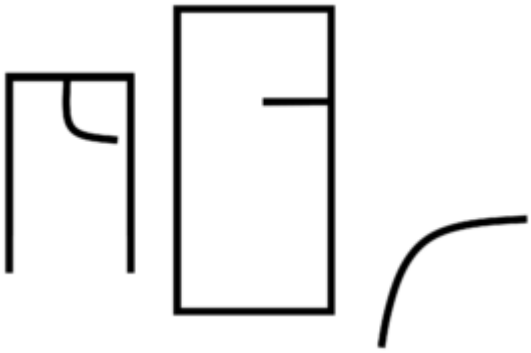
The Museum of Brexit

Charity number 1193259



Report and Financial Statements

for the reporting year

to 31 March 2023

The Museum of Brexit

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements

for the Financial Period of the Reporting Year to 31 March 2023

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Details

Name: The Museum of Brexit

Number: 1193259

Address: 9, Jameson House, Glasshouse Walk, London SE11 5EX

The address changed over the course of the year and was duly notified.

Structure and governance

Names of the Trustees of the Charity (ie the listed trustees)

Dr Lee Rotherham	Appointed: 2021 as a first trustee, Chairman
Mr Alex Deane	Appointed: 2021 as a first trustee

Mr James Reynolds who was appointed in 2021 as a first trustee and acting Treasurer resigned as at 9 February 2023. Two new trustees were duly and properly appointed for three years, renewable;

Helen Mayer	Appointed: trustee, 9 February 2023
William Norton	Appointed: trustee and Treasurer, 9 February 2023

This takes the team more comfortably above the threshold minimum of three trustees, while remaining within a practical scale at this stage of the project with significant room to subsequently expand.

Names and Addresses of Advisors

We hold a Charity Deposit Account at Virgin Money, which serves our current fundraising purposes.
Address: Virgin Money, Jubilee House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of Governing Document: Constitution, current dated 20 JAN 21

How the Charity is Constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods:

Trustees of the Charity are recruited from subject matter experts with a known capacity for fairness and balance, on a recommendation by a Trustee of the Charity approved by an absolute majority of Trustees of the Charity. Trustees for the Charity are first subject to formal or informal interview by whichever trustees are available at the time but including the Chairman.

Until such time as the number of such Trustees is increased beyond five, appointment to posts is by the process of consent and common accord. The priority is functionality for a campaign at the current stage of the cycle. Once a site is obtained and long term management, engagement and outreach is a feature of planning concerns, then different skill sets and personal backgrounds will become additionally relevant.

All new Trustees are provided with a copy of the Governing Document (Constitution) and the most recent Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements, accompanied by an oral briefing by the Chairman on recent developments and strategy.

Decision-making

Strategic-level decision making is taken by Trustees collectively. This may be done informally and remotely, provided that all Trustees consent to the arrangement. To simplify and accelerate decision-making Trustees have the authority to delegate oversight of particular activities to named Trustees, in particular over fundraising and media ops. The overseeing Trustee should refer to fellow Trustees on a matter that affects strategic policy. This process is to be formalised at the time of the establishment of a regularly paid staff; the charity does not currently employ any staff.

Volunteers

Policy on volunteers is to be developed and codified in due course. Over this reporting period, volunteerism has taken two forms. Firstly, a number of individuals have supported the collection plan by acting as drop off points (dops). Secondly, Mr Gawain Towler has been operating as the voluntary press officer and has been of considerable service in this regard. His unpaid status will be reviewed by Trustees based on future fundraising and the emerging demands of the post.

Committees and working groups

There were no committees and working groups. This is an area to be developed with respect to an academic advisory council once a site is secured.

Affiliation

There was no affiliation to an external group. There has been previous contact with the Museums Association and membership will be considered in due course. Focus remains on establishing the museum.

Risk management

An informal assessment was taken on establishment of the major risks to which the charity is transitionally exposed. At this stage these are predominantly reputational, in the absence of property. Foremost among these is the intent to be fair and balanced in our delivery, which remains our determined policy and a continuing part of messaging.

Funds are safeguarded by requiring two signatures on all payments and the separation of roles of Chairman and Treasurer. With elevated fundraising and property acquisition new risks emerge, and these will be considered accordingly in due course and set out in a document.

There were no “untoward incidents” or “serious incidents” occurring (as required by the Charity Commission to report).

Objectives and activities

Objects

The objects of the CIO are

The advancement of education and heritage for the public benefit by:

(a) establishing and operating a museum and associated library and archives; and

(b) public educational programmes in the topics of Sovereignty, Democracy, Good Governance, Trade, European Cooperation and the history of the UK’s membership of the European Union.

Activities

The Museum of Brexit delivers the above through the following core mechanisms

- The establishment of a museum
- The establishment of an associated academic library
- The establishment of associated historic archives
- A future planned outreach programme, to be developed on the creation first of the above

Thematically, areas of key interest involve British and European History, with particular reference to post-war European integration; the history of British Euroscepticism, and its continental counterparts; and the topics raised during the 2016 referendum including models of free trade, sovereignty, territoriality, and the distinct traditions behind Common Law and Parliamentary governance. Selection and presentation of material will be fair and balanced.

The period of reporting for this document continues to cover a period of ongoing, necessary precursor, preparation to deliver these objectives, by assembling artefacts and records as well as securing a site. This has been slower than anticipated. Nevertheless, the work undertaken now allows for the major fundraising drive.

Statutory Declaration on Public Benefit

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Achievements and performance

Executive Summary

This report covers the period of the reporting year to 31 March 2023. A First Report and Financial Statements were produced for the partial year since establishment covering 26 JAN 2021 to 31 March 2021. A report was subsequently submitted for the full year to 31 March 2022. This document therefore constitutes the second full annual report.

The operational tempo for fundraising was slower this year as it has been dependent on lining up dominos for targeted donor approaches. We have continued to pursue media coverage with some success, particularly focused on item donations. The generation of video shorts involving several key figures involved in the EU debate has provided a fresh form of outreach. The bulletin has continued to provide updates, augmented by more regular rolling twitter with a particular focus on sharing images of items collected or pledged.

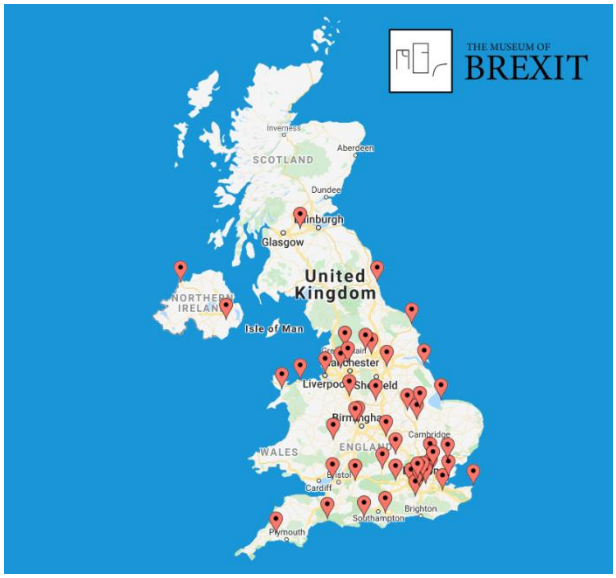
Activity Report

As we noted last year, setting up a museum from scratch, particularly one that is seeking to draw from as wide a range of national sources as possible, is not a simple task. This year can best be described as a necessary positioning one, particularly with respect to fundraising but also in terms of providing a final collection window for our national network of drop off points which are being collapsed down into two core collection sites over late 2023.

(i) Drop off points (dops)

Recognising the difficulty of encouraging people to travel half way across the country to hand items over that may be too bulky to cheaply post, we came up with the idea of a network of drop off points set up across the country, to allow people the opportunity to donate items much closer to themselves.

These at peak reached 50 in number. The following map shows the spread;



A key message over the year has correspondingly been to encourage people to make use of them while they still exist. In addition to the large items point set up in the West Midlands, an additional one was this year set up in Central London. These allow for donations that are too large for volunteers at other dops to handle with their more limited space, and also sets us up for the process of centralisation as dops close down.

The London storage space was slightly downsized as storage prices went up with inflation. This expenditure is the dominant cost association with the charity, though well within budgeting parameters and constitutes a necessary feature of the medium term collection plan. An additional associated cost relates to refunding some simple transport expenses. Advantage was taken of one vanload delivery of books to do a concurrent interview for US radio.

Donations have varied hugely in terms of their rarity and type, from the once-commonplace to the unique and personal. The twitter feed has shared pictures of a large number of them, and some were aggregated into a striking picture accompanying a news piece (see below). In particular, we are delighted to have received some important items associated with Douglas (later Lord) Jay, items donated by a former head of UKIP, and around 20 large boxes of material from a preeminent campaign group of MPs. Offerings have come from a mixture of epochs, themes, and sides. We have additionally started to look more proactively at areas where narrative gaps are seen to exist and to chase artefacts as the shape of the collection starts to become clearer - even if our request for a piece of the Tirpitz proved impractical (Oslo Council reportedly uses hull plates to cover potholes).

(ii) Video shorts

We began using this medium in the previous year. Since then we have expanded the collection by drawing on a number of short clips lifted from interviews with Lord Lilley, Suzanne Evans, Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, David Campbell-Bannerman, Paul Bristow MP, and Dr Liam Fox MP.

We have a number of additional contributors lined up for future interview.

(iii) Design and concept

A very considerable amount of work had already gone into the "through-narrative focus", working out what the 'storyline' of the museum will be and the teaching points running in parallel to the information directly accompanying the display items. Some additional fine tuning on detailed aspects has continued on this across the year. From the items donated it does appear that the work done to date is very much on the mark, the critical variable pausing further development being the end amount of available floor space.

Over the year we have continued to pick up design, presentation and outlay tips from visits to museums and exhibitions whenever opportunities have incidentally arisen in the UK and abroad.

(iv) Fundraising

The limited approaches to donors this year has been through requiring setting up a large number of dominos for meaningful conversations to be had with gatekeepers, and which has been frustrating when delays have arisen. Nevertheless the charity is now positioned for multiple high value approaches in the next year.

Some online IT issues pushed back reclaiming gift aid from HMRC. This only affects two cases, and remains comfortably within the four year period of eligibility.

(v) Outreach

The chairman took part in a speaking event in Central London for former campaigners. This generated a pledge of a donation of unique campaign signs along with clips of them appearing in newspapers.

The chairman has also been cooperating with Professor Jan Grzymski of the University of Warsaw, who (like the chairman) has generated a Brexit board game as a teaching tool.

(vi) Strategic Messaging

Media coverage over the year has included articles in the *Daily Telegraph*, *Express*, and *Conservative Post*. The chairman appeared with Nigel Farage to discuss the museum's collection appeal on his "Talking Pints" show on GB News.



Conservative Post montage of Museum tweets exploring some of the growing item collection

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Financial Accounts

The Museum of Brexit

Year Ended 31st March 2023

Trading and Profit and Loss Account

	This Year		Last Year
	£	£	£
Donations Received		5,000	48,725
Sundry Income			
Interest Received		156	17
Administrative Overheads			
Accountancy	-		-
Bank Charges	-		-
Bank Charges - Stripe	-		58
Haulage and Distribution	273		-
Rent	3,643		-
Travelling	-		365
		3,916	423
Marketing Expenditure			
Raising Funds and Profile	-		7,310
Website and Social Media	66		-
		66	7,310
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		**1,174**	**41,009**

The Museum of Brexit

Year Ended 31st March 2023

Balance Sheet

	This Year		Last Year
	£	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	42,184		43,611
	42,184		43,611
Current Liabilities			
Accruals	-		2,602
	-		2,602
Working Capital		42,184	41,009
Capital Employed		**42,184**	**41,009**
Capital and Reserves			
Retained surplus brought forward	41,010		-
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	1,174		41,009
		42,184	41,009
		42,184	**41,009**
		-	-

Financial review

As at the close of the reporting period, the charity held only cash reserves. Beyond this there were no investments and no dedicated reserves. It does have uncatalogued holdings of museum, library and archival items, though none have been flagged as financially significant and for which a minimum obligatory token insurance cover has been assigned at the London storage site.

Outgoings fell into the following categories

- Website
- Central storage costs
- Costs for item delivery to storage

Incomings over this period consist of one significant donation, and marginal bank interest (listed under "investments"). No payments were paid to CGG this year for fundraising activity.

One unlisted charge for this year covers costs arising from an independent examination of accounts after the year's end, which has been paid and will be included in the 2023-24 report. Beyond this, the museum has had no other potential outstanding liabilities, or outstanding charges for services, or creditors. Storage charges remain an implied liability for which sufficient funds exist.

There is a prior donation pledge of £500 due to fall in this year which has yet to be paid, and will be incorporated into next year's figures on receipt. No funds or assets are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

A policy will be developed in relation to long term loans of items for the museum. This first requires centralising the locally-donated items currently held at local drop off points, then recording and cataloguing them, for onward separation either into the library/archives area or for the displays holding area as exhibit spaces are being set up. This in turn demands an item registering system, a dedicated staff member employed to do this, and in tandem a computer archive at the point of centralising the collection. Establishing these is our priority before accepting temporary loans.

A formal reserves policy will be developed as funding commitments develop further.

We have committed to following best practice in fundraising and data protection.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	(signed electronically)
Full name(s)	Dr Lee Stuart Rotherham
Position	Chairman
Date	20 October 2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Museum of Brexit

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Museum of Brexit Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31st March 2023

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; or

3. the accounts do 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: (signed electronically)

Name: John Harrison

Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants

Address: 78 Carlton Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 1PH

Date: 25 August 2023