
Advertising and Web Support		393.36	73.06
Stationery		197.31	79.81
Insurance		3,769.47	3,559.00
Electricity		1,358.64	918.08
Gas		1,439.70	1,121.27
Water		416.00	1,003.50
Cleaning		1,037.34	1,192.65
Telephone		641.73	737.15
Maintenance – Buildings		3,968.87	3,146.53
Maintenance – Exhibits, etc.		400.56	884.42
Subscriptions		1,563.95	1,280.13
Other Fees and Expenses - Training		1,695.95	351.08
Finance Fees including Credit Card		1,101.00	889.78
Cottage		175.00	157.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		39,421.72	36,109.20
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for Year		15,973.32	19,178.24
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward		92,621.50	73,443.26
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund Carried Forward		108,594.82	92,621.50
		=====	=====

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2022
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£
1) <u>Saleable Goods Trading</u>		
Income for Year	7,291.41	2,475.35
Less: Cost of Sales	1,724.49	810.41
	5,566.92	1,664.94
	=====	=====
 2) <u>Cash in Hand and on Deposit</u>		
House Manager's Float/Imprest	35.82	18.57
COIF Deposit (Endowment Fund)	27,195.79	47,191.47
Virgin Money	-	45,369.39
Barclays Business Premium Account	173.32	173.32
Barclays Current Account	36,150.12	42,295.92
PayPal Account	210.73	295.42
Shawbrook Bank	-	59,000.00
Buckinghamshire Building Society	20,000.00	-
Cambridge & Counties Bank	80,000.00	-
Hampshire Trust Bank	25,000.00	-
	188,765.78	194,344.09
	=====	=====
 3) <u>COIF Investment</u>		

The value of this investment as at 31st January 2022 was £29,785.71 (2021 £8,813.73).

Cowper Memorial Museum: Registered Charity No 310521
Report on the Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31st January 2022.

This was another year where the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic had a significant effect on the operation of the museum. Our trading season saw a phased part time opening of the gardens in mid-April followed by the museum building in mid may. Visitor numbers improved between July and October but were nowhere near the levels achieved pre-pandemic. Our courtyard coffee mornings proved very popular – it was clear that people wanted to get out and meet each other again but in a safe environment. The 2021 season finished on a high with a very successful Dickens of a Christmas mulled wine stall (relocated from the market to our courtyard) and a successful Spooky History Walk which saw 90 attendees.

The museum reflected life in current Britain with an 18th century twist by mounting a display entitled “Quackery and Enlightenment: a journey through Georgian medicine” conceived by our volunteer Amy Doolan. The display featured the ledgers of Dr Grindon of Olney (who prescribed medicine to Cowper & Mrs Unwin) which had never been seen in public before.

Difficult times are often a spur to innovation and the acceleration of change. In the case of the museum, this included the introduction of the Art Tickets online booking system and the commencement of an online shop with the offer of free home delivery to postcode MK46.

Guided walks and talks recommenced in June but our Georgian Dance Group had to content itself with the resumption of rehearsals in July 2021. It is hoped that public performances will get going again during the summer of 2022.

Behind the scenes the museum was as busy as ever with tasks such as conservation, cataloguing, and environmental monitoring continuing on. Two pictures are currently at the Courtauld institute for conservation work by students and there is an urgent need to carry out conservation work on Cowper’s bedspread or counterpane for which external funding is to be sought. Private donations were received targeted at the Lace room and the digitisation of historic records.

A major reorganisation within the building saw the Three Hares Gallery and the Lace Room swap places. As a result, The Three Hares Gallery is now more appealing to exhibitors and visitors alike.

The Lace room has also been transformed. After a number of failed grant applications, the decision was made to go ahead with a scaled back project using our own resources. Lace is an integral part of Olney’s history that simply could not be ignored. The new Lace Makers Room opened during the

summer with a greater emphasis on the social history of the local lace making industry. The effect of this has been to broaden its appeal to visitors.

Externally, the former market place water pump was restored and is now located in our gardens where it forms an interesting feature. The opportunity was also taken to install electrical power throughout the gardens together with the facility to illuminate Cowper's summer house. The courtyard gazebos were replaced by a new permanent veranda and paving.

Collaboration with external bodies continued throughout the year. Royal Holloway provided funding for a new electronic tablet and plinth. This will contain the results of research commissioned by the museum into John Newton's life at sea and in Liverpool. The museum was also included in the Royal Holloway, University of London citizens Project which will incorporate two museum related films.

On a more local level, the museum has been collaborating with the Olney & District Historical Society, and the Olney Archeological Society on the production of a series of Heritage boards to be located at various locations in Olney.

The Board of Trustees remained unchanged during the year with three trustee vacancies. Additionally the two Town Council nominated posts are also currently unfilled.

As will be clear from the forgoing and later comment, this year has required enormous commitment from both Trustees and Volunteers to keep the museum going and to enable it to plan for the future. The level of commitment is demonstrated by the fact that in the year under review volunteers gave 11,483 hours of their time. My grateful thanks to everyone concerned.

We were able to retain our paid staff throughout this period thanks to the support provided by the government. Our thanks to Paula Noble, Lindsay Rice, and Sharon Farr for their continued commitment and enthusiasm. Lindsay has recently decided to retire so I would like to thank her for her years of service to the museum and for her continued involvement as a volunteer going forward. Lindsay's replacement Linda Prior has recently joined us and has already proved herself to be a very effective part of the team.

A number of staff and trustees have been enrolled on the Heritage Compass course which will encompass higher level training in a number of areas critical to the successful running of a heritage attraction. Apart from the pure training aspect, we will also benefit from having a "critical friend" as well as the advantages of being able to network with similar placed organisations around England.

A great deal of effort has been expended on planning for our Amazing Grace 250 celebrations in conjunction with local partners both in Olney and across Milton Keynes. Thanks are due to Milton Keynes Council for their help and financial support in progressing the project.

I am pleased to report that our application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund was successful and that we are now recruiting staff to deliver this project. Additionally we await the outcome of an application to Arts Council England to put on a music programme with associated events to highlight the 250th anniversary of Amazing Grace.

One casualty of this high level of activity was the decision to defer the planning of an "Amazing Space" garden room within our grounds until the AG250 project is completed. This project was proving too complex and time consuming to progress with all the other activity that was taking place.

History tells us that Pandemics tend to last for 2 to 3 years and we can only hope that on this basis we are now past the worst of Covid 19. We have emerged from the pandemic in pretty good financial shape but we now face the real challenge of rebuilding volunteer and visitor numbers. AG250 with the extra resources it brings is the perfect springboard to enable us to face those twin challenges with confidence

Paul Collins
Chairman of Trustees,
4th May 2022.

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

England & Wales - Charity number 310521

Accounts

Cowper & Newton Museum: Registered Charity No 310521
Report on the Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31st January 2021

The year under review was like no other in the 120year history of the Museum. The key to dealing with the extraordinary events of the year was the ability to rapidly respond to a changing situation. Such events also serve as a spur to innovation and that has certainly proved to be the case as regards the Museum.

The 120th anniversary of the opening of the Museum fell on 25th April 2020 but as we were in lockdown at that point, the opportunity to mark the event was lost. Another happy event marred by the pandemic was the grant of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Museum's volunteers on 2nd June 2020. This was a tremendous achievement by all concerned. We were thrilled to have the visitor experience which our volunteers provide recognised by the receipt of this prestigious award. In view of the national situation it was finally recognised by all that the award ceremony would have to be a virtual one and this duly took place on 26th November 2020, Cowper's 289th birthday.

As soon as the national lockdown was announced, the need to conserve cash was apparent. The government's furlough scheme proved to be a lifeline as did business interruption grants. This enabled us to get through the year under review in good financial shape despite minimal income from other sources other than rental income from our cottage.

The flip side of this situation was that an immense burden was placed on our trustees and key volunteers both to deal with day to day matters and to implement changes. My thanks to everyone involved.

During the spring a huge effort was dedicated to ensuring Covid safe procedures were introduced. This was assisted by the introduction of a computerised booking and events system known as Art Tickets. The system also has a facility for accepting donations.

The inability to trade through much of this year also prompted us to set up an online shop offering free delivery to local residents in postcode MK46. The range of products available online will be expanded over time. The emphasis on digitalisation continued with online training days and planning for online talks and tours.

Our Georgian dance group had to cease all activity due to social distancing requirements but hope to resume when conditions permit

Collections care has continued throughout the period under review and the Museum benefitted from an HLF grant to enable a modern and enhanced security system to be installed. A decision was made to swap the location of the Three Hares Gallery and lace room with a view to completing this project by late 2021. A number of applications were made in connection with plans to relaunch the Lace Room with an emphasis on the social history of the trade locally.

Cowper's summer house was also the subject of refurbishment and our gardening team continued to look after our gardens whilst working under Covid restrictions.

Communication with our public was vital during this period to maintain awareness of what we have to offer going forward. Our social media team have done terrific work during this period and boosted awareness through joint working with the local historical society as well as the usual social network channels. The Olney history hub is steadily growing in popularity.

Newsletters formed an important role in keeping people informed.

With an eye to the near future much work was done on preparing for the 250th anniversary year of Amazing Grace- one of the Olney Hymns first sung in Olney on 1st January 1773. We hope this will raise both local and global awareness of Olney and what it has to offer.

Looking to the future we have the challenges of re-opening the museum, fully reconnecting with our volunteers, and encouraging visitors to return. Volunteer morale has been greatly boosted by the roll out of the national vaccination programme and the trend towards holidaying in the UK in the year ahead should boost visitor numbers.

Locally, Olney is currently experiencing a spurt of expansion and this from the Museum's perspective should help to boost both volunteer and visitor numbers,

Paul Collins
Chairman of Trustees,
21st April 2021.

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST JANUARY 2021

CHARITY NUMBER: 310521

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
OLNEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2021

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2021 which are set out in pages 2 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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 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.


.....
M A Bottomley ACA
Collett Hulance LLP
Chartered Certified Accountants
40 Kimbolton Road
Bedford
MK40 2NR

25th March 2021

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

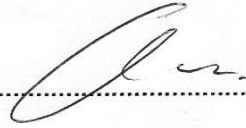
STATEMENT OF ASSETS

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2021

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Land and Buildings		Not Valued	Not Valued
Exhibits, Equipment, Furniture		Not Valued	Not Valued
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash in Hand and Deposit	(2)	194,344.09	169,904.24
COIF Investment	(3)	1,814.78	1,814.78
Stock		5,464.81	5,356.65
Prepayment		3,120.67	2,934.88
		<u>204,744.35</u>	<u>180,010.55</u>
		=====	=====
<u>FINANCED BY:-</u>			
Museum Fund		92,621.50	73,443.26
Restoration and Improvement Fund		112,122.85	106,567.29
		<u>204,744.35</u>	<u>180,010.55</u>
		=====	=====

P. R. Coll.

Trustees



Trustees

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2021
RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Donations/Grants	12,409.40	12,022.99
National Heritage Grant	16,000.00 <small>16,100.00</small>	7,561.00
	28,509.40	19,583.99
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
National Heritage	15,963.02	26,327.53
Sundry	6,990.82	11,734.44
Business Development Project	-	3,198.02
	22,953.84	41,259.99
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	5,555.56	(21,676.00)
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	106,567.29	128,243.29
	112,122.85	106,567.29
<u>Accumulated Fund Carried Forward</u>	112,122.85	106,567.29

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2021

MUSEUM FUND

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Admissions		3,105.05	21,964.09
Rents and Dividends		11,115.01	11,788.72
Donations		6,222.36	2,374.25
Other		4,292.83	5,715.74
HMRC JRS and Business Grants		28,887.25	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		53,622.50	41,842.80
Surplus on Saleable Goods	(1)	1,664.94	4,129.10
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		55,287.44	45,971.90
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
Salaries		20,374.45	19,414.14
Printing, Postage and Consumables		408.59	507.02
Advertising and Web Support		73.06	2,552.82
Stationery		79.81	100.50
Insurance		3,559.00	3,506.16
Electricity		918.08	2,037.94
Gas		1,121.27	1,227.75
Water		1,003.50	614.00
Cleaning		1,192.65	999.57
Telephone		737.15	800.05
Maintenance – Buildings		3,146.53	3,733.19
Maintenance – Exhibits, etc.		884.42	49.20
Subscriptions		1,280.13	272.00
Other Fees and Expenses - Training		351.08	1,051.99
Finance Fees including Credit Card		822.48	889.78
Cottage		157.00	203.50
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		36,109.20	37,959.61
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for Year		19,178.24	8,012.29
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward		73,443.26	65,430.97
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund Carried Forward		92,621.50	73,443.26
		=====	=====

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2021
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£
1) <u>Saleable Goods Trading</u>		
Income for Year	2,475.35	9,238.45
Less: Cost of Sales	810.41	5,109.35
	1,664.94	4,129.10
	1,664.94	4,129.10
 2) <u>Cash in Hand and on Deposit</u>		
House Manager's Float/Imprest	18.57	43.24
COIF Deposit (Endowment Fund)	47,191.47	47,067.75
Virgin Money	45,369.39	45,147.39
Secure Trust Bank plc	-	58,720.47
Barclays Business Premium Account	173.32	173.19
Barclays Current Account	42,295.92	18,456.78
PayPal Account	295.42	295.42
Shawbrook Bank	59,000.00	-
	194,344.09	169,904.24
	194,344.09	169,904.24
 3) <u>COIF Investment</u>		

The value of this investment as at 31st January 2021 was £8,813.73 (2020 £8,426.18).