

Pickering War Memorial Charitable Trust

Treasurer's Annual Report for the financial year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Registered Address

Memorial Hall
Potter Hill
Pickering
YO18 8AA

Charity Registration Number: 1045498

1 Trustees

The following people served as Trustees during the period of the report:

Mal Danks (Secretary to 08/07/24, retired)
Tony Danks (Treasurer to 08/07/24, retired)
Joan Lovejoy (Chair)
Ishmail Ahmed (Deputy Chair)
Emma Dineen
Alison Seaward
June Haighton (retired 08/07/24)
Gill Colley (resigned 30/09/24)
Chris Colley (resigned 30/09/24)
Ruby D'Alquen
Richard Haythorne (Treasurer from 08/07/24)
Helene Haythorne (Secretary from 08/07/24)
Andrew Gadsby (co-opted from 25/11/24)

2 Objectives and Activities

The current Charity was created in 1994 with the object, as defined in the Charity scheme document, of providing and maintaining a facility for the use of the people of Pickering, without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, to be used for meetings, lectures, classes and other forms of recreation and leisure activities.

The Charity is managed by a Management Committee of Trustees. Pickering Town Council is designated as Custodian Trustee and holds legal title of the Memorial Hall. The remaining trustees are volunteers appointed under the terms of the Charity scheme document.

The Trustees are committed to the provision of the facilities in the Memorial Hall for the benefit of the people of Pickering, at the lowest prices possible while maintaining the viability and integrity of the building and equipment.

While carrying out their duties the Trustees believe they have complied with the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

3 Achievements and Performance

The Memorial Hall continues to be an extremely well used asset in the heart of our town providing a meeting place for the community, as well as office space for small businesses, independent groups and the Town Council.

Occupancy rates of rental rooms remains healthy and income from room hire increased slightly since the last reporting period. The Management Committee with the Hall Manager continuously and actively explore ways to increase room occupancy and therefore income.

Towards the end of the reporting period an information gathering exercise carried out by the trustees, using social media, highlighted that the majority of local residents that responded, mistakenly believed that the Memorial Hall is owned, managed and funded by the Town Council. This resulted in the decision to design and produce an information/promotion leaflet for distribution to all Pickering households. The leaflet was funded by a successful grant application to Pickering Town Council.

The Management Committee agreed to broaden the reach of the *Friends Of The Memorial Hall* fundraising scheme by offering an additional online donation option as well as the traditional method. This was publicized in the above mentioned information leaflet, on the Memorial Hall's newly revamped website and on new advertising displays located in the foyer.

The Management Committee agreed to replace an obsolete desktop PC used by the Hall Manager to process room bookings. A laptop and mobile telephone were purchased along with modern multi-function booking software that can be accessed remotely from multiple devices both in the office and remotely. This expenditure was funded by a grant from Pickering Town Council.

Annual fund raising efforts continued including a Quiz Night at the Sun Inn, the Pickering Town Treasure Hunt, and the ever popular book donation scheme located in the foyer of the Memorial Hall.

4 Financial Review

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 are included with this report.

The financial environment in which the Charity operates is increasingly challenging as running costs increase year on year while income remains relatively static due to the constraints of the building and our aspiration to provide low cost facilities to the community.

The Management Committee acknowledged that the net operating loss of £6452.79 is not sustainable and subsequently undertook a review of room hire and long term rental pricing. Both room hire and rent rates were increased during 2025.

Cash reserves fell by £5,269 from £93,004 on 01/04/2024 to £87,735 on 31/03/2025. £5000 was used in June 2024 to bridge a running cost shortfall. Cash reserves were soon to fall by a further £10,000 early in April 2025 to pay for a replacement boiler which was installed in January 2025 following the failure of the old unit.

On 1 October 2024 cash reserves were transferred from a low interest yielding instant access account to higher interest notice accounts. Investment income therefore increased significantly in the second half of the reporting period and thereafter.

The Management Committee is continually exploring ways to reduce running costs:

- During the reporting period the annual cost of insurance was reduced by £1200 by separating Flood Cover from the general business insurance policy.
- A positive consequence of replacing the failed boiler is that the new boiler is less powerful and therefore uses less gas than the old one. Heating engineers confirmed that the old boiler was significantly overpowered for the purpose it was being used for and the thermal demand of the space it heats.
- On investigating the seemingly high electric bills, with the current Supplier British Gas, it was found that the electric supply into the building exceeds the Halls' actual requirements. A process to change the building's electric meter from a Half Hourly Current Transformer (CT) Meter, intended for use in industrial settings, to a standard Smart Meter has begun. The work is complicated by the need to co-ordinate between the suppliers' meter service subcontractor and Northern Powergrid. On completion of the work we will however be able to access more competitive electric tariffs from a wider range of suppliers.
- In December 2024 energy consultants *Synergi Energy Systems* carried out a free energy survey to identify potential savings. Their subsequent report made several recommendations that the Management Committee has considered and will review periodically as funding becomes available.

Richard Haythorne
Treasurer
21 July 2025



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2024	To	Period end date 31/03/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Rent	15,389	-	-	15,389	14,736
Room Hire	38,780	-	-	38,780	35,521
Catering	-	-	-	-	454
Fund Raising	334	-	-	334	2,899
Donations	1,687	-	-	1,687	2,581
Bank Interest	2,036	-	-	2,036	876
Sundry	2,397	-	-	2,397	1,202
	-	-	-	-	3,347
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	60,623	-	-	60,623	61,616
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	60,623	-	-	60,623	61,616
A3 Payments					
Wages	8,486	-	-	8,486	8,191
Insurance & Utilities	25,568	-	-	25,568	21,556
Stationary/Postage/Telephone	1,965	-	-	1,965	1,244
Renewals & Maintenance	8,614	-	-	8,614	8,987
Fees & Licences	1,033	-	-	1,033	1,763
Caterering Expenses	84	-	-	84	382
Equipment Purchases	897	-	-	897	56
Sundry Expenditure	1,182	-	-	1,182	3,525
Hall Management	19,272	-	-	19,272	18,360
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	67,101	-	-	67,101	64,064
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	67,101	-	-	67,101	64,064
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 6,478	-	-	- 6,478	- 2,448
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 6,478	-	-	- 6,478	- 2,448

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	10,823	-	
	Investment Accounts	76,867	-	-
	Petty Cash	46	-	-
	Total cash funds	87,736	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Agreement Error

OK

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Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Pickering War Memorial Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Pickering War Memorial Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31st March 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I note that the Statement of assets and liabilities of the Trust does not record any value to the Pickering War Memorial Hall nor have I been able to see any evidence of registered title or ownership of this property, I have however seen documentation that supports that Pickering Town Council are custodian trustees of this property.

I have no other concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: John B Harrison

Relevant professional qualification FCA:

Address: The Old Rectory, 23 Hallgarth, Pickering, YO18 7AW

Date: 12th November 2025

RJH 12/11/25