DESFORD HERITAGE

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
AND
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2025 – 31 JANUARY 2026

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NAME

Desford Heritage

CHARITY NUMBER

1209203

TRUSTEES

Katherine Twitchin – Chair
Sarah Brack
Patricia Crane
Jennifer Hollier
Catherine Hutton
Roberta Treadwell

REGISTERED ADDRESS

Desford Library
Main Street
Desford
Leicester
LE9 9JP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Angela Johnson
Retired Company Accountant
22 West End
Walcott
Lincolnshire
LN4 3ST

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
PERIOD ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Desford Heritage ('the charity') was incorporated on 19 July 2024 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is regulated by the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection method	Appointed by the current trustees when required

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's principle objectives are the advancement of culture, education and heritage, for the public benefit, of the history and heritage of Desford and the surrounding area, in particular, but not exclusively, by holding educational and commemorative events, offering guided heritage walks and talks, putting on displays and workshops, and maintaining and developing The Desford Heritage Trail.

During the reporting period, the charity has met these principle objectives in numerous ways across all aspects of its work.

The Desford Heritage Trail continues to offer guided walks to the public throughout the Spring and Summer months. During the reporting period the charity has offered five public heritage walks with the July date being part of the Leicestershire Festival of Archaeology. All of the walks have been extremely well attended and feedback has been 100% positive. There have also been a number of private group bookings during the reporting year all of whom have provided excellent feedback. In October 2025, the charity led four guided walks for students in Year 6 at Desford Community Primary School to support the delivery of the history curriculum. This is an element of our community outreach work that we intend to build on in the coming years. The trail's expansion continued with the installation of a heritage board outside the Caterpillar site with an accompanying board and bench to be installed on the bridleway. The development of the Desford Heritage Trail app has continued during the reporting year. The platform for the app has been built and the waypoints selected with a proposed completion date of early 2027. There are also plans to produce an accompanying printed trail map.

Desford Heritage Family History Group celebrated its second birthday in January 2026. The group continues to meet twice a month and records regular attendees. It has been particularly successful in supporting members to begin their research at the group and then continue independently. The group hopes to develop even further and will continue to encourage new members.

Desford Heritage Local History Group is a core aspect of the charity's work. The group meets every other month and offers a talk by a speaker on local history topics with a particular focus on Desford. These meetings are always very well attended and the group has been pleased with how many new members have joined in the reporting year. The group also organises trips and walks to sites of local historical importance such as the hugely popular trip in October 2025 to the National Holocaust Centre & Museum. The team hope to expand the programme of day trips in the coming year.

Desford Heritage Archive Group remain a crucial aspect of the charity's work. The archivists continue to meet once a week and provide invaluable work archiving and chronicling Desford's history. The group have been looking at options for additional storage and workspace and this will continue in the coming year. This team continue to receive numerous enquiries from the public via the website and social media. Many of these enquiries have yielded valuable sources of information and contributions to the archive. The Archive Group have added another screen on to the Modes software which has enabled the digital archive to be developed much faster. The team are keen to continue this work and add robust backup systems to protect the digital archive as it develops.

Desford Heritage Events continue to provide excellent fundraising opportunities and platforms to achieve the charities objectives to a wide audience. During the first half of the reporting period this

team worked on a huge community event to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day entitled 'Festival of the 40s'. The event was a phenomenal success bringing together every corner of the community. It combined the educational aspects of re-enactment groups, hands on experiences, music, dance, vehicles, a parachute jump by the RAF Falcons and aerial displays with the reverence of a memorial church service following the same format as the one in 1945. A dedicated team of researchers tracked down the nearest living relatives to the men from Desford whose names appear on the war memorial and they were all invited to attend. Each soldier's life and service were also meticulously researched and a representative from each family was presented with a scroll detailing this research for their relative. The whole weekend reflected every aspect of this charity's purpose within our community. In addition, the charity held its annual Christmas fundraising event which was hugely successful. The charity has also added a village quiz to its annual fundraising activities. This was held in October 2025 and was extremely well attended.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Desford Heritage has had an incredibly successful year with regard the continued development of its community outreach work. This is at the heart of the charity's work and is a continual area for development. Desford Heritage's work with the local primary school exemplifies this and will be a vital aspect of the charity's work in the coming years. The charity has been invited to attend a range of heritage forum's during the reporting year including one at The University of Leicester. Establishing and maintaining these links is crucial to the growth and extent of the charity's work and reach. This will be a key focus of the charity's work in the coming year.

In planning and carrying out all these activities throughout the reporting period, the trustees have continued to reference the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are completely satisfied that this has been adhered to.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The successes of Desford Heritage during the reporting period are substantial. The charity has succeeded in achieving its charitable purposes across a range of activities for the public benefit. The highlight of the reporting year has to be the VE Day event which epitomised everything the charity was set up to achieve for the community it serves.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Within the period the charity received total income of £38,541 (2025: £26,853) The charity received the majority of its income from fund raising events (2026: £27,847; 2025: £3,231). Income was also received from donations (2026: £4,981; 2025: £3,497), grants (2026: £2,100; 2025: £19,230), sponsorship (2026: £1,950; 2025: £100) and membership fees (2026: £1,117; 2025: £695).

Total payments in the period were £20,687 (2025: £1,917). Notably, expenditure was incurred to host fund raising events (2026: £11,543; 2025: £1,261) and money was also invested in The Desford Heritage Trail (2026: £6,204; 2025: £630).

The charity has a reserves policy. This aims to ensure that no less than 20% of the prior year expenditure is retained as a reserve fund and is to ensure that the charity can operate during any unexpected period of reduced income. In line with this policy, the reserve fund should be maintained above £4,138 (2025: £383).

The closing reserves are £42,790 (2025: £24,936).

The charity currently holds no assets other than cash held in the bank account.

The charity has no liabilities at the year end.

The charity currently holds sufficient cash to finance the planned activities over the coming year and expects to continue as a going concern.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the above report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:

Full name: KATHERINE HELEN TWITCHIN

Position: CHAIR

Date: 14.09.2026

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
PERIOD ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Receipts		
Fund raising events	27,847	3,231
Donations	4,981	3,497
Grants	2,100	19,230
Sponsorship	1,950	100
Membership fees	1,117	695
Other income	546	100
Total	**38,541**	**26,853**
Payments		
Event costs	11,543	1,261
Trail costs	6,204	630
Admin expenses	2,126	-
Trip costs	420	-
Memberships	191	-
Bank charges	103	26
Donations	100	-
Total	**20,687**	**1,917**
Net receipts	**17,854**	**24,936**

	2026 £	2025 £
Net receipts/(payments)	17,854	24,936
Cash at start of period	24,936	-
Cash at 31 January 2026	**42,790**	**24,936**

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:

Full name: KATHERINE HELEN TWITCHIN

Position: CHAIR

Date: 14.09.2026

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Assets		
Cash funds	42,790	24,936
Other	-	-
Total	**42,790**	**24,936**
Liabilities		
Other	-	
Total	-	

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:

Full name: KATHERINE HELEN TWITCHIN

Position: CHAIR

Date: 14.09.2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
PERIOD ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2026 which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 charity 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.

Signature: A Johnson

Full name: ANGELA JOHNSON

Position: Retired Company Accountant

Address: 22 West End, Walcott, Lincolnshire. LN4 3ST.

Date: 14th. September 2026.