

Kingswood Heritage Museum
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 10th October 2024
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Kingswood Heritage Museum Trust.

We are now in the 9th Year of a 21 year Lease from South Gloucestershire Council and we have been an Arts Council Accredited Museum for 7 years.

The Museum re-opened on Saturday 30th March 2024 for the Summer Season and will close for the Winter Shutdown on Saturday 30th November 2024.

We will re-open again on Tuesday April 1st 2025.

Finance

Even though Muriel has not been well over the past year , she has managed to keep the Museum Finances under control. (See Finance Report). However Muriel will be standing down as a Trustee at this AGM and handing over all the Financial Affairs to Paul Hunt by the end of November when we close down for Winter.

I must thank Muriel on behalf of myself and the Trustees for all the hard work she has put in for the Museum over the past dozen years or so. The position of Treasurer is critical to the successful operation of the Museum and Muriel has carried it out superbly. We wish her well, with better health in the future.

Building

The refurbishment of the Toilets took place over the Winter and Spring. It has been generally hailed as being a great improvement and we have had many compliments this year.

When the old cladding had been removed from the internal walls of the Ladies Toilet, the whole area of the walls was found to be damp so we are going to replace the render on the exterior walls and waterproofing the roof.

The Tower – After the fall of debris from inside the Windmill Tower, we had a survey carried out which showed that work was necessary to carry out repairs to the Interior of the Tower. Richard Hartill is currently working on a funding source for this work. For the present, the interior of the Tower remains closed to Visitors until the work has been funded and carried out.

During the examination of the Tower, a Drone overfly was carried out which discovered that the Victorian chimney, which passed up inside the Tower and through the concrete cap, was in a poor state of repair and the capping slab on the chimney was missing. Fortunately we had enough funding to enable repairs to be carried out and this work has now been carried out.

Natural Stone and Copper Slag Block Wall – Chris Quarry has just about completed this wall which runs along the entry to the Lower Car Park. It has improved the entrance to the Lower Car Park immensely.

The Garden behind this new Wall is being looked after by Mike and Jayne Hudd who are making a great improvement to it, even though most of the Garden is on a steep slope.

Solar Panels – We are currently acquiring funding sources to carry out the purchase and installation of Solar Photo Voltaic Panels at a cost of £26k.

Planning Permission is also being sought.

Apron Car Park – It is hoped to carry out repairs to the badly cracked area at the entrance to the Apron Car Park over the Winter Shutdown period.

External Appearance of Museum – it is hoped to make a start on repairs to the render on the front of the Museum next year and then repaint.

Electrics and IT The new Broadband system is now in place.

Fire alarm System – The conversion of this system from Battery to Mains operation is being looked at by Alan Chillcott.

The new CCTV has now in place for some time and the quality of the images is extremely good including those during darkness.

Curatorial

Over the last year, we have continued to hold sessions to ensure that all Artefacts have been photographed. We are grateful to Tony Cropper for his input with this. We have continued to add numerous Artefacts too the Museum`s collection. The total number of Artefacts in the Collection is around 12,500. They are all stored safely and their locations recorded.

There are some Artefacts on display in cabinets around the Museum for Visitors to see.

Ian Humphreys continues to monitor the Museum environment weekly for temperature and humidity, monthly for light levels and 3 monthly for bugs and changes to silica gel with the delicate Artefacts.

He continues to work on displaying Artefacts when they need fixing to walls or displaying in different ways.

Heidi Ellison continues to sort out the large amount of documentation in the Library, identifying those items needing to be put into the Museum`s Collection.

Alan Bryant continues to develop the Museum`s Photographic Collection which is now one of the finest collections of local photographs in the area.

Caroline Beresford continues to work on the Museum`s Oral History Project, so we have both a digital and a paper copy for future generations.

Roger Windsor reads through documentation identifying items which relate to the Museum area.

This is helpful as it removes unnecessary documentation from the Library.

Geoff Cole scans documents for the Curatorial Team. His work is used to add information to the Visitor computers and since the beginning of the 2024 season, 9 booklets are now on display in the Douglas Room.

Ralph Brain and Bill Douglas are the reliable Room Guides to the Douglas Room with their unrivalled knowledge of the Marque. In addition, Ralph continues to keep the Douglas Motorcycles and artefacts clean and shining.

The WECA Grant enabled us to buy 6 new cabinets with lights which have enhanced the displays where they are currently used. In addition, we purchased three 24" photoviewers which run in different rooms. For the Museum Talks, we purchased, with the help of funding from the Friends, a computer with software, a Projector, a Screen and a Wired System to keep the set-up tidy. All we need to do now is to purchase new carpet tiles which we hope to complete in December 2024.

The Dave Prowse Green Cross Code Droid has proved to be a popular feature for Visitors again this Year. The Addition of the Model Railway has also been very popular.

During the Winter Shutdown, we aim to buy a new "Photoviewer" and some "Talking Tiles" to provide more interactivity around the Museum.

Tower access by the Visitors has been stopped for most of this Season. It reopened a few weeks ago to allow Visitors to look inside with a barrier across the entrance. Once repairs have been carried out to the inside of the Tower, the Visitors can go in side again but is likely to be some time before this happens.

We have been using blinds to cover pictures, paintings and delicate Artefacts to protect from ultra-violet light. They look neat and easier to use when closing the Museum after it has opened to Visitors.

The majority of Artefacts are stored away on the Top Floor; Ian and Heidi have spent many hours tidying it and disposing of unwanted items.

We continue to support schools and other institutions in the local community by lending them display items and information.

As mentioned earlier, during the Winter Shutdown, we aim to buy new carpet tiles for all rooms without them, except the Douglas Room.

The 2024 Season new displays were:-

Spot light on Warmley, Siston, Webbs Heath and Bridgegate.

Regent Street and High Street – Kingswood

Pubs in and around the Kingswood area.

200 years since the birth of Handel Cossham.

The Midland Railway including construction of a model railway.

Some existing displays were updated.

The Displays proposed for 2025 are:-

Spotlight on Kingswood.

Mines – In and Around the Kingswood Area.

Celebrities who have visited the Kingswood Area.

Roll of Honour of Soldiers from in and around Kingswood Area who lost their lives during WW2.

Additions to the existing WW 2 displays.

Some existing displays we hope to update such as Methodism and the Farm Map.

Events & Talks – Organised by Linda Payne

Since April 2024 we have had 8 Talks on diverse subjects such as Bristol East Auctions and History of Bristol Zoo. All of them were well subscribed and one Talk, "The History of Coal Mining in the Bristol Area, especially Kingswood, Hanham and Warmley" was repeated due to demand.

Further Talks this year are :

9th October - History of Warmley – Alan Bryant

13th November "I predict a Riot – The story of the 1831 Bristol uprising"

2nd December "The Story of Christmas Traditions"

Talks booked so far for 2025 :-

12th March 2025 "Witchcraft & Magic"

9th April 2025 "Butlers Family and the Coal Tar Industry"

14th May 2025 "Avon Wharf – Bitton"

11th June 2025 "Americans in Bristol in the Second World War"

9th July 2025 "The Story of Cossham"

Events – 2024

The Museum re-opened on Easter Saturday 30th March and Easter Sunday 31st March and Easter Monday 1st April.

Early Spring (May Day) Bank Holiday, the Museum opened Saturday, Sunday and Monday (4th, 5th, 6th, May 2024).

6th July 2024 "Friends" held a Table Top sale

13th July 2024 – East Bristol Auctions – Well Attended.

Late Spring Bank Holiday (Douglas Cavalcade) (25th, 26th, 27th May 2024).

August Bank Holiday (24th to 26th August 2024).

14th & 15th September 2024 Heritage Open Days. Tools for Self Reliance also held a Tool sale on both days.

Saturday 5th October 2024 – Volunteers` Social Evening & Quiz This went very well – Thanks to Annette and Alan Bryant.

Saturday 27th October 2024 "Museum at Night"

Sunday 1st December 2024 – "Xmas Craft Fair"

All thanks to Linda & Jo for organising many of the above.

Out of Hours Groups 2024 and In - House Groups

We have had visits from 8 Out of Hours Groups including Margaret Wills`s Birthday Party on 26th June and Mike & Jane Judd`s 40th Wedding Anniversary on 18th August. Still to come are:-

14th October 2024 Redfield Edge School

7th November 2024 Wick Primary School and also on this date , Kingswood Cubs.

27th November 2024 Kingswood Scouts.

Lynda Blackwell also carried out Outreach visits to Wick Primary on 24th September and Courtney Road School on 27th September 2024.

During the Winter, we lost the Glass Loft which has not helped our finances, but we still have the Boxing Gym, Tools for Self Reliance, Men in Sheds, Ladies DIY and Knitters & Natters who meet on Wednesday afternoons.

Administration & Fund Raising

The Administration Office continues to be run very efficiently by Paul Evans and Dale Blackwell with Anne Pinker now helping Paul in day-to-day tasks.

Paul is liaising with Richard Hartill to access grant funding for the repairs and improvements that the Museum needs.

Currently we have achieved or are seeking, funding for Repairs to the Interior of the Tower, Solar Panels on the Roof, Waterproofing of the Toilet Walls and Roof and Improving the Appearance of the External Walls of the Museum.

Future Projects are, Repairs to the Car Park Concrete, Batteries for the Solar Panels, Additional IR Heaters in Rooms with no heating, Insulating the Wooden Wall on the Second Floor and an External Fire Escape for the Second Floor.

Statistics – Dale Blackwell

Total Number of Visitors from start of January 2024 to end August 2024 was 1845 (Including Group and School Visits and Douglas Club meetings).

The September figures will include the Open Days when we did have a large number of Visitors through the door. Although they did not pay, the Cafe did very well.

So far this year, we are about 100 visitors down on last year.

The Cafe

The Cafe has done very well this year, even making money when the Museum was open for free on the Heritage Open Days. I must thank the great work done by the Cafe Volunteers, Barbara Russell, Jill Robins, Jo Payne, and Sue Cook.

A new Boiler has been fitted by Alan Chillcott and Paul Evans, plus a lime de-scaling unit in the water pipe to the Boiler.

Opening up the Museum and Reception Desk

I must give my thanks to the two stalwarts Steve Wood and Ian Humphreys, who open up the Museum each week from April to November. We really need a few additional Keyholders to relieve the load on Steve and Ian.

Also my thanks to Margaret Wills and Pam Hum who look after the Visitor Reception Desk at Weekends and Tuesdays.

Finally

I must finish the Chairman`s Report for 2023/2024 with my thanks to all Volunteers who have worked so hard and consistently over the past 12 months to maintain the Museum`s high reputation. Also, this will be my last Chairman`s Report as I am stepping down after 6 years in the position. We have been through some difficult times with the various lock-downs and restrictions of the Covid pandemic but we all hope that is behind us now.

I wish you all the best in the Future,

KINGSWOOD HERITAGE MUSEUM TRUST

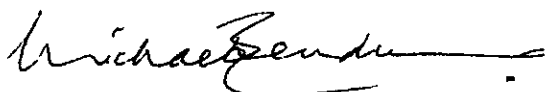
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

RECEIPTS:	£	£	PAYMENTS:	£	£	SUMMARY:	£
Grants: South Glos Council (SLA)	2,800.00		BT/Internet	2,553.16		Opening Balance	
Oldland Parish Council	300.00		Office Costs	582.47		Net Receipts	60,180.79
WECA Display	9,500.00		General Training	31.20		Net Payments	49,207.12
Friends	6,519.60		Friends Refunds	36.00		Net Surplus	10,973.67
PA Lovell	1,000.00		Display	1,473.03		Closing Balance	68,775.55
South Glos Council (E Bromily)	1,500.00	21,619.60	Display/WECA Grant	9,404.80	10,877.83		
Donations		799.49	Curational		271.89		
Admissions		6,056.50	Card Machines		848.62		
Groups: Out of Hours	774.00		Container Rent & Rates	1,224.13			
Learning	1,129.50		Container Rent receivable	864.16	359.97		14,382.00
Knitters & Knatters	681.00		IT/Marketing		562.08		11,907.79
Tools for Self Reliance	1,575.00		Membership		124.00		3,000.00
Friends	0.00		Friends Grant - Humidifiers		1,529.59		5,300.00
Men in Sheds	1,350.00		Education		134.96		2,000.00
Ladies DIY	567.00		Overheads: Water Rates	607.00			36,589.79
Douglas Club	252.00	6,328.50	Council Rates	38.40			
Income	1,777.00		Electricity	8,115.50			
Expenditure	319.94	1,457.06	Repairs & Maintenance	549.57			
Income	5,356.25		Health & Safety	1,828.04			
Expenditure	2,037.08	3,319.17	Waste Collection	852.75			
Income	1,606.82		Janitorial	439.90			
Expenditure	271.09	1,335.73	Insurance: Public Ty	908.35			
Outreach		210.00	Wessex	787.90			
Rents: Paddy John's Gym	9,135.00		Broker's Fee	0.00	14,127.41		
Paddy John's Elect.	1804.72		Development		15,882.00		
Glass Loft	4,704.00		Miscellaneous Expenditure		1,285.94		
Glass Loft Elect.	585.03						
Rotary Storage	100.00	16,328.75					
Books, Plants etc	784.33						
Room Hire	202.00	986.33					
Miscellaneous Income		1,739.66					
		60,180.79					
		49,207.12					

To the Trustees and Members of KINGSWOOD HERITAGE MUSEUM TRUST
Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2024:

I have examined the statements, vouchers and books made available to me and in my opinion the Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2024 presented shows a true and fair statement of the receipts and payments of the Kingswood Heritage Museum Trust for the year ended on that date and of the excess of receipts over payments for the period then ended of £10,973.67.

The balance carried forward is represented by a reconciled balance on current account at the NatWest Bank of £68,347.93 and Cash in Hand of £427.62 and the documents presented to me are consistent with those balances. I have not formally confirmed the Cash in Hand at the year-end.



Michael Bendrey, 27 May 2024.

KINGSWOOD HERITAGE MUSEUM TRUST

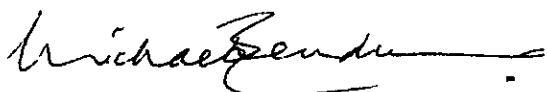
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

RECEIPTS:	£	£	PAYMENTS:	£	£	SUMMARY:	£
Grants: South Glos Council (SLA)	2,800.00		BT/Internet	2,553.16		Opening Balance	
Oldland Parish Council	300.00		Office Costs	582.47		Net Receipts	60,180.79
WECA Display	9,500.00		General Training	31.20		Net Payments	49,207.12
Friends	6,519.60		Friends Refunds	36.00		Net Surplus	10,973.67
PA Lovell	1,000.00		Display	1,473.03		Closing Balance	68,775.55
South Glos Council (E Bromily)	1,500.00	21,619.60	Display/WECA Grant	9,404.80	10,877.83		
Donations		799.49	Curational		271.89		
Admissions		6,056.50	Card Machines		848.62		
Groups: Out of Hours	774.00		Container Rent & Rates	1,224.13			
Learning	1,129.50		Container Rent receivable	864.16	359.97		14,382.00
Knitters & Knatters	681.00		IT/Marketing		562.08		11,907.79
Tools for Self Reliance	1,575.00		Membership		124.00		3,000.00
Friends	0.00		Friends Grant - Humidifiers		1,529.59		5,300.00
Men in Sheds	1,350.00		Education		134.96		2,000.00
Ladies DIY	567.00		Overheads: Water Rates	607.00			36,589.79
Douglas Club	252.00	6,328.50	Council Rates	38.40			
Income	1,777.00		Electricity	8,115.50			
Expenditure	319.94	1,457.06	Repairs & Maintenance	549.57			
Income	5,356.25		Health & Safety	1,828.04			
Expenditure	2,037.08	3,319.17	Waste Collection	852.75			
Income	1,606.82		Janitorial	439.90			
Expenditure	271.09	1,335.73	Insurance: Public Ty	908.35			
Outreach		210.00	Wessex	787.90			
Rents: Paddy John's Gym	9,135.00		Broker's Fee	0.00	14,127.41		
Paddy John's Elect.	1804.72		Development		15,882.00		
Glass Loft	4,704.00		Miscellaneous Expenditure		1,285.94		
Glass Loft Elect.	585.03						
Rotary Storage	100.00	16,328.75					
Books, Plants etc	784.33						
Room Hire	202.00	986.33					
Miscellaneous Income		1,739.66					
		60,180.79					
		49,207.12					

To the Trustees and Members of KINGSWOOD HERITAGE MUSEUM TRUST
Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2024:

I have examined the statements, vouchers and books made available to me and in my opinion the Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2024 presented shows a true and fair statement of the receipts and payments of the Kingswood Heritage Museum Trust for the year ended on that date and of the excess of receipts over payments for the period then ended of £10,973.67.

The balance carried forward is represented by a reconciled balance on current account at the NatWest Bank of £68,347.93 and Cash in Hand of £427.62 and the documents presented to me are consistent with those balances. I have not formally confirmed the Cash in Hand at the year-end.



Michael Bendrey, 27 May 2024.