Charity registration number: 1204264

The Battle Museum of Local History Trust CIO

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st March 2026

The Battle Museum of Local History Trust CIO

Trustees' Report	Page 1 - 4
Receipts and Payments account	Page 5 - 6
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	Page 7
Notes to the accounts	Page 8
Independent Examiner's Report	Page 9

The Battle Museum of Local History Trust CIO
Trustees' annual report for the year to 31 March 2026

Battle Museum of Local History (BMOLHT)
Registered charity no. 1204264
The Almonry High Street, Battle East Sussex TN33 0EA

1 Trustees elected at the 2024 AGM were (in alphabetic order) Michael Cornes, Stephen Gray, Charlotte Moore, Paul Skilbeck, Trevor Wayne and Anne Wayne. There were no other nominations. The elected Trustees confirmed Charlotte Moore to continue as Chair.

1.1 In accordance with the Trust's constitution adopted on 8 August 2023, a third of the elected Trustees will retire at this year's AGM but are entitled to stand again for election. It is understood that those retiring do intend to stand. However, unless by the time of the AGM others have been put forward such that there would be more than three candidates, an election will not be required

1.2 The Trustees acknowledge the substantial contribution made by those who are not Trustees but carry out executive roles: (in alphabetic order) Andrew Knowles Baker for Events, PR and Marketing, Jan Foulser as Shop Manager, John Southam as Volunteers Co-ordinator, Linda Hewett in cash-handling, Simon Mansfield in Telecoms and Information Technology, and Sonia Kendall in Educational Outreach.

1.3 The Museum has continued to work closely with Battle Town Council and welcomed Cllr. Marie-Louise Neill as its representative at Executive Trustee meetings.

2 The Museum Open Season 2025

2.1 The Open Season ran from 31 March to 1 November. A late proposal to remain open until 8 November, Battlel Bonfire night, could not be achieved because of too few volunteers for the week.

2.2 Availability of gallery volunteers in the first months of the season made it necessary to close on Friday afternoons. However, as new volunteers came forward and a number of volunteers gave generously of their time, stepping in to cover two or more shifts each week, it was possible to open for two sessions six days a week.

2.3 The Museum also opened on the Sunday morning of the Battle of Hastings Re-enactment weekend, 13 October, and intends to open on the day of Bonfire Night and for Battle's late night Christmas shopping evening(s) on 4 and 12 December.

2.4 The Gallery Team group on the messaging App, What's App, proved useful in allowing gallery volunteers to swap sessions as necessary.

2.5 The Trustees acknowledge the sterling work of the Volunteers Co-ordinator in fielding a full quota of gallery volunteers for most of the season.

2.6 During the season the Museum welcomed 10,333 visitors: 9,081 adults and 1,252 children, virtually the same as the previous year.

2 The Museum Open Season 2025 (continued)

2.7 Cash donations were £3,848 and contactless card donations £2,378. This compares with £4,400 and £2,940 respectively in the previous year, being 15% down in total. Gift Aid of some £1,509 will be claimed on these donations.

2.8 Total sales in the Museum shop were £7,507, yielding a gross profit of £3,587, 16% up on the previous year.

2.9 The Museum continues to get five star reviews on Tripadvisor, which frequently mention the expertise of gallery stewards and the warm welcome they give to visitors.

3 Membership

3.1 During the year the Museum had 26 Members, including ten Life Members. The number members is less than the number of volunteers (who are entitled to a discounted membership). This is a gentle reminder that membership subs for the coming year are required to be paid by anyone proposing to vote at this year's AGM, and a request to pay last year's subscription if this has been overlooked.

4 Accreditation and mentoring

4.1 The Museum is preparing to renew its accreditation with Arts Council England when the Arts Council's current post-Covid backlog is cleared.

4.2 The Museum is part of Museum Development South East, funded by Arts Council England, which delivers advice and support to regional museums.

4.3 Under a Service Level Agreement with Rother District Council, the Museum receives a small annual grant of £600 and is mentored by the Rother Museums Service District Curator. However, with the prospect of Sussex District and County Councils becoming unitary, the future of the Rother Museums Service is currently unclear.

5 Outreach

5.1 During the year the Museum cooperated with a number of other bodies in the heritage sector:

Battell Bonfire Boyes, who pay us an annual 'rent' for hosting the effigy of Guy Fawkes:
1066 Country Marketing.

5.2 The Museum joined the newly formed Battle Marketing Group. The Group, which includes, Battle Festival, the Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council, Battle Abbey and St Mary's Church aims to be a single focal point for heritage tourism in Battle. Amongst other things, the Group's webmaster will host a single web site on which we would have one or two pages to replace our current unmanaged and out of date web site.

5.3 During the last closed season the Collection Managers continued developing contacts and co-operation with English Heritage at Battle Abbey and the National Trust at Bodiam. We are pleased to say that this is continuing, and activities are being arranged for the coming closed season.

5.4 The Museum broadened its annual outreach to schools in the area, welcoming group visits of pupils from Battle and Langton School and work experience students from Bexhill College and Battle Abbey School.

5.5 The Museum welcomed two groups of students from France and Germany and has bookings made for further groups in the coming year.

6 The collection and temporary exhibition

6.1 The Museum received a few small donations during the year; a few have gone on display whilst others await further research and preparation before display. The Museum is full, so only small items of definite local significance can now be accepted.

6.2 The High Street display was held over for a second year but will be taken down after Christmas and loaned items returned – with thanks - to the lenders. We are presently in discussion with the Battel Bonfire Boyes over the 2026 display.

7 Forward Plan and Emergency Plan

7.1 The Trustees have made a new Forward Plan to supersede that made in 2019 (which was disrupted by the Covid epidemic and recovery). The plan includes replacing the Museum's heating system. This would require grant funding, eligibility for which may rely on longevity of tenure. Our lease runs until 2027, which some funding bodies would regard as insufficient longevity. During the year we agreed with the Town Council for our existing lease to be extended, rather than replaced by a new lease, and the process of extension is now in progress.

7.2 The Trustees also adopted a new Emergency Plan to supersede that made in 2018. Details of the plan and everyone's part in it will be circulated to volunteers in the closed season.

7.3 An important part of the Emergency Plan is prevention of emergencies, and a professional Fire Risk Assessment was made. The assessment concluded that the Museum was fundamentally safe but some recommendations were implemented. Volunteers' action during emergencies will be part of training prior to reopening in the Spring.

7.4 Following the recommendations of the Fire Risk Assessment a fixed wiring installation test was made and unfixed electrical equipment PAT tested.

8 The coming year

8.1 With the onset of Autumn the Museum heating has become inadequate and efforts to make the building warmer have failed. Whilst replacement of the heating system is part of the Forward Plan, finding a solution to this problem in the short term is the Trustees' highest priority. It is uncertain yet whether the existing 23 year old installation can be remedied to give satisfactory performance, or whether replacement, perhaps even a fundamental re-design, will be required.

8.2 The Trustees' next priority is to maintain and increase volunteer numbers for the coming year. This is something that all members and volunteers can help with.

8.3 In addition to gallery volunteers there are many other functions for which volunteer expertise is required. An urgent need is for a volunteer to take on the role of facilities management for the building. This is the role of periodically checking the lights, locks and other building systems, and of course the heating. This may be an interesting role for husbands (or wives), sons, daughters or neighbours of existing volunteers.

9 Thanks

The Museum runs on Team effort, and it would be inappropriate to single out any one particular person. The Trustees thank all volunteers and those who have contributed in running the Museum during the 2025 season. We look forward to a successful and enjoyable season in 2026.



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Stephen Gray Hon Secretary, for the Trustees

The Battle Museum of Local History Trust CIO

Receipts and Payment Account
for the year ended 31st March 2026

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2026	2025
Receipts				
Visitor receipts - boxes	3,848.95	-	3,848.95	4,382.72
Donations - terminal	2,378.24	-	2,378.24	2,940.00
Donations	549.62		549.62	330.00
Gift aid	1,509.88	-	1,509.88	1,908.25
School parties	30.00	-	30.00	-
Members (Friends)	349.00	-	349.00	130.00
Grants		-	-	-
Rother District Council	600.00	-	600.00	600.00
Interest received - COIF account	2,983.58	-	2,983.58	3,478.70
Other	288.81	-	288.81	-
Total Income	**12,538.08**	**-**	**12,538.08**	**13,769.67**
Payments				
Electricity	3,783.35	-	3,783.35	4,689.75
Water	223.44	-	223.44	264.48
Security and Fire	968.40	-	968.40	1,172.80
Insurance	1,586.91	-	1,586.91	1,468.76
Rent & Rates	5.30	-	5.30	5.00
Repairs and Renewals	764.33	-	764.33	889.99
Telephone	1,639.27	-	1,639.27	1,597.18
Postage	10.45	-	10.45	22.10
Stationery & Inks	156.12	-	156.12	126.91
Collection Management	106.40	-	106.40	303.14
Computer & IT	449.88	-	449.88	411.92
Card Machine Charges	287.28	-	287.28	287.28
Legal fees re: lease	1,755.80	-	1,755.80	-
Charities Trust Charges	122.40	-	122.40	143.68
Publicity & Marketing	285.45	-	285.45	146.60
Miscellaneous	82.30	-	82.30	288.33
Events & Donations	100.00	-	100.00	-
Subscriptions	-	-	-	106.00
Travel Expenses	-	-	-	45.50
Accountancy	720.00	-	720.00	-
Total Payments	**13,047.08**	**-**	**13,047.08**	**11,969.42**
Surplus/(Deficit) in the year	**(509.00)**	**-**	**(509.00)**	**1,800.25**

The Battle Museum of Local History Trust CIO

Shop Trading Account
for the year ended 31st March 2026

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2026	2025
Receipts				
Sales	**7,507.66**	**-**	**7,507.66**	**6,993.33**
Cost of Sales				
Opening stock	3,934.02	-	3,934.02	3,359.77
Purchases	4,267.17	-	4,267.17	4,488.02
Closing stock	(4,275.84)	-	(4,275.84)	(3,934.02)
Total Cost of Sales	**3,925.35**	**-**	**3,925.35**	**3,913.77**
Direct selling costs				
Card Machine Charges	80.94	-	80.94	-
Shop Maintenance	65.32	-	65.32	77.07
Total Direct Selling Costs	**146.26**	**-**	**146.26**	**77.07**
Surplus/(Deficit) in the year	**3,436.05**	**-**	**3,436.05**	**3,002.49**

The Battle Museum of Local History Trust CIO

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026

		2026		2025
Current Assets				
Bank Balances				
COIF Charities Deposit Fund		77,602.47		74,618.89
Co-op Current Account		3,837.11		4,235.46
Reconciled Bank Balances at 31st March		81,439.58		78,854.35
Shop Stock (at cost) in hand at 31st March		4,275.84		3,934.02
Total Assets as at 31st March		85,715.42		82,788.37
Current Liabilities		-		-
		85,715.42		82,788.37
Financed by :				
Accumulated Fund as at 1st April				
Museum Operating Fund Balance	44,194.37		39,391.63	
Wilton Bequest Balance	38,594.00		38,594.00	
		82,788.37		77,985.63
Add Surplus on Shop Trading	3,436.05		3,002.49	
(Deficit)/Surplus on Museum Operating Account	(509.00)		1,800.25	
		2,927.05		4,802.74
Accumulated Fund		85,715.42		82,788.37

Accounts approved by .....
Stephen Gray
(Secretary)

Date of Approval 23 July 2026
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The Battle Museum of Local History Trust CIO

for the Year Ended 31st March 2026

1 Accounting policies

1.1 The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

The income and expenditure shown therefore reflect the cash/bank receipts and payments during this period.

The Battle Museum of Local History Trust CIO

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the The Battle Museum of Local History for the year ended 31st March 2026.

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.

R. Walsh.

R Walsh FCCA Date: 13/08/26
Manningtons, Chartered Accountants
39 High Street
Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EE