Bakewell and District Historical Society

Trustees' Annual Report

1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Charity Name: Bakewell and District Historical Society

Other Names it is known by: Bakewell Old House Museum (BOHM), BDHS

Registered Charity Number: 1184842

Charity's Principal Address: Bakewell Old House Museum, Cunningham Place, Bakewell, DE42 1DD

Names of Trustees who manage this charity

Name	Office	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Ken Smith	Chair		
Lesley Ayers	Treasurer		
Eleanor Whitehead	Secretary		
Megan Jones			
Alison Edwards			
Lisa Simpson			
Richard Hildebrand			
Olivia Mitchell		From AGM 22/5/25	

Structure and governance and management

Type of governing documents: Bakewell and District Historical Society – constitution at incorporation – August 2019

How the charity is constituted: Incorporated

Trustee Selection methods: Adverts and consultation with MDM, interviews

Trustees Report 2025

Overview

The Bakewell and District Historical Society (BDHS) and the Bakewell Old House Museum (BOHM) continued to engage a wide range of local audiences and Bakewell visitors with our stories, workshops, concerts and other programming. The museum continues to enjoy Arts Council England Accredited Museum status.

2025 was the second year of operating on a 7 days-per-week basis since the Covid lockdown, and over the 226 days the museum was open, General Visitors to the museum were 7684 (only down 1% from 2024). Overall, the Bakewell & District Historical Society (BDHS) engaged audiences totalling 8495 in 2025 (down 5% from 2024).

The talks programme has continued, with a wide range of subjects being delivered to Society members and non-members. Average attendance at the talks was 24. A full programme exists for 2026 and work continues to populate the calendar into 2027.

Society membership has increased over the year and stood at 184 (up from 173- in Dec 24).

The trustees continue to meet on a monthly basis, increased from 2-monthly from 2023. This has been particularly fruitful while addressing issues such as ensuring our policies are both up-to-date and appropriate. We are pursuing grant-aid to address such disparate issues as the maintenance of the Bakewell Old House Museum, where its status as a listed building brings with it both constraints and opportunities, and an initiative to identity where the Society and the Museum should be heading over the next 10-15 years, and what steps need to be taken to ensure we get there. We have been having useful talks with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and whilst our initial applications was turned down we were encouraged to reapply and a second application was made in December 2025.

Our Vision

To offer a gem of a museum that is fun, interesting, and inspiring to all, loved by locals and visitors alike. We will tell the story of our areas and its people in a unique and compelling way, creating connections with the past and our visitors.

Our Mission

We will preserve and vitalise our collections for future generations so that our communities continue to engage with and discover the history of Bakewell and this part of the Peak District

Our Values

Brand values are the behaviours we consistently adopt to achieve our purpose. The following are such 'behaviours' but using that term may feel slightly officious.

- **Welcoming** – do everything with open arms
- **Providing satisfaction** – great customer experiences lead to happy faces
- **Learning**– our curiosity knows no bounds and its fruits are widely shared
- **Engaging** –harness Arkwright's energy and entrepreneurialism
- **Leading**– bravely forge new paths

- **Belonging** –foster a sense of place with passion
- **Being accountable** – it's up to all of us, we all play a part

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to stimulate an interest and love for Bakewell and the wider Peak District by bringing to life our shared stories.

The Business Plan is designed to meet the following strategic goals, with the first being of the highest priority:

- Ensure the financial sustainability of the museum
- Increase our visitors and develop new audiences, widening access
- Develop the workforce
- Maximise the use of collections and maintain the building's fabric
- Strengthen the governance of the organisation
- Increase the effectiveness of our marketing and promotion
- Improve the customer experience; introduce quality metrics

People

We continue to be very grateful and thankful for the commitment of Mark Copley our museum's Manager Curator for organising volunteers, seeking out grants and managing the museum and our volunteer cohort and bringing the museum to the lively centre and hub of activity that it is now. A huge thank you goes to Mark for his enthusiasm and dedication to the museum. Thanks also go to Kelsey Power, our Museum Assistant, for her support and commitment to the museum.

Up to the AGM, in May, the Society had 7 Trustees (though it is permitted a total of 12). Olivia Mitchell joined us at the AGM 22 May 2025.

We remember Linda Latif who passed after a very short illness during 2025, she had taken on the role of membership secretary and assisted in the museum office and is very much missed.

Once again it is our pleasure to acknowledge the debt that we owe to our volunteer task force, for the work they do both front of house, welcoming our visitors, imparting information and persuading people to spend in the shop, as well as those who toil behind the scenes, to ensure that the displays and their contents are appropriate and in the best possible condition. This includes Pat Green and the catering crew for the provision of food at our various events and a heartfelt thank you is made to all those who volunteered during 2025. Museum activities were delivered by over 80 volunteers, providing 4328 hours of volunteering time. Across the year, we recruited 11 new volunteers and saw 17 volunteers leave. We end the year with 61 volunteers (excluding Trustees). Thank you again to Pat Green who has taken over the membership secretary role.

Thanks also go to Marian Barker who has edited the Society Journal for a number of years. A volunteer or volunteers are needed to take on this task in the next for the next journal publication.

Activities

The talks programme has continued, with a wide range of subjects being delivered to Society members and non-members. These have included subjects such as: Cheese-making villages in Staffordshire and Derbyshire; Sir Joseph Whitworth and Darley Dale; Steeple Grange Light Railway; The Work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel – Engineer extraordinaire. We have been experimenting with streaming the talks, to enable Society members who cannot attend in person, to see and hear the presentations and settled with YouTube as the delivery platform. There have been some teething problems but generally they have been successful on many occasions.

We had social gatherings at the beginning and end of the season for volunteers and members. Grateful thanks are again extended to Pat Green and the catering team for providing the food and drinks.

Over the year, the Society gained four grants totalling £ 4787

- £2000 grant awarded by the Bakewell Town Council for the visioning project
- £2000 grant awarded by the Duke of Devonshire Charitable Trust to match the funding from Bakewell Town Council for the visioning project
- £205.87 from Bakewell Town Council for the VE Day celebrations
- £581.36 resilience grant from UKSPF Community Resilience Fund (extension) for leaflet printing and distribution

For the second year of the Community Exhibition Space, we had the Chesterfield Embroiderers for the full season. This is a valuable way of fully engaging local community groups and does bring in additional visitors. Bakewell Agricultural and Horticultural Society are co-producing a display in 2026. We continued to reach out to our audiences via social media. The top performing Facebook post was 17 October Halloween event (32.5k views, paid-for advert). And 6.6k views about the museum shop development. We have 344 customers on our mailing list, currently receiving three newsletters a year. For the last newsletter of the year, there was a 31% open rate.

Other activities throughout the year included:

The Cows are Wet was co-produced with the Level Centre (a National Portfolio Organization), enabling young neurodivergent people the opportunity to produce something within a museum setting. We had a 'washing-line' for feedback on the exhibition, and the supportive feedback from people demonstrates that visitors appreciated the work and opportunity given to these young people.

The Chesterfield Embroiderers also produced beautiful objects in response to our stories and collections (we worked with both groups throughout 2024, prior to the exhibitions).

They were based in the Community Exhibition Space for the whole year, and the embroiderers also placed their artwork around the museum, adjacent to the objects that inspired them. They had their own Visitors Book within the gallery, and this too was filled with great comments by visitors. They have said they'd like to do another project with us in a few years' time. This illustrates geographically how some of our local communities now view Bakewell Old House Museum as 'their local museum'.

The Learning team welcomed schools to the museum on 3 occasions, as well as 10 town tours and museum tours. This year we hosted schools from St Anselms and Lady Manners (both local), and Bramley Vale. We further welcomed Belper Historical Society, Bakewell U3A, Castleton Historical Society and other groups usually for a combined town tour and museum visit, and a few museum-led ghost tours of the town. HF Holidays took up three town tours for their customers, and it is hoped that they repeat this every year now.

Additionally, we offered:

- A Talk by Nicola Hilton on embroidery, linked to the exhibition.
- 3 Workshops by Liz Morris, linked to the Chesterfield Embroiderer's exhibition.
- 2 Period concerts by Ayres & Graces and Gaillardia..
- Play by Chatsworth Players (Alan Bennett's Talking Heads)..
- Murder Mystery evening.

The Terrifying Tudor House returned for its fourth year, with a Jane Austin theme for the anniversary year.

Next year we have planned: the Chatsworth Players, Cromford Mills oral history evening, music, workshops linked to the exhibition, a talk on the history of doll's houses, murder mystery and more.

The BOHM Sewing Circle is in its second year now. Meeting in the Friends Meeting House on Mondays, this year they worked on a special poppy display for VE Day, as well as more costumes and decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival.

We took part in the town-wide VE Day celebrations. For the Remembrance weekend, we had a sound and light installation in the hall, and some artefacts and a video in the Parlour, for a free event.

Bakewell Old House Museum

The collections team continues to evolve with Kelsey Power (Museum Assistant) concentrating on the textiles/costume collections, and Marian Barker and other volunteers providing collections management support

Inventorying continues, and we are updating the catalogue entries. Kelsey updated two costume displays and is working on others over the winter, along with volunteers. The

preparation for the museum Accreditation return is completed and is due for submission by 31 March 2026

The Old House

The Covid pandemic and its associated social distancing meant that some maintenance and repair work remained in abeyance for several years and a backlog has now built up. We have been having talks with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and a revised application was sent early December 2025. The application was successful and a grant of £198,205 was awarded in February 2026.

While the maintenance and repair work that has been identified is costly and beyond our means to pay for in one go – hence the seeking of grant support – it is reassuring to note that there are no significant or serious works needed; the Old House remains in good heart but in a building of such antiquity there will always be necessary works. With a listed building, the additional need for listed building consent adds both to the time needed to make arrangements and often adds to the costs.

Conclusions

2025 has been another good year for the Society and for Bakewell Old House Museum. Our visitor numbers are stable, our income is up (though our costs outstripped our income due to shop stock and surveys required for the NLHF application) and we have continued to benefit from Kelsey's appointment as Museum Assistant to support Mark in running the Museum on a 7 days per week basis during our open period. Thanks to both of them for their sterling work and thanks also to our band of hardy volunteers for their work front of house and behind the scenes, as well as to our Trustees for all their work over the year. We, of course, hope that this year's successes will translate into 2026.

BAKEWELL & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Charity Number: 1184842
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Year ended - 31st December 2025

	Charity 1184842		Charity 1184842	
	2025		2024	
	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
Incoming resources				
Voluntary Income				
Members subscriptions		2,330		2,096
Society events		110		69
Donations and Bequests		1,725		2,606
Grants	4,787		11,661	220
Activities for Generating funds				
Museum receipts		62,638		57,916
Gift Aid		6,771		7,360
Investment Income				
Bank Interest		*1,508*		*1,311*
Total Incoming resources	**4,787**	**75,082**	**11,661**	**71,578**
Resources expended				
Governance costs		*100*		*100*
Charity Expenses				
Publications and talks		1,714		1,648
Projects/Grant Spend	1,215		1,883	15,030
Charitable Trading Activities				
Wages		46,367	10,648	26,123
Service and subs		7,653		7,344
Insurance		2,854		2,605
Capital Items and repairs		3,458		14,533
Marketing		3,351		3,284
Activities and Stock		12,571		4,542
Miscellaneous and Petty Cash		1,322		3,491
Total resources Expended	**1,215**	**79,389**	**12,531**	**78,700**
Movement of Balances				
Net Incoming resources for year	3,572	-4,307	-870	-7,122
Fund balance bf 1 Jan	428	96,123	1,298	103,244
Fund balance cf 31 Dec	4,000	91,816	428	96,123

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at year end	
BANK BALANCES at 31st December 2025	**£**
Saffron Account	44,091
Co-op	51,690
Petty Cash	35
Total Assets	**95,816**

Liabilities	None - Income and expenditure accounting used
Assets	Museum building transferred in January 2021 - see note
Retained funds	**£95,816**

Note to the Accounts:

The accounts have been prepared with reference to SORP Section 27.12 in relation to the charity reconstruction and merger of the unincorporated charity 1027732 and the incorporated charity 1184842. The heritage asset of the museum building has not been valued and has been transferred from the one charity to the other. There is no requirement to put the building on the balance sheet.

Shop stock to the value of £6.6k was bought in 2025, £5k of this stock is still unsold

The above accounts have been prepared by the Treasurer and Chair of the Trustees, who are content with an independent examination rather than a full audit.

Signed  Name Ken Smith (Chair, on behalf of the Board)

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A -Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of: **Bakewell & District Historical Society**

On accounts for the year ended: **31 December 2025**

Charity Number: **1184842**

Set out on pages 7 and 8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2025** As the charity's trustees, 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 (other than that disclosed below) 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 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.

Signed: B. Sands Date: 2.3.2026

Name: BRENDA SANDS, ASSET ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Address: 7 YORK ROAD, BROTTON
SALTBURN BY THE SEA
TS12 2XF

Section B: Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners). **Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**