

Tring & District Local History & Museum Society Registered charity no. 1053276

Annual Report 2024-25 Adopted by the trustees on 23 April 2025

This has been a highly satisfactory and momentous year for the Society and its museum.

Membership of the committee (which is the trustee body of the charity) remained unchanged, although regrettably towards the end of the year our Membership Secretary, John Savage, told us he would be unable to continue owing to poor health. John held the position for ten years, and brought his customary integrity, exacting standards and efficiency to bear on the task, for which we are most grateful. David Armstrong kindly stepped in to help with the annual subscription renewals.

At the AGM in 2024, members agreed to convert the Society from Registered Charity status to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Regrettably, owing to the ill health of the consultant advising us and the perversities of the online conversion process, we were not able to achieve the change by the year end, but it is hoped that it will be made very soon.

Our programme of speaker evenings, assembled by Shelley Savage, brought us yet again a variety of fascinating topics. Mike Hutchinson recounted the history of Tring Park School, enlivened with hair-raising memories of former pupils. Paul Rabbitts took his book *Leighton Buzzard in 50 Buildings* as the basis for a tour of our neighbouring market town, and Liz Young described the ancient but endangered craft of bookbinding. Local resident Liz Green told us about the role of a High Sheriff, along with her own charitable activities. Frank Iddiols identified and explained the numerous but largely forgotten Ordnance Survey bench marks still to be found, and the ever-dependable Julian Hunt spoke of the representation of Bucks and Herts in the Domesday Book.

We remained as ever grateful to Tring Town Council for their moral support, and their grant which largely offsets the rent. Steps have been taken towards the renewal of the museum lease next year.

Museum activity has been dominated by the loan of two complete and two fragmentary examples of the medieval 'Tring tiles' from the Victoria and Albert Museum. It remains highly unusual for a museum of our size to achieve a loan from a national institution, and yet this is our second such loan, following that of the 1315 Charter from The National Archives in 2015. Many hurdles had to be jumped before the loan could be agreed, but the display has proved very striking and popular.

Alongside the V&A tiles have been shown the remarkable interpretations of tiles thought once to have existed, using the same comic-book style and made by artist Susan Elaine Jones, who also produced an explanatory book on the subject. Various groups were invited to make private visits to the exhibition and the response was remarkable. Prehistory returned in the form of fibreglass dinosaurs, bringing us at least to the attention of a large number of parents. These initiatives all contributed to a 24% upturn in annual museum attendance, bringing the number of visitors by the end of March to 2,952.

We have at last achieved the restoration of an oil painting from our collection which was in no state to be displayed, being damaged and discoloured and without its frame. *Home Farm*, painted in the 1890s by Kate Gardiner Hastings, sister of Richardson Carr who lived there, has now been repaired by conservators Therese and Al Prunet-Brewer, and it will go on display soon. We were delighted to receive a generous grant towards this work from the Hertfordshire Heritage Fund.

Driven principally by insurance requirements, our landlord Tring Town Council presented us with a number of compliance obligations, on matters ranging from electrical and fire safety to the potential presence of legionella and asbestos. These have necessitated some expenditure, without raising any

insurmountable problems. An expensive upgrade to the sliding doors also had to be carried out, as well as security improvements needed for the V&A display.

We have maintained an ample number of volunteer stewards, on whose support the museum depends. We remain anxious to improve the comfort of the Outer Gallery and hope to be able to install additional insulation and better heating before cold weather sets in again.

Our ability to collect and store artefacts continues to be impacted by the constraints of the Heritage Store in Berkhamsted. We welcomed the appointment of Melissa Maynard-Linsey to the post of Museum Manager there and can only look forward to the eventual resolution of the storage issue.

Our very existence relies on a strong membership base and our numbers have held up well, as have our finances, despite the numerous costs incurred in meeting the V&A and Arts Council England's requirements in connection with the loan of the tiles. We were thrilled to hear that a local charity, on winding up its activities and distributing its capital, had chosen to make us a grant of £10,000, a generous endorsement of the work which the Society does and a recognition of the place which the museum has come to occupy in the local community.

Customary Society activities like the Reminiscence Group and the Quiz sheet have remained successful and popular. The Newsletter has thrived and the contribution of sixth form history students at Tring School has continued. The website has experienced over 126,000 visits. We returned to the Victoria Room to participate in the town's Christmas Festival, our display bringing 475 visitors. The indefatigable Wendy Austin has written a new volume, *Communications come to Tring*, and generously given us copies to sell. Our popular title *The Rothschilds and Tring* was reprinted, justified by strong sales at Waddesdon Manor and the Natural History Museum. Walks were conducted for Heritage Open Days and the Chiltern Society's heritage festival.

All of this requires leadership and direction, and the trustees have taken steps to plan for their succession, preferably involving younger people. While firmly believing that the Society punches above its weight and is well regarded in the local history world, it is clear that it can only continue to succeed if it attracts people who can bring energy and enthusiasm as well as adaptability to new ideas, methods and opportunities.

Our organisation is entirely voluntary, and we would like to thank all Society members, especially those who are active participants, for their continuing support. Without their dedication and hard work, the Society and its museum would be unable to make the strong contribution to Tring life that it does.

Tim Amsden
Chairman



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1053276

TRING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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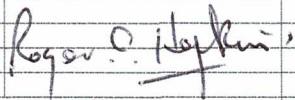
TRING AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1053276

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

2023/24

		£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS		Notes			
Unrestricted funds					
Membership			2,958		2,579
Book sales			2,474		1,564
Merchandise sales			882		766
Fundraising	1		1,854		1,850
Donations & bequests			13,731		2,892
Grants - Tring Town Council			2,200		2,200
Bank interest			3,054		3,164
HMRC gift aid refund			1,055		1,062
			28,208		16,077
Allocated funds					
Appeals -			-		-
Grants -	2				
Tring Town Council -		Year book	300		
Herts Heritage Fund -		Painting restoration	1,500		
Dacorum Borough Council		Tile demonstration	500		
Share Museums East -		CIO Costs	-	800	
Receipts and Donations					
Reminiscence group funds paid in	8d		199	103	
				2,499	903
TOTAL RECEIPTS			30,707		16,980
PAYMENTS					
Museum running costs	3		11,542	8,076	
Museum building development & improvement costs	4		2,388	-	
Equipment purchase & maintenance	5		5,523	637	
Artefact acquisition, display and maintenance costs	6		5,446	1,573	
Book publishing costs or purchased for resale			1,215	384	
Merchandise purchased for resale			311	502	
Hall hire, exhibition and fundraising expenses	7		703	1,133	
Speaker evening costs (excluding hall hire see note 7)			506	85	
Subscriptions			201	155	
Administration costs			488	302	
Bank and card machine costs			39	36	
Newsletter costs			1,438	1,208	
Publicity costs			513	-	
Stewards event			11	90	
Trustee, public liability and contents insurance			1,038	1,037	
Training & conference costs			-	96	
Website hosting costs			174	159	
Charitable Incorporated Organisation conversion costs			-	650	
Year book publishing costs			300	-	
Sundry expenditure			16	15	
TOTAL PAYMENTS			31,852		16,138
NET RECEIPTS/(DEFICIT)			(1,145)		842
Total Bank funds at 1 April 2024			67,278		66,436
TOTAL CASH & BANK FUNDS AT	31 March 2025		66,133		67,278

TRING AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY						
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES						
At 31 March 2025				31 March 2024		
	<u>Notes</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	
Bank Accounts						
Deposit			62,533			65,979
Current			3,397			1,149
Total Bank Account Balances			65,930			67,128
Cash in hand			203			150
Total Bank & Cash Account Balances			66,133			67,278
Other Assets						
Leasehold Museum Building Renovation & Display Set Up Costs (Amortised over 14 years to 2026)						
Total original costs		306,195				306,195
Improvements from own funds during year	4	2,388				-
		308,583				306,195
Less Building grants received		(245,327)				(245,327)
Other grants received		(18,322)				(18,322)
		44,934				42,546
Amortisation of leasehold improvements		(40,634)				(36,335)
Balance carried forward 31 March 2025				4,300		6,211
Equipment (Depreciated 20% RB)						
Cost brought forward 1 April 2024		12,746				11,202
Additions during year		512				1,544
Disposals during year		-				-
		13,258				12,746
Depreciation to date		(10,256)				(9,505)
Balance carried forward 31 March 2025				3,002		3,241
Current Assets						
Merchandise & book stock		3,225				2,697
Rent held as deposit		1,000				1,000
				4,225		3,697
Total Assets			77,660			80,427
Current Liabilities						
				-		-
Net Assets			77,660			80,427
Represented by balances on:						
Allocated funds:						
Museum development & improvement	8a		9,505			11,893
Artefact acquisition fund	8b		3,321			3,321
Washington memorial fund	8c		160			160
Reminiscence group fund	8d		-			-
Unrestricted funds:						
General fund	9		64,674			65,053
Total Funds			77,660			80,427
 R. C. Hopkins FCA Hon. Treasurer				20 May 2025 Date		

Tring & District Local History and Museum Society

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF TRING &
DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2025**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Tring & District Local History and Museum Society for the year ended 31th March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of this report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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 Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no 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.


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B Johnson B Com FCA
9, Shrublands Road
Berkhamsted
HP4 3HY

20 May 2025
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Date

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