The Denys Eyre Bower Bequest

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2025

Charity Registration Number
291203

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Reference and administrative information

Corporate trustee	Bower Bequest Trustee Company Limited
Directors of the corporate trustee Bower Bequest Trustee Company Limited	Jean French Vivienne Lawes Alan Smart
Estate Manager and Company Secretary	Mike Glossop (resigned 26.02.2025) Nancy Olden (from 26.02.2025)
Principal office	Chiddingstone Castle Hill Hoath Road Chiddingstone Edenbridge Kent TN8 7AD
Charity registration number	291203
Auditor	Buzzacott Audit LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 89 Mount Pleasant Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1QJ

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of The Denys Eyre Bower Bequest for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 18 to 22 of the attached accounts and comply with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

INTRODUCTION

Chiddingstone Castle is a well-loved local landmark and offers insight into local history and an unexpectedly wide range of benefits to the public.

The building itself is of modest historical and architectural importance located in an area of Kent studded with prestigious and well-known historic houses.

The collections housed within the castle contain artifacts of a quality and with historical and cultural significance that would normally be associated with a national museum located in a major city. As such they provide a valuable educational resource to local schools, the local community and special interest groups, both national and globally.

The grounds provide a free-of-charge open air recreational space consisting of lawns, woodlands, trails and a lake which are enjoyed by all age groups. The grounds are sympathetically managed to promote both recreation and wildlife, providing an opportunity to connect with the natural environment.

The castle viewed in conjunction with its collections and the story of how they were assembled gives an important insight into the history of the Southeast of England and its place within Britain and the wider world.

The trustees are keenly aware of the wide range of public benefits Chiddingstone Castle provides and are determined to promote and enhance those cultural, educational and recreational opportunities.

The castle and its collections were bequeathed to the nation without an annuity to maintain the building, its grounds or artifacts. As a small independent charity, Chiddingstone Castle relies upon visitor receipts, profits from its tearoom and tenancy rental for income. In addition the charity has invested in an events company which is licenced to use the castle and grounds to conduct weddings and other events.

Matching the repair and maintenance needs of the charity with these income streams is a delicate balancing act. The trustees and staff of Chiddingstone Castle are actively pursuing grant funding and the support of patrons to further its work to deliver benefit to as wide a range of the public as possible.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of The Denys Eyre Bower Bequest is the preservation and maintenance of Chiddingstone Castle and its contents, including the collections of the late Denys Eyre Bower, in perpetuity for the benefit of the public, in particular by ensuring reasonable public access.

The charity ensures that, at all times, it is acting in the public benefit and the trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The charity is governed by a Scheme of the Charity Commission dated 13 August 1984, as subsequently amended by further Schemes. It is a charity registered in England and Wales, Charity Registration No. 291203.

Trustees

Following the sealing of a Charity Commission Scheme, on 19 September 2008, individual trustees were replaced with a corporate trustee, the Bower Bequest Trustee Company Limited. The directors of the corporate trustee (referred to in this document as the 'trustees') who were in office during the year and/or at the date on which these accounts were approved are as follows:

Trustee	Appointed / resigned
Edward Beart	Appointed 29 April 2026 (Resigned 16 July 2026)
Jennifer Brough	Appointed 29 April 2026 (Resigned 28 July 2026)
Timur Coskun	Appointed 10 June 2025 (Resigned 2 February 2026)
Graham Dixon	(Resigned 2 February 2026)
Jean French	Appointed 29 April 2026
Richard Gilbert	(Resigned 20 March 2025)
Mark Hinton	(Resigned 26 February 2025)
Julia Hutt	(Resigned 26 February 2025)
Vivienne Lawes	Appointed 10 June 2025
Nancy Olden	(Resigned 16 July 2026)
Annabel Narayanan	(Resigned 26 February 2025)
Rebecca Nuotio	(Resigned 1 February 2026)
Alan Smart	Appointed 10 June 2025 (Resigned 14 July 2026) Appointed 27 July 2026
Rachel Yates	(Resigned 1 February 2026)
Bower Bequest Trustee Company Limited	Appointed 13 July 2015

No trustee received any remuneration from the charity in respect of their services during either the year ended 31 December 2025 or the year ended 31 December 2024.

One trustee received reimbursement of £170 for out of pocket expenses during the year (2024: £50 was reimbursed to one trustee and subsequently donated back to the charity). The trustees take responsibility for monitoring the charity's activities in all operational areas, working to achieve a skills mix of the trustees to ensure that the board of trustees has all the necessary skills required to contribute fully to the charity's development. The trustees have put robust governance and financial procedures in place to ensure the sound stewardship of the charity and its assets.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's governing Scheme. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of accounts may differ from other jurisdictions.

Risk management

As part of the work towards building robust governance procedures, the trustees assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its heritage assets and its finances. The trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they will ensure effective systems to mitigate those risks.

The key risks identified by the trustees and the controls in place to mitigate them are summarised below:

- Damage to the charity's Collections resultant from poor conservation techniques and procedures. The charity employs a Curator to ensure the Collections are cared for in the best possible environmental conditions, and conservators are recruited as necessary.

- Insufficient fundraising, including poor visitor numbers. The charity employs a small but dedicated team of staff, supported by volunteers. The charity also employs a freelance Marketing specialist to assist in raising the profile of the Castle and its activities through copy editorial rather than advertising. Staff also use many social media platforms to raise the profile and keep prospective visitors informed of activities.

- Injury or illness caused to visitors whilst visiting the Castle and resultant possible negative publicity. The charity employs an Estate Manager to ensure all risks associated with visiting the Castle and grounds (the lake, waterfall, haha wall, caves, woodland, interior of the Castle etc.), have been adequately evaluated for safety. Public liability insurances are all in place. Two members of staff are registered First Aiders. Catering staff and the kitchen are compliant with food and hygiene regulations.

Senior executives

Name	Position
Mike Glossop (resigned from role 26.02.2025)	Estate Manager (and Company Secretary)
Clare Proctor (resigned from role 26.02.2025)	Finance and Operations Manager
Faye Kelly (resigned from role 31.10.2025)	Chief Executive Officer

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of The Denys Eyre Bower Bequest, responsible for directing and controlling, running and operating the charity, comprise the Trustees and the Senior Executives referred to above.

The Trustees do not receive remuneration in respect of their services to the charity. The remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer, Estate Manager, and Finance and Operations Manager is determined by the Trustees having regard to market conditions, individual performances, and the financial situation of the charity.

DEVELOPMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

The trustees took a number of steps at the end of 2024 which they hoped would mark a turning point in the fortunes of the charity. These steps included a reshaping of the trustee board to speed up decision making and the appointment of a heritage sector professional to manage the day to day operation of the castle and to develop longer term operating plans.

It was hoped that a revised opening time regime along with a revitalised events program would generate increased visitor numbers and consequently revenues. The ticketing policy was also revised to offer a better value proposition for visitors.

These measures did result in a modest increase in visitors and revenues but not on the scale needed. Increases in costs exceeded the uplift in revenues and as a consequence the charity experienced a bigger deficit than in the previous year.

The charity uses a subsidiary company, Chiddingstone Castle Events Ltd, to run weddings and other private events in the building and grounds of the castle. The profits from this business are then donated through gift aid to the main charity. Weddings have formed a big part of this business in previous years.

At the end of 2024 negotiations began to outsource promotion and management of the weddings and events business to a third-party provider and changes to the business processes were subsequently made. This change has not proved to be as successful as hoped for in the anticipated time frame. Some of this is due to current difficulties in the wedding and events marketplace more widely. The event company made a small loss in 2025 and has therefore been unable to donate funds to the charity.

It was clear towards the end of 2025 that the new strategy formulated at the end of 2024 was not going to be successful within the time frame and resources available to the charity. As a consequence, since the end of the year the trustees have significantly scaled back their ambitions for operations and focused primarily on preserving the charities remaining funds. At the same time the trustees have continued to focus on the public benefit obligations of the charity and making sure that the house, grounds and collections are accessible to the public.

There has been considerable change in the composition of the trustee board during this period, and the remaining trustees are now considering how best to structure the board to face the current challenges facing the castle and the heritage sector more generally. The trustees are giving priority to rebuilding the charities reserves to make it more robustly sustainable into the future.

The trustees are researching wider trends within museums, historic houses, heritage fundraising and environmental and social responsibility governance to create an updated conservation management plan action plan for Chiddingstone Castle so that it can continue to meet its mission in a responsible and sustainable manner.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 14 of the attached accounts.

Total income for the year ended 31 December 2025 amounted to £441,879 (2024 – £423,846). Expenditure totalled £587,309 (2024 – £519,129) reflecting expenditure on staff costs, building and grounds maintenance and other costs associated with the preservation of the Castle and collections). The resultant net expenditure is £147,430 (2024 – net expenditure £95,283).

Reserves policy and financial position

Reserves policy

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The trustees consider that, given the fact that the major maintenance work will need to continue over the next few years, the level of free reserves should be equivalent to 3 months' annual expenditure at the very least. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in income flows, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies whilst action plans are implemented. Therefore, it is the trustees' intention, as the charity improve its financial position or returns to surplus, to maintain a free cash reserve of at least £150,000.

Financial position

The total funds of the charity at 31 December 2025 amounted to £17,910,199 (2024: £18,055,629).

These funds included endowment funds of £19,040,501 (2024: £19,040,501), including expendable endowments of £161,272 (2024: £161,272). Whilst income from the permanent endowment funds may be used for general purposes of the charity and is credited, therefore, to unrestricted funds, the permanent endowment fund balances themselves are deemed 'capital' and must be invested and held indefinitely by the charity.

Funds restricted to specific purposes amounted to £17,673 at 31 December 2025 (2024: £3,701).

General funds of the charity at 31 December 2025 were in deficit by £1,147,975 (2024: £988,573).

The trustees were aware that the charity's general funds would be in deficit and they expect this position to remain for many years. In the meantime, following the sale of the Lely painting in 2007, the charity's endowment funds have advanced funds to the general funds to enable the charity to continue to work towards meeting the purposes for which it was established.

The interfund indebtedness has been created with the permission of the Charity Commission. In due course, if possible, the funds will be repaid to the endowment funds with interest. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. This is based on a mixture of actual performance and projections to December 2026. The trustees have given consideration to December 2027. The key projections relate to a number of initiatives including the loaning of part of the collection to Houston Museum of Natural Science, continuing rental income and taking account of the matters discussed in the Risk Management section above.

Raising Funds

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with supporters. It takes care with both the tone of its communications and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Code of Fundraising Practice. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data with other organisations and ensures that its communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of professional fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During 2025, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Jean French

Jean French
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 23rd September 2026

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Denys Eyre Bower Bequest

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of The Denys Eyre Bower Bequest (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies, and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities contained within the trustees' report, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement director ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

- we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charity and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the accounts are those that relate to the reporting framework (Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011); and

- we understood how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of the minutes of trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;
- performing substantive testing on expenditure;
- reviewing journal entries; and
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the relevant accounts item to which they relate.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions, if any; and
- reviewing journal entries to identify unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Buzzacott Audit LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 29 September 2026

Buzzacott Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of financial activities incorporating the income and expenditure account Year to 31 December 2025

				Endowment funds				
		General funds £	Restricted funds £	Freehold land and buildings £	Permanent collection £	Reserve collection £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:								
Grants and donations	1	**3,982**	**25,005**	—	—	—	**28,987**	39,785
Other trading activities								
. Rental income		**86,296**	—	—	—	—	**86,296**	97,920
. Licence fee		**9,000**	—	—	—	—	**9,000**	9,000
Charitable activities								
. Preservation of the Castle and collections	2	**316,460**	—	—	—	—	**316,460**	274,959
Other sources								
. Interest income		**1,136**	—	—	—	—	**1,136**	2,182
		416,874	**25,005**	—	—	—	**441,879**	423,846
Expenditure on:								
Charitable activities								
. Preservation of the Castle and collections	3	**576,276**	**11,033**	—	—	—	**587,309**	519,129
		576,276	**11,033**	—	—	—	**587,309**	519,129
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	6	**(159,402)**	**13,972**	—	—	—	**(145,430)**	(95,283)
Reconciliation of funds:								
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2025		**(988,573)**	**3,701**	**11,396,512**	**7,482,717**	**161,272**	**18,055,629**	18,150,912
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2025		**(1,147,975)**	**17,673**	**11,396,512**	**7,482,717**	**161,272**	**17,910,199**	18,055,629

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above financial year.

A full comparative statement of financial activities for the previous year can be found on the next page of these financial statements.

Statement of financial activities incorporating the income and expenditure accounts Year to 31 December 2024

				Endowment funds			
		General funds £	Restricted funds £	Freehold land and buildings £	Permanent collection £	Reserve collection £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Grants and donations	1	*34,215*	*5,570*	—	—	—	*39,785*
Other trading activities							
. Rental income		*97,920*	—	—	—	—	*97,920*
. Licence fee		*9,000*	—	—	—	—	*9,000*
Charitable activities							
. Preservation of the Castle and collections	2	*274,959*	—	—	—	—	*274,959*
Other sources							
. Interest income		*2,182*	—	—	—	—	*2,182*
. Insurance income		—	—	—	—	—	—
		418,276	*5,570*	—	—	—	*423,846*
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
. Preservation of the Castle and collections	3	*513,559*	*5,570*	—	—	—	*519,129*
		513,559	*5,570*	—	—	—	*519,129*
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	6	*(95,283)*	—	—	—	—	*(95,283)*
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2024		*(893,290)*	*3,701*	*11,396,512*	*7,482,717*	*161,272*	*18,150,912*
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2024		*(988,573)*	*3,701*	*11,396,512*	*7,482,717*	*161,272*	*18,055,629*

Balance sheet 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		-		689
Heritage assets	10		**17,849,012**		17,849,012
					17,849,701
Current assets					
Debtors	11	**53,241**		79,353	
Cash at bank and in hand		**51,585**		162,514	
		104,826		241,867	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(43,639)**		(35,939)	
Net current assets			**61,187**		205,928
Total assets less current liabilities			**17,910,199**		18,055,629
Total net assets			**17,910,199**		18,055,629
The funds of the charity:					
Capital funds:					
Permanent endowment funds					
. Freehold land and buildings	13		**11,396,512**		11,396,512
. Permanent collection	13		**7,482,717**		7,482,717
Expendable endowment funds					
. Reserve collection	13		**161,272**		161,272
			19,040,501		19,040,501
Income funds:					
Unrestricted funds	15		**(1,147,975)**		(988,573)
Restricted funds	14		**17,673**		3,701
			(1,130,302)		(984,872)
			17,910,199		18,055,629

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:

Jean French

Jean French
Trustee

Approved on: 23rd September 2026

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	**(112,065)**	(53,733)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		**1,136**	2,182
Net cash generated from investing activities		**1,136**	2,182
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(110,929)**	51,551
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2025	B	**162,514**	214,065
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2025	B	**51,585**	162,514

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 December 2025.

A Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flows from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure (as per the statement of financial activities)	**(145,430)**	(95,283)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	**689**	1,059
Interest receivable	**(1,136)**	(2,182)
Decrease in debtors	**26,112**	37,393
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**7,700**	5,280
Net cash used in operating activities	**(112,065)**	(53,733)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents and net debt

	At 1 January 2025 £	Cash flows £	**At 31 December 2025 £**
Cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	162,514	(110,929)	**51,585**
	162,514	(110,929)	**51,585**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 December 2025 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 December 2024.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Consolidation

Group accounts have not been prepared for the charity and its subsidiary company, Chiddingstone Castle Events Limited, as the group qualifies as a small group as defined by Financial Reporting Standards.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- assessing the possibility of the heritage assets being impaired below their carrying value (deemed historic cost); and
- estimating future income and expenditure flows to enable the trustees to assess the charity's going concern.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the accounts.

In assessing going concern, the trustees have reviewed actual performance to August 2026 and projections to December 2027 and thereafter. The projections include a number of continuing initiatives such as the loaning of part of the collection to Houston Museum of Natural Science, as well as annual rental income and the resumption of donations from the operating subsidiary based on an overhauled weddings business and a revitalised public events programme. The trustees are also confident that a revised visitor and tearoom experience will further enhance income.

Whilst the trustees are aware of the risks associated with the current cost of living crisis and higher energy costs they believe the charity is in a sufficiently strong financial position to weather these conditions and therefore that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis and there are no material uncertainties in relation to this.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor or funder has specified that the income is to be expended in a future accounting period.

Income comprises grants, donations, rental income, licence fees, visitors' fees, income from fairs and festivals, fees from the loaning of items of the collections to other museums and insurance claims.

Donations are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants from government, other agencies and voluntary bodies have been included as income from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

Rental income, visitors' fees, licence fees, fees from the loaning of the collections to other museums, income from fairs and festivals, and insurance claims are recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the charity and the income can be reliably measured. It is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Receipts from insurance claims are recognised gross of any expenditure required to rectify related damage and classified as miscellaneous income.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including support costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs (direct and support) relating to the charity's primary charitable purposes i.e. the maintenance and preservation of Chiddingstone Castle and the collections.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel, financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment, and a suitable working environment.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs and governance costs are included as part of the costs of preserving the Castle and the collections.

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing more than £1,000 with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

- Furniture and equipment – 10% to 20% per annum
- Landscaping and groundworks – 10% to 20% per annum

Heritage assets

Heritage assets have historic, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities and are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

Freehold land and buildings

The freehold land and buildings comprising Chiddingstone Castle are included in the accounts at deemed cost, based on a valuation determined by the trustees with professional assistance in 2007. This valuation was based on replacement cost for existing use. Subsequent additions are included and carried at historic cost. No depreciation is provided on the freehold land and buildings. The charity's objects relate to the maintenance and preservation of the Castle for the benefit of the nation and future generations. As such the trustees ensure that the fabric and structure of the Castle is preserved at all times and that there is no diminution in the value of the asset.

The Collections

The permanent and reserve collections comprise Japanese armour and swords, pictures, prints, furniture, lacquer works and other antiquities. The items are included in the accounts at a deemed cost, based on a valuation determined by Messrs Christie Manson & Woods Limited in June 2007. This calculation was based on auction estimates as at that date. No depreciation is charged on the Collections given the nature of the assets and the fact that the charity's objects relate to their maintenance and preservation. The assets are preserved and maintained to a high standard at all times, but a review for possible impairment as a result of unintended damage is undertaken annually.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

The endowment funds comprise monies which must be held indefinitely as capital, and are represented by the Castle and collections. Income therefrom is credited to general funds and applied for general purposes. Amounts arising as a result of revaluations of assets held as part of the funds are retained as part of the relevant fund. Amounts arising from disposals of assets held as part of the freehold land and buildings fund or the permanent collection fund are considered to be part of the fund (unless express consent has been obtained from the Charity Commission to allow otherwise) whereas amounts arising in respect to disposals of assets held as part of the reserve collection fund may be utilised for general purposes under certain circumstances.

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

General funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

1 Income from grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £
Donations	**3,982**	—	—	**3,982**
Grants				
. National Manuscripts conservation	—	**7,290**	—	**7,290**
. Open grants	—	**4,585**	—	**4,585**
. NCC- for the Egyptian Sarcophagus	—	**5,000**	—	**5,000**
. NCC- for the library project	—	**1,000**	—	**1,000**
. The William and Edith Oldham Charitable Trust	—	**7,130**	—	**7,130**
2025 total funds	**3,982**	**25,005**	—	**28,987**

	Unrestricted funds £	*Restricted funds £*	*Endowment funds £*	*Total 2024 £*
Donations	*34,215*	*2,000*	—	*36,215*
Grants				
. Royal Pavilion and Museums Trust	—	*2,000*	—	*2,000*
. The Warren Meadows Trust	—	*934*	—	*934*
. The Leche Trust	—	*636*	—	*636*
2024 total funds	*34,215*	*5,570*	—	*39,785*

2 Income from activities to preserve the Castle and collections

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £
Visitors' fees and related income	**308,650**	—	—	**308,650**
Fees for loan of part of the collections (see below)	**7,810**	—	—	**7,810**
2025 total funds	**316,460**	—	—	**316,460**

	Unrestricted funds £	*Restricted funds £*	*Endowment funds £*	*Total 2024 £*
Visitors' fees and related income	*258,206*	—	—	*258,206*
Fees for loan of part of the collections (see below)	*16,753*	—	—	*16,753*
2024 total funds	*274,959*	—	—	*274,959*

During the above two years, part of the Egyptian Collection continued to be loaned to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Texas, United States of America. The current agreement was renewed for a six-year period, beginning in October 2019. We are currently in discussion with HMNS regarding the return of approximately 150 items and the continued loan of the remainder of the collection they currently display. No figures, or length of contract, have been discussed as yet.

3 Expenditure on charitable activities: Preservation of the Castle and collections

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £
Staff costs (note 7)	**295,628**	—	—	**295,628**
Building maintenance and refurbishment	**15,307**	—	—	**15,307**
Other property expenses	**91,814**	**11,033**	—	**102,847**
Gift shop and café purchases	**41,622**	—	—	**41,622**
Support costs (note 4)	**62,041**	—	—	**62,041**
Miscellaneous expenses	**69,864**	—	—	**69,864**
2025 total funds	**576,276**	**11,033**	—	**587,309**

	Unrestricted funds £	*Restricted funds £*	*Endowment funds £*	*Total 2024 £*
Staff costs (note 7)	*252,733*	—	—	*252,733*
Building maintenance and refurbishment	*21,126*	—	—	*21,126*
Other property expenses	*82,012*	*5,570*	—	*87,582*
Gift shop and café purchases	*35,302*	—	—	*35,302*
Support costs (note 4)	*76,929*	—	—	*76,929*
Miscellaneous expenses	*45,457*	—	—	*45,457*
2024 total funds	*513,559*	*5,570*	—	*519,129*

4 Support costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £
Premises	**7,411**	—	—	**7,411**
Depreciation	**689**	—	—	**689**
Marketing	**24,377**	—	—	**24,377**
Advertising and publicity	**2,069**	—	—	**2,069**
Professional fees	**5,121**	—	—	**5,121**
Governance costs (note 5)	**22,374**	—	—	**22,374**
2025 total funds	**62,041**	—	—	**62,041**

	Unrestricted funds £	*Restricted funds £*	*Endowment funds £*	*Total 2024 £*
Premises	*8,225*	—	—	*8,225*
Depreciation	*1,059*	—	—	*1,059*
Marketing	*24,378*	—	—	*24,378*
Advertising and publicity	*7,830*	—	—	*7,830*
Professional fees	*18,464*	—	—	*18,464*
Governance costs (note 5)	*16,973*	—	—	*16,973*
2024 total funds	*76,929*	—	—	*76,929*

5 Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £
Auditor's remuneration				
. Statutory audit services				
Current year	**11,690**	**—**	**—**	**11,690**
Prior year under-accrual	**3,014**	**—**	**—**	**3,014**
. Other services		**—**	**—**	
Current year	**7,245**	**—**	**—**	**7,245**
Prior year under-accrual	**425**	**—**	**—**	**425**
2025 total funds	**22,374**	**—**	**—**	**22,374**

	Unrestricted funds £	*Restricted funds £*	*Endowment funds £*	*Total 2024 £*
Auditor's remuneration				
. Statutory audit services	*11,130*	*—*	*—*	*11,130*
. Other services	*5,843*	*—*	*—*	*5,843*
2024 total funds	*16,973*	*—*	*—*	*16,973*

6 Net expenditure and net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs (note 7)	**295,628**	252,733
Auditor's remuneration		
. Statutory audit services		
Current year	**11,690**	11,130
Prior year under-accrual	**3,014**	—
. Non-audit and advisory services		
Current year	**7,245**	5,843
Prior year under-accrual	**425**	—
Depreciation	**689**	1,059

7 Staff costs

Costs payable to staff and contract workers during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	**233,636**	232,660
Social security costs	**24,501**	14,530
Pension costs	**4,469**	4,716
	262,606	251,906
Other related staff costs:		
. Recruitment costs	**3,034**	—
. Agency costs	**29,988**	827
	295,628	252,733

The average number of employees during the year, analysed by function, was as follows:

	2025 FTE	2024 FTE	**2025 Number**	2024 Number
Preservation of the Castle and collection	**8.9**	5.0	**16**	20

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more during the year (2024 – none).

The key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis comprise the trustees, the Estate Manager, the Finance and Operations Manager and the Chief Executive Officer. The CEO is employed and paid through the charity, although 25% of their time is allocated to CCE. This proportion is recharged accordingly. The key management personnel remuneration figure disclosed below related solely to amounts directly incurred by the charity and therefore excludes the 25% of the CEO's salary that is recharged. The total remuneration of the key management personnel for the year was £137,319 (2024 – £109,436).

8 Taxation

The Denys Eyre Bower Bequest is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Landscaping and groundworks £	Furniture and equipment £	**Total £**
Cost			
At 1 January 2025 and at 31 December 2025	14,631	168,737	**183,368**
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2025	14,631	168,048	**182,679**
Charge for year	—	689	**689**
At 31 December 2025	14,631	168,737	**183,368**
Net book values			
At 31 December 2025	—	—	—
At 31 December 2024	—	689	**689**

10 Heritage assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Collections £	**Total £**
At cost	17,512	—	**17,512**
At deemed cost	11,379,000	6,452,500	**17,831,500**
At 1 January 2025 and at 31 December 2025	11,396,512	6,452,500	**17,849,012**

Freehold land and buildings above comprise Chiddingstone Castle which, as described in the trustees' report, has existed in three forms on its current site since the 1500s and now houses the four permanent collections of the late Denys Eyre Bower (see below). The preservation of the castle and the collections for the benefit of the public is the primary purpose of the charity. On his death, the late Denys Eyre Bower wished to bequeath his treasures to the nation and believed strongly that the collections should be enjoyed in the "living surroundings" of the Castle and should not be segregated in a museum.

In accordance with the charity's governing document, a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales dated 13 August 1984, the objects of the charity are the maintenance and preservation, in perpetuity for the benefit of the public, of Chiddingstone Castle and its grounds and those items in the collections described as "permanent collections". These assets are regarded, therefore, as assets belonging to permanent endowment funds.

Items in the collections not regarded as "permanent collections" form part of the "reserve collections". In accordance with clause 4 of the Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 1 November 2005, assets comprising the reserve collection can be sold or transferred given the existence of certain specified conditions. These assets, therefore, are regarded as belonging to expendable endowment funds.

The Castle has been included in the accounts at a trustees' valuation carried out in 2007 based on replacement cost for existing use obtained using professional help. Following the completion of extensive repair work to the Orangery during 2007, certain aspects of the freehold land and buildings were revalued in 2007 by the trustees – again on a replacement cost for existing use obtained using professional assistance. These valuations are treated as 'deemed cost' for the purposes of these accounts. Subsequent additions are included and carried at historic cost.

The collections comprise items collected by the late Denys Eyre Bower over his lifetime and have been available for public viewing at the castle since March 2009. The collections may be summarised as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Japanese armour and swords	**275,050**	275,050
Antiquities (including Buddhist and Egyptian)	**3,930,828**	3,930,828
Pictures, prints and furniture	**269,472**	269,472
Japanese ceramics and objects	**1,559,835**	1,559,835
Portrait miniatures, memorabilia, tobacco boxes, medals, books, lacquer, autograph letters and manuscripts (including Jacobite)	**417,315**	417,315
	6,452,500	6,452,500

The collections are included in the accounts at a valuation determined by Messrs Christie Manson & Woods Limited in June 2007. The valuation is based on auction estimates as at that date. The trustees are aware that the valuations of the collections will vary over time due to market conditions; however, given the permanent nature of the collections, they believe that no useful purpose would be served by updating them on a regular basis for the accounts. As such, the valuations are treated as deemed cost for the purposes of these accounts.

During the above two years, part of the Egyptian Collection continued to be loaned to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Texas, United States of America. The current agreement was renewed for a six-year period, beginning in October 2019. We are currently in discussion with HMNS regarding the return of approximately 150 items and the continued loan of the remainder of the collection they currently display. No figures, or length of contract, have been discussed as yet.

Preservation and management

As indicated in the trustees' report, the primary objective of the Denys Eyre Bower Bequest is the preservation and maintenance of Chiddingstone Castle and its contents, including the collections of the late Denys Eyre Bower, in perpetuity for the benefit of the public. To this end, the charity employs curatorial staff, supported by appropriately skilled trustees, and operates the castle in an appropriately secure manner commensurate with the objective of public benefit.

11 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	**452**	12,182
Amount due from Chiddingstone Castle Events Limited	**52,789**	52,068
Accrued income	**—**	15,103
	53,241	79,353

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Taxation and social security	**13,224**	4,970
Compensation payable to life tenants	**—**	771
Expense and other creditors	**7,921**	10,795
Accruals and deferred income	**20,339**	18,858
VAT payable	**2,155**	545
	43,639	35,939

Deferred income (included within accruals and deferred income above:)	**2025 £**	2024 £
Deferred Income at 1 January 2025	**5,000**	6,250
Released during the year	**(5,000)**	(6,250)
Resources deferred in the year	**—**	5,000
Deferred Income at 31 December 2025	**—**	5,000

Deferred income of £nil (2024 – £5,000) relates to income in relation to the loan of Egyptian Artefacts to the Houston Museum in Texas, USA, which was invoiced in advance of the period to which it pertains. There were no other amounts held as deferred income at 31 December 2025 (2024 – £nil).

13 Endowment funds: Freehold land and buildings

	At 1 January 2025 £	**Income £**	**Expenditure £**	**Revaluation and transfers £**	**At 31 December 2025 £**
Chiddingstone Castle (note 10)	**11,396,512**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**11,396,512**
	11,396,512	**—**	**—**	**—**	**11,396,512**

	At 1 January 2024 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Revaluation and transfers £*	*At 31 December 2024 £*
Chiddingstone Castle (note 10)	*11,396,512*	*—*	*—*	*—*	*11,396,512*
	11,396,512	*—*	*—*	*—*	*11,396,512*

During the year ended 31 December 2021, further to prior consent obtained from the Charity Commission, the charity disposed a property previously forming a minor part of its permanent endowment, more commonly referred to as The Lodge. The charity has been granted consent to treat the funds released from the disposal as unrestricted funds, and therefore the amount originally recorded within the permanent endowment fund in relation to this property was transferred to the charity's unrestricted funds. The gain on disposal of the asset has also been credited to the charity's unrestricted funds.

13 Endowment funds: Collections

	Permanent collection £	Reserve collection £	Total 2025 £
At 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025	**7,482,717**	**161,272**	**7,643,989**
At 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024	**7,482,717**	**161,272**	**7,643,989**

14 Restricted funds

	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Revaluation and transfers £	At 31 December 2025 £
Landscaping and Groundworks	**3,701**	—	—	—	**3,701**
Preservation of the collection	—	**25,005**	**(11,033)**	—	**13,972**

	At 1 January 2024 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Revaluation and transfers £*	*At 31 December 2024 £*
Landscaping and Groundworks	*3,701*	*5,570*	*(5,570)*	—	*3,701*

The Landscaping and Groundworks fund represents money spent on the car park and foot paths plus money held to be applied towards future car park maintenance costs.

The Preservation of the collection fund represents donations received from various grant funders for the preservation and conservation of exhibits and items within the collection.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds: Freehold land and buildings £	Endowment funds: Permanent collection £	Endowment funds: Reserve collection £	Total 2025 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2025 are represented by:						
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heritage assets	—	—	11,396,512	6,291,228	161,272	17,849,012
Current assets	87,153	17,673	—	—	—	104,826
Interfund indebtedness	(1,191,489)	—	—	1,191,489	—	—
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(43,639)	—	—	—	—	(43,639)
	(1,147,975)	17,673	11,396,512	7,482,717	161,272	17,910,199

	General funds £	*Restricted funds £*	*Endowment funds: Freehold land and buildings £*	*Endowment funds: Permanent collection £*	*Endowment funds: Reserve collection £*	*Total 2024 £*
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:						
Tangible fixed assets	*689*	—	—	—	—	*689*
Heritage assets	—	—	*11,396,512*	*6,291,228*	*161,272*	*17,849,012*
Current assets	*238,166*	*3,701*	—		—	*241,867*
Interfund indebtedness	*(1,191,489)*	—	—	*1,191,489*	—	—
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	*(35,939)*	—	—	—	—	*(35,939)*
	(988,573)	*3,701*	*11,396,512*	*7,482,717*	*161,272*	*18,055,629*

During the years since the sale of the Lely painting in 2007, the charity's endowment funds have advanced funds to the general funds to enable crucial refurbishment work to the Castle and restoration work to the collections to take place. This interfund indebtedness has been created with the permission of the Charity Commission.

16 Related party transactions

The charity has taken advantage of the exemptions in FRS 102 and has not reported transactions between itself and its subsidiary company, Chiddingstone Castle Events Limited.

During the year, Alan Smart, a part-time employee in the Castle's gift shop, was appointed as a trustee in June 2025. From the date of appointment to the year end, he received gross remuneration of £2,128 (2024 - £nil) in respect of his employment, and the charity paid employer's National Insurance contributions of £39 (2024 - £Nil). No employer pension contributions or other benefits were provided. The remuneration paid relates solely to Mr Smart's duties as an employee and not to his role as a trustee. Mr Smart is no longer employed by the charity.

No other trustee received any remuneration from the charity in respect of their services during either the year ended 31st December 2025 or the year ended 31st December 2024.

No trustee received reimbursement for out-of-pocket travelling expenses totalling £nil during the year (2024 - £50 to one trustee).

The non-fiction publication of 'Do not be troubled' is currently sold in the Chiddingstone Castle gift shop. This is authored by Graham Dixon, a trustee. The book is sold at £8.50, with £3.50 being donated to the charity and the remainder of £5 being paid to the author. During the year, 21 copies of the book were sold, resulting in a payment of £105 to Graham Dixon (2024 -31 copies, resulting in a payment of £155).

No donations were made to the charity by the trustees during either the year ended 31st December 2025 or the year ended 31st December 2024.

Beyond the above, there were no other related party transactions during either the year ended 31st December 2025 or the year ended 31st December 2024.