

## Holst Birthplace Trust: Chairman's Report for the year ending 31st March 2021

The year ending 31st March 2021 was a strange one for the world and the Holst Birthplace Museum was not exempt from the impact of that strangeness. The year began with the Museum closed due to the restrictions imposed to control the COVID - 19 pandemic. It remained closed for most of the year but we were able to open for a brief period between 26 September 2020 and 4 November 2020, when we welcomed pre-booked parties of between 1 and 6 connected people on two days per week for visits of 1 ¼ hours. We held an official re-opening event on 21 September 2020 based in the front garden and the pavement in front of the Museum, with strictly limited numbers but including Cheltenham MP, Alex Chalk, who cut the ribbon across the front door, and guest appearances from "Gustav Holst"; celebrating his 146th birthday, and his good friend "Ralph Vaughan Williams", in the persons of Richard Watson and Phil Collins respectively. John and Mandy Rowlands also donned Victorian dress, adding a touch of vivacity and period charm to the event. Although lower-key than we would have liked, it was a very joyous occasion with several volunteers coming along to celebrate the reopening, suitably socially distanced. We did not know at the time that we would have to close again after such a short period.

A further impact of COVID was that Laura and Lucy were on full or partial furlough from 8 May 2020 until beyond the end of the year under review. This was done to help preserve the Trust's financial resources at a time of considerable uncertainty. In the event Government grants, paid by Cheltenham Borough Council, did much to alleviate our losses, but, in general, we only knew retrospectively as lockdown periods got extended, that these funds would be forthcoming. The absence or partial absence of Laura and Lucy meant that additional workloads fell upon Trustees and Volunteers and I am grateful to all those who helped to keep the Museum going, and indeed, progressing in some ways over the course of the year.

A huge amount of effort was again expended in reviewing the marketing approach for the Museum and what its proposition is to potential visitors. The "Holst Victorian House" branding will be launched in September 2021 to further develop the theme of "A Victorian home brought to Life" utilising the story of the Holst family's time living in the house. Mike Jenkinson, who is project managing the re-branding programme and has worked tirelessly on it, will talk more about this at the close of the meeting. We are also engaged in producing a series of videos for use both in the house and on the web which will support the story and greatly enhance our digital offering. We are grateful to the L. G. Harris Trust for their donation towards the cost of producing these videos.

The staging of live events was not possible during the year but several “virtual” events have been staged. An example was the “Virtual Victorian Easter Festival”, which Laura and Lucy were able to set up at short notice before they were furloughed and which ran very successfully and replaced the “real” event that was due to take place over the Easter school holidays. Various other imaginative ideas were developed with the aim of keeping the Museum in people’s minds during the period when they were unable to visit, and to raise funds. These included:

- Piano recitals performed on Holst’s piano at the museum by Tsukushi Mitsuda, Aaron LeMaistre, John Wright, Adam Heron and Robin Smith with Hannah Hughes. Thanks are due to Millie Musset for arranging to have these recitals filmed and recorded and for preparing the videos for loading on to the website.
- A Christmas recital performed by Catherine Martin’s nephew, Peter Martin and his accompanist, Matthew Jorysz.
- A composite video featuring Museum Volunteers and pupils and staff of Cheltenham College, with each singer separately recording themselves singing / *Vow To Thee My Country* and the separate recordings then being combined with a piano accompaniment played by Kit Perona-Wright from the college. Amazingly the end result was very impressive.
- An object of the month featuring an item from the Museum’s collection shown on our website with notes about the item. Thanks are due to Kirsty Hartiosis who provided these items whilst Laura was furloughed.
- Videos of cooking in a mini-kitchen produced by Mandy and John Rowlands.
- ZOOM presentations by Lits Philippou on Afternoon Tea, Gin, Victorian Wining and Dining and Tea as a drink.

Thanks are due to all those who performed in or helped to create these on-line items. Alan Parker and his Events Committee are hoping to stage “live” events again very soon.

As ever, there are many people who I need to thank for the work they have done and the support they have given to the Museum over the course of the year under review.

Let me start by thanking my fellow Trustees and the Honorary Secretary, who have had to take on additional work due to the furloughing of staff and who have met, albeit via ZOOM, much more regularly than we did pre-Covid. I thank them for their support, patience and forbearance. It would be invidious to single out individual

Trustees but I am none-the-less going to mention two and I hope that their colleagues will forgive me. Firstly I would mention Tom Clarke. Like me, Tom will step down as a Trustee at the end of this meeting, having completed his maximum six-year term as Membership Trustee. This means that he has been there throughout my term as Chairman and has had to show patience and forbearance for a good deal longer than anyone else. Tom has been constantly supportive and is a great ideas man and lateral thinker. His contribution will, I am sure, be much missed.

Secondly I would like to mention Mike Jenkinson. Mike was co-opted as a Trustee in October but has been a Holst mainstay for much longer than I have been involved with the Museum. His primary rôle on the Board is to project manage Re-branding, which on its own is a huge task but Mike has also taken a hand in Volunteer Training and web-site updating for re-opening. That is in addition to his rôle as Editor of the Newsletter, which rôle he fulfilled for eight years before handing it on to Anci Seymenliyska following the publication of the most recent addition. Many thanks, Mike.

My next thanks are to Laura and Lucy. As previously mentioned, they were not around for much of the 2020/21 year and their absence was noticed. It is good to have them back exhibiting their customary dedication and enthusiasm. Incidentally, Laura has also been there throughout my six years in office and so she probably deserves a medal for patience as well.

The Museum continues to be blessed with a wonderful group of Volunteers. It is a continuing truth that the Museum cannot operate without Volunteers. It is also a continuing truth that we need more Volunteers, and so if you know any likely candidates, please direct them to Judith Syvret!

Thanks are due to all Volunteers but among those deserving special thanks are Rachel Tedd and Christine Eyre for running the Museum Shop for a number of years before recently handing that job over to Carol Over and Marina Moore. Rachel, of course, continues in the rôle of Honorary Secretary and gets involved in a number of other things for the Museum. Thanks to all four of them.

Catherine Martin showed great initiative in contacting Ian Skelly of Radio 3 fame. This was having learned that he is an admirer of Holst. Ian subsequently mentioned the Museum in his programme giving us very welcome publicity.

Angela Applegate, who has given presentations on Holst to various organisations for many years in order to raise funds, went digital this year. Being unable to give live shows she recorded her presentation and made it available to download from the website so that the Holst message could continue to be spread and funds could continue to be raised. Many thanks as always, Angela.

I would like to thank our President, Martyn Brabbins, and Vice-President Bill Parker for their continuing support. Sadly Vice-President Marjorie Imlah passed away during the year, on 14 December 2020. Marjorie was a past chair of the Trust and remained a great supporter of the Museum and its activities. She is much missed.

Our Patrons are also due thanks for their interest and support.

We continue to be grateful to Cheltenham Borough Council for their grant under our Service Level Agreement. This is in addition to the funds that they provided under the Government's COVID relief programmes.

Details of all donations received are shown in the Trustees' Report and our gratitude is extended to all individuals, Trusts and corporate bodies that have contributed during the year. Every donation is much appreciated.

Before moving on to developments on the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all of you and all the other Members - the Friends of the Holst. Your subscriptions continue to provide valuable income to help with the running costs of the Museum and, more important in many ways, your commitment as Friends makes it clear that there is a significant group of people interested in the continuing prosperity of the Holst.

It has been an active year in terms of changes in the Board of Trustees. David Addison resigned as Collections Trustee on 29 October 2020 but remains a member of the Collections Committee. He was replaced by the co-option of Sarah Staniforth, who is standing for election today. Alan Gilmour resigned as Marketing Trustee on 09 December 2020. We are still looking to recruit a replacement. You may recall that Meurig Bowen stood down as a Trustee at last year's AGM, having completed his maximum six year term. During the year we have co-opted Mike Jenkinson as Re-branding Trustee, Martin Renshaw as Digitisation Trustee and Judith Syvret as Volunteers Trustee. They are all standing for election today.

Alan Parker has completed three year's as Events Trustee as is standing for re-election today.

Liz Giles, Clive Petch and Marina Moore are all eligible to continue as Trustees and have agreed to do so, with Marina taking on the rôle of Membership Trustee. I am also very pleased, not to say relieved, to report that Rachel Tedd will be continuing as the Honorary Secretary.

As previously mentioned, Tom Clarke has completed his maximum six years as Membership Trustee and will therefore retire at the close of the AGM. Once again, Tom, many thanks for a job well done.

Also as previously mentioned, I have also completed my maximum six years as Chairman of the Trust and will step down at the close of the AGM. I am delighted to be able to say that, provided that you as members duly elect her as a Trustee, Hilary Simpson will be elected as Chair of the Trust at a meeting of the Trustees following the AGM. Hilary has lived in Cheltenham, in fact in Pittville, for about nine years and has kept herself busy since she arrived having been Chair at Friends of The Wilson, a Trustee at Friends of Pittville and committee member at the Cheltenham Arts Council, for four years in each case. She is also I am also Secretary to the Pittville History Works group and to the Pittville Pump Room Revival group and acts as HR Adviser to the William Morris Society. She is well equipped to become our Chair and I wish her every success in leading the Trust.

As this is my final Report, let me conclude by saying that it has been a pleasure and a privilege to Chair the Holst Birthplace Trust for the past six years. It is sobering to reflect that, thanks to the combined effects of rainwater ingress and a global pandemic, the Museum has been closed for a little over 25% of my time in the Chair. I sincerely hope that my successor will have greater success in keeping the Museum open. When I became Chairman my overarching ambition was to leave the Trust in a solvent state when I handed over, and for much of my time generating sufficient income to achieve that was a major issue. As it happens, thanks to no actions on my part, the Trust has never been as solvent as it is today. That is not a reason for complacency because that level of solvency arises from non-repeatable sources. It does mean, however, that the Trust will be able to carry out some of its plans intended in part to secure greater regular income in the future. I am confident that the remaining and new Trustees will succeed in implementing those plans.

Thank you for your attention.

**The Holst Birthplace Trust (a company limited by guarantee, registered charity 1078599)**

**Statement of Financial Affairs (also Summary Income and Expenditure Account)  
for the year ended 31st March 2021**

	2020-2021			2019-2020		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES:-</b>						
Admissions	603	0	603	16,526	0	16,526
Profit on Shop Sales	352	0	352	2,564	0	2,564
Surplus on Events	940	0	940	3,903	0	3,903
Donations	21,582	0	21,582	47,474	0	47,474
CBC Grant	7,500	0	7,500	7,500	0	7,500
Other Grants	33,562	0	33,562	2,195	0	2,195
Friends' Subscriptions	4,780	0	4,780	5,508	0	5,508
Collection items	0	0	0	0	3,371	3,371
Exhibition	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0	6,208	6,208
Interest	1,341	0	1,341	1,595	0	1,595
Planets Circle Dinner	0	0	0	1,181	0	1,181
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	194	0	194
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>70,659</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,659</b>	<b>88,638</b>	<b>9,579</b>	<b>98,217</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED:</b>						
Curatorial Costs	0	0	0	17,866	0	17,866
Staff Costs *	29,527	0	29,527	0	0	0
Advertising & Marketing	2,504	0	2,504	3,626	0	3,626
Website	565	0	565	17	0	17
Subscriptions	122	0	122	517	0	517
Rates & Water	145	0	145	977	0	977
Electricity	3,860	0	3,860	3,205	0	3,205
Repairs & Maintenance	1,078	0	1,078	1,806	0	1,806
Cleaning	59	0	59	2,383	0	2,383
Insurance	2,392	0	2,392	2,826	0	2,826
Broadband & Landline	855	0	855	929	0	929
Printing, Postage & Stationery	351	0	351	220	0	220
Education	80	0	80	0	12,208	12,208
Collections	0	0	0	0	4,655	4,655
Volunteer expenses	0	0	0	269	0	269
Transaction expenses	37	0	37	527	0	527
Security expenses	1,095	0	1,095	870	0	870
Music licensing	0	0	0	601	0	601
Exhibition	0	0	0	853	0	853
Governance expenses	48	0	48	48	0	48
Miscellaneous	47	0	47	260	0	260
Rebranding Costs	62	0	62	0	0	0
Covid-19 expenses	367	0	367	0	0	0
Depreciation	2,204	0	2,204	2,705	0	2,705
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>45,399</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,399</b>	<b>40,505</b>	<b>16,863</b>	<b>57,368</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	25,259	0	25,259	48,134	-7,285	40,849
Recognised gain/(loss) on Investments	1,057	0	1,057	28	0	28
<b>Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>26,317</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,317</b>	<b>48,162</b>	<b>-7,285</b>	<b>40,877</b>

\* All staff costs have been amalgamated (previously included within Curatorial Costs, Cleaning and Education)

**The Holst Birthplace Trust (a company limited by guarantee, registered charity 1078599)**

**Balance Sheet**

	As @ 31st March 2021		As @ 31st March 2020	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>				
Freehold Property (at 2000 valuation)		148,500		148,500
Collection Items		19,319		19,319
Fixtures & Fittings	20,475		38,868	
Less - Accumulated Depreciation	-17,389	3,086	-33,087	5,781
Total Fixed Assets		<u>170,905</u>		<u>173,600</u>
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
Stock	4,493		4,611	
Debtors & Prepayments	3,882		5,533	
Investments	43,113		42,056	
Bank & Cash Balances	118,271		80,737	
Total Current Assets		169,759		132,937
<b>Less - Current Liabilities:</b>				
Creditors & Accruals		21,670		13,859
Total Net Current Assets		<u>148,090</u>		<u>119,078</u>
Total Net Assets		<u><u>318,995</u></u>		<u><u>292,678</u></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>Unrestricted Funds:-</b>				
Revaluation Reserve		148,500		148,500
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>				
General Fund		166,626		140,309
Total Unrestricted Funds		<u>315,126</u>		<u>288,809</u>
<b>Restricted Fund:-</b>				
Collections Fund	3,869		3,869	
Total Restricted Funds		<u>3,869</u>		<u>3,869</u>
Total Funds		<u><u>318,995</u></u>		<u><u>292,678</u></u>

For the year ended 31st March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

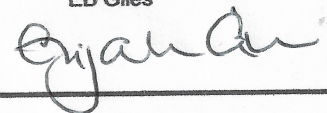
The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Director/Trustee

Printed

EB Giles

Signed



**Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of The Holst Birthplace Trust**

**(registered charity number 1078599 and a company limited by guarantee no 03874939)**

I report on accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, which are annexed.

**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,
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charities Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of Independent Examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charities 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 disclosure 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 matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed .....  ..... A J Ellis FCA