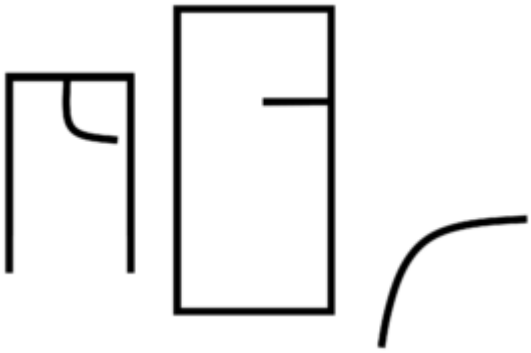
The Museum of Brexit

Charity number 1193259



Report and Financial Statements

for the reporting year

to 31 March 2024

The Museum of Brexit

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements

for the Financial Period of the Reporting Year to 31 March 2024

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Details

Name: The Museum of Brexit

Number: 1193259

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

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

Names and Addresses of Advisors

We hold a Charity Deposit Account at Virgin Money.
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. His unpaid status will be reviewed by Trustees based on future fundraising and the emerging demands of the post. Over the course of this reporting period, we have additionally gained the assistance of Tim Philpott on the Social Media side.

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 remain 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

The model has not changed. 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 preparation to deliver these objectives, by assembling artefacts and records as well as securing a site. This will shift in the next reporting period into fundraising.

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 year rounds up the planning and collect phases.

Activity Report

This year has seen the start of a transition, from planning and costing, through item rescue and acquisition, and into the next phase of fundraising. This latter phase will predominantly be covered in the 2024-25 report owing to schedules, payments and timings.

(i) Drop off points (dops)

Recognising the difficulty of encouraging people to travel considerable distances to hand items over that may be too bulky to cheaply post, and how might that might discourage donations, we came up with the idea of a network of drop off points set up across the country that allowed people the opportunity to donate items much closer to themselves.

These at peak reached 50 in number. The administrative priority over the course of this year has been to run a final awareness push, then centralise items into two main storage sites which can still be used as drop off points in their own right. This has now been delivered.

The range of items continues to be productively variable, from campaign calendars to correspondence with political figures or insider material from organisations. As examples of the range of material sought, one activist donated a large collection of unique hand made protest placards that had featured on media coverage, while a different medium was represented though a composer supplying recordings of composite music integrating political speeches on the EU.









Item donations have been in all sizes, from posted envelopes to car boot loads.

(ii) Video shorts

We have continued to put out video clips during the course of the year building on our previous interviews. Speakers have included the following;

- Former Trade Secretary Dr Liam Fox MP
- Peterborough MP Paul Bristow
- Lord Lilley
- Sir John Redwood MP
- Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
- Former MEP David Campbell-Bannerman
- UKIP and Vote Leave campaigner Suzanne Evans
- Dr Russell Foster, an academic who had been a Remain supporter, and Polish academic Dr Jan Grzymski, with whom we cooperated in sharing information about an educational tool on Brexit negotiations.

(iii) Design and concept

Continued parallel research into museum designs and formats has reassured us that our designed model is robust, effective and attractive to visitors.

This year we have additionally been looking beyond UK museums and, albeit from a distance, at how other museums that touch on similar abstracts find their space and relevance. We also flagged them on our social media to demonstrate how abstract topics around constitutional or legal matters can

be tremendously important but also presented in a way that is interesting enough to attract visitors. Examples cited have included the US National Museum of Patriotism; Schwyz's Bundesbrief Museum (which tells the story of Swiss identity and independence, especially around the Federal Charter of 1291); Skopje's Museum of the Macedonian Struggle for Sovereignty and Independence; Eidsvoll Manor House associated with Norway's 1814 constitution; the museum dedicated to the EU's Schengen Agreement; or Connecticut's Museum of Tort Law.

(iv) Fundraising

Our targeted approaches to individual potential donors required setting up a large number of dominos for meaningful conversations to be had with gatekeepers. The time lags involved in this have encouraged us to rethink our strategy, and as the reporting year came to a close a shift in donor approaches was prepped for. The full integrated background to this will be recorded in the next year's report into which it properly falls.

Gift aid was reclaimed for the two previous donations of £1,000 of year 2021-2022. Ongoing donations meant the charity operating with a robust safety net.

(v) Outreach

The email bulletin operated regularly over the course of the year.

As referenced above, the chairman has also been cooperating with Dr Jan Grzymski of the University of Warsaw, who has generated a Brexit board game as a teaching tool. This provided a useful test model for how balanced outreach might be conducted in the future.

(vi) Media Messaging

The objective here was maintaining awareness of the ongoing existing items collection programme. The Chairman appeared on the *Talking Pints* slot on GB News with Nigel Farage. Separately, coverage was gained from getting a piece in the *Daily Express*.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Financial Accounts

The Museum of Brexit

Year Ended 31st March 2024

Trading and Profit and Loss Account

	This Year		Last Year
	£	£	£
Donations Received		3,000	5,000
Sundry Income			
Interest Received	365		156
Gift Aid Reclaimed	512		-
		877	156
Administrative Overheads			
Accountancy	250		-
Haulage and Distribution	53		273
Rent	5,394		3,643
Travelling	67		-
		5,764	3,916
Marketing Expenditure			
Raising Funds and Profile	2,098		-
Website and Social Media	-		66
		2,098	66
Trading Profit		**-4,862**	**1,018**
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		**-3,985**	**1,174**

The Museum of Brexit

Year Ended 31st March 2024

Balance Sheet

	This Year		Last Year
	£	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	39,322		42,184
Current Liabilities			
Trade Creditors	1,123		-
Working Capital		38,199	42,184
Capital Employed		**38,199**	**42,184**
Capital and Reserves			
Retained Profit			
Retained surplus brought forward	42,184		41,010
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-3,985		1,174
		38,199	42,184
		38,199	**42,184**
		-	-

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
- Phase 1 mailings to a portion of the potential donors, as part of the 2024-25 extended donor approaches

Rent went up over the period, which was partially mitigated by reducing the storage space size in advance.

Incomings over this period consist of donations, and some bank interest (listed under "investments").

One unlisted charge for this year arises from an independent examination of accounts after the year's end, which will be included under accountancy in the 2024-25 costings. An amount of around £120 due to CGG relating to charges for fundraising activity will be rolled into the next reporting year. 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.

No funds or assets are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

A policy in relation to long term loans of items for the museum will be generated when that becomes relevant with the procurement of a site and display capacity. 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	13 November 2024

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 2024

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: 8 November 2024