# Thornbury and District Heritage Trust
# Chairman's Annual Report

## Annual Report 2025

It has been a turbulent year with a mixture of significant achievements and an even more significant risk to our future. In February, we were given notice that our lease would not be renewed when it expired in January 2026. This was completely unexpected and there were no alternative plans for our future. We are not yet clear what will happen but we have gone from what we were sure was certain closure to a more optimistic position. I will provide more details later in this report.

## Opening Times

Starting from January, we are now open for an extra afternoon during the week. Our opening times are now Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Our aim is to return to our previous Tuesday to Saturday opening times in the future.

## Memoriums

It is with sadness that I have to report that we have lost Jill Shepherd one of our archaeology volunteers.

## Volunteers

During the reporting year the upturn in people wanting to volunteer at the museum has continued and we are maintaining additional support to induction and training.

At the present time we have 36 people who act as front of house Custodians and an additional 30 people designated as Volunteers who carry out a variety of museum duties. Some Custodians also carry out other volunteering activities so the total number of active volunteers at any time is approximately 61.

There are nine Trustees from the volunteers who make up the Trust Council and there is a designated Town Councillor who acts as liaison between us and the Town Council. We also have 74 associates who support us and take an interest in the Museum. Many of them are also one of our 41 Trust Members who make a small annual subscription and have the right to cast a vote at our Annual General Meeting.

The total number of people on our mailing list that is used to send out regular newsletters and items of interest is 153.

## Displays During the Reporting Period

The upstairs front room Thornbury Folk / Thornbury in the Making continues with minor amendments being made from time to time. Increasingly, this room is also being used as a workspace for volunteers. This arrangement is satisfactory and visitors have the opportunity to interact with the volunteers.

The condition of the Roman coins has recently been inspected by Bristol Museum and after the silica gel to keep them dry had been replaced, I am pleased to report that they were given a clean bill of health.

A new display cabinet has been installed on the landing to display some of the railway items in the collection.

In the downstairs front room, the exhibition to mark the bi centenary of Handel Cossham continued to be in place up to the end of the year with a short break to accommodate the Art Trail.

Since January, the exhibition featuring the Lower Hazel archaeological site has been in place. The site continues to provide interesting finds that add to, rather than solve the historic mystery of the buildings. With recent finds including a rare type of sword, the importance of the site is gradually being discovered.

## Town Hall Exhibition

The Thornbury Quilt has been installed in an upstairs room in the Town Hall behind a custom-made acrylic screen. An audio-visual unit that will tell the story of the quilt has been purchased and it is being programmed with information prior to its installation in the near future.

In the downstairs front room, the two display cabinets that were installed last year are now fully populated with artifacts relating to the old Borough of Thornbury and three large information panels have been prepared and installed on the walls.

We are grateful for the grant of £8,750.00 from the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to pay for most of this work.

## Heritage Trail

All the floor plaques have been reinstated in the High Street and the trail is fully operational. The sundial near St Mary's Church has been given a face lift with new gravel. Our continued thanks go to our volunteer who is looking after the trail for us.

## Collection Rationalisation

Work on the first stage of rationalisation of the collection to make it more relevant and manageable is almost complete and we are now looking further into identifying additional items that have:

- no historical value
- are in poor unrestorable condition
- are not connected with the local people or the area
- or are more suitable additions to our handling collections.

## Walks, Talks and Events

Several talks on a variety of subjects have been given throughout the year and we also:

- Took part in the Jigsaw Fun Palace event in the Library.
- Hosted local jeweller Rosemary Millar during the Thornbury Arts Trail in April.
- Took part in the Heritage Open Days in September with a walk "Thornbury and the Railway"

We took the decision to end the tours we gave to guests at Thornbury Castle in December. Despite the fact that it was very profitable and indeed enjoyable, we considered that it was taking us away from our primary objective to provide a museum service for the local people and the local area. The Castle is now providing guided tours for its guests on a commercial basis.

When time permits, we intend to compile a pictorial book based on the material we used during our tours, together with details of additional research we have carried out.

## Outreach Activities

Local schools continue to request educational material and the loan of handling collections. These have proved popular and feedback from teachers is positive.

## Internet / Social Media

We intend to refresh our website to make it even more visually appealing to its visitors. It will continue to be a wealth of information and a valuable resource to the museum service we provide to the area.

We continue to be well supported by the vibrant social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The comments and feedback, particularly during our recent threat of closure, have been very encouraging and reinforced our resolve to carry on. Our thanks to the volunteers who do an excellent job maintaining these sites on our behalf.

Thornbury Roots is the web site to visit for any information about Thornbury buildings and its people and we are proud to be associated with it, and we are grateful to those that develop and maintain it. Tytherington Roots is now being revitalised and I am pleased to say that we continue to support it by facilitating a service provider.

## IT Systems

Our updated computer systems are fully operational and help to improve our efficiency and resilience. During this reporting year we have upgraded the laptop used for the Modes system and the computer used for public access.

## Finance

We now have a bank card reader so that we can accept payments for shop items and donations.

In March we received a draft service level agreement from the Town Council to provide funding in return for us providing a museum service for the next four years. It is agreed in principle with just minor details to be finalised, this gives us some degree of optimism for the future.

The separate financial report will show that we maintain a comfortable position but there is still some uncertainty over our tenancy and should we have the opportunity to stay where we are or be forced to move, there will be considerable costs involved.

## Museum Premises

We entered this year with the continuing uncertainty of what might happen to our museum, but we became more optimistic when it was announced that the Armstrong Hall had received a large donation that might enable it to reopen. Although we were not complacent, it came as a big shock when I received an email from the Armstrong Hall Trust informing me that our lease would not be renewed. I will not go into all the detail here but the minutes of an extraordinary meeting held by the Museum Trustees on Friday 7th March, outline the events and meetings that have taken place since February.

The current situation is that we are having constructive meetings with representatives of the Armstrong Hall Trust, the Town Council and others and we are exploring viable options for the Museum. It is still a possibility that we may have to move from 4 Chapel Street but

ongoing dialogue with the Town Council suggests that they have a commitment for maintaining a museum service in the town.

When the news about our likely closure became known, we were gratified at the amount of support we had from local organisations and the community.

## Conclusion and the Future

At the beginning of last year our future was still by no means certain but we were optimistic and were able to achieve several important goals. Then in February we reached a new low, morale plummeted and it seemed that the will to carry on was exhausted and the prospect of recovery was unlikely.

However, we end this year with some degree of optimism and determination to carry on. We owe that turn around to the people that have given us their verbal and written support and in particular those that are helping us to find solutions to the long-term viability of the Museum.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that devote their time, expertise and good will to the museum and make all this possible.

John Shepherd

Chairman

# THORNBURY AND DISTRICT HERITAGE TRUST

# PROVISIONAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2025

## Detailed accounts for Thornbury and District Heritage Trust
## Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31/12/2025

| **Income:** | **2025** | **2024** |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| Sale of Publications | 711.77 | 726.69 |
| Donations | 979.50 | 562.00 |
| Members' subscriptions | 145.00 | 155.00 |
| Walks, Talks, Events | 3115.00 | 9706.00 |
| Other funding | (doors payment) * | (water refund, doors) * 1634.88 |
| Disposals for Collection Care | 100.00 | 70.00 |
| WECA grant, new exhibition | 4375.00 | 0.00 |
| Thornbury TC, grant rent | | (2023) 3450.00 |
| Thornbury TC, SLA | 12000.00 | 12000.00 |
| South Glos Council, SLA | 2800.00 | 2800.00 |
| Project grants | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total | 25366.27 | 31104.57 |
| Cost of sales | | |
| | | |
| Opening stock | 3033.31 | 1971.36 |
| Purchase of stock, shop | 747.00 | 1184.76 |
| Stock write-down, deduct | 156.00 | 0.00 |
| Less closing stock | 3017.56 | 3033.31 |
| | | |
| Cost of sales: deduct | 606.31 | 122.81 |
| Income | 24759.96 | 30981.76 |
| | | |
| Interest, Scottish Widows | 973.08 | 1026.26 |
| | | |
| **Total Income** | 25733.04 | 32008.02 |
| | | |
| **Expenditure:** | | |
| | | |
| Staffing | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Rental of premises | 3590.00 | 3520.00 |
| Utilities | 3904.55 | 5282.09 |
| Insurance, safety, security | 1516.28 | 1323.90 |
| Maintenance of premises | 274.92 | 852.88 |
| Subscriptions, fees etc. | 718.20 | 185.00 |
| Assets | 1577.89 | 3079.61 |
| Collection, less items in assets | 152.82 | 1247.48 |
| Projects (Town Hall displays) | | 6154.80 |
| Operating costs, websites etc. | 3093.76 | 2628.42 |
| Sundries | (Building survey) * | 150.00 |
| | | |
| Expenditure before depreciation | 17768.42 | 24478.18 |
| Depreciation | 1920.15 | 1698.71 |
| Expenditure | 19688.57 | 26176.89 |
| | | |
| Excess income over expenditure | 6044.47 | 5831.13 |
| | | |
| **Total** | 6044.47 | 5831.13 |

* New doors paid for by the Armstrong Hall (AHT) and half the survey to be paid by AHT

## Thornbury and District Heritage Trust
## Balance sheet for the year ending 31/12/2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| Additions 2025 | 2577.89 | 3079.61 |
| Fixed Assets per schedule | 7666.31 | 6787.14 |
| | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| | | |
| Stock Museum shop | 3017.50 | 3033.31 |
| | | |
| Debtors and prepayments | | |
| | | |
| Thornbury Castle, tours and books | | 2660.00 |
| Door replacement (AHT) | | 1140.00 |
| Building survey part payment (AHT) | 1470.00 | |
| | 1470.00 | 3800.00 |
| | | |
| I & E Account NatWest | 24943.38 | 18092.23 |
| I & E Account EPOS | 4.38 | |
| Scottish Widows deposit account | 60396.91 | 59865.56 |
| Scottish Widows Friends account | 10296.62 | 10154.89 |
| Total cash at banks | 95641.29 | 88112.68 |
| | | |
| Sub total current assets | 100128.79 | 94945.99 |
| | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Creditors and accruals | | |
| Armstrong Hall rent next year (25/26) | 897.50 | 880.00 |
| Sundries | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | 897.50 | 880.00 |
| | | |
| Net Current Assets | 99231.29 | 94065.99 |
| | | |
| Total Assets | 106897.60 | 100853.13 |
| | | |
| Represented by | | |
| | | |
| Income and expenditure account bf | 98492.74 | 92661.61 |
| Excess income for year | 6044.47 | 5831.13 |
| | 104537.21 | 98492.74 |
| | | |
| ‡ Revaluation reserve | 2360.39 | 2360.39 |
| | | |
| Total Assets | 106897.60 | 100853.13 |
| | | |

Notes: ‡ Revaluation Reserve was introduced many years ago to represent current assets, in order that they could be depreciated and included in the balance sheet.

Registered number: 02087293

# THORNBURY AND DISTRICT HERITAGE TRUST

**UNAUDITED**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**For the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

## COMPANY INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Directors** | M Elton<br>A F Girdlestone<br>J Marks<br>P D Montgomery<br>S M Morrissey<br>J Newley<br>J M Shepherd<br>D Thomas<br>M M Wise |
| **Company secretary** | P D Montgomery |
| **Registered number** | 02087293 |
| **Registered office** | Town Hall<br>35 High Street<br>Thornbury<br>Bristol<br>BS35 2AR |
| **Accountants** | Savage Associates<br>The Coach House<br>Aust Road<br>Olveston<br>Bristol<br>BS35 4DE |

## THORNBURY AND DISTRICT HERITAGE TRUST

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# DIRECTORS' REPORT
## For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

**Directors**

The directors who served during the year were:

M Elton
A F Girdlestone
J Marks
P D Montgomery
S M Morrissey
J Newley
J M Shepherd
D Thomas
M M Wise

**Directors retiring by rotation**

P D Montgomery
J Newley
J M Shepherd

This report was approved by the board on 10th April 2026 and signed on its behalf.

Secretary

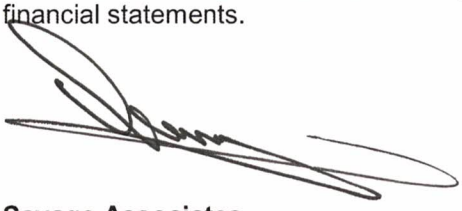
P.D. Montgomery.

## ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE PREPARATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THORNBURY AND DISTRICT HERITAGE TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

You consider that the Company is exempt from an audit for the year ended 31 December 2025. You have acknowledged, on the Balance sheet, your responsibilities for ensuring that the Company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and for preparing the financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of its profit or loss for the financial year.

In accordance with your instructions, we have prepared the financial statements on pages 5 from the accounting records of the Company and on the basis of information and explanations you have given to us.

We have not carried out an audit or any other review, and consequently we do not express any opinion on these financial statements.



**Savage Associates**

The Coach House
Aust Road
Olveston
Bristol
BS35 4DE
Date: 15/04/2026

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
### For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

| | Note | 2025<br>£ | *2024*<br>*£* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Turnover | | **25,367** | *31,105* |
| Other income | | **973** | *1,026* |
| Cost of raw materials and consumables | | **(607)** | *(123)* |
| Depreciation and other amounts written off assets | | **(1,920)** | *(1,699)* |
| Other charges | | **(17,769)** | *(24,479)* |
| **Profit** | | **6,044** | *5,830* |

**THORNBURY AND DISTRICT HERITAGE TRUST**
**Registered number: 02087293**

## BALANCE SHEET
## As at 31 December 2025

| | | 2025 £ | | *2024 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fixed assets | | **7,667** | | *6,788* |
| Current assets | **100,128** | | *94,946* | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | **(898)** | | *(881)* | |
| **Net current assets** | | **99,230** | | *94,065* |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | **106,897** | | *100,853* |
| **Net assets** | | **106,897** | | *100,853* |
| **Capital and reserves** | | **106,897** | | *100,853* |

**Notes**

**General information**

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales.

The address of its registered office is:
Town Hall
35 High Street
Thornbury
Bristol
BS35 2AR

The directors consider that the Company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and members have not required the Company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the micro-entities' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on

D.K. Thomas 10 April 2026

Director

## 1. Debtors

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Other debtors | **1,470** | *3,800* |
| | **1,470** | *3,800* |

## 2. Cash and cash equivalents

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Cash at bank and in hand | **95,641** | *88,113* |
| | **95,641** | *88,113* |

## 3. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Accruals and deferred income | **898** | *881* |
| | **898** | *881* |

## DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
## For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Turnover | **25,367** | *31,105* |
| Other Income | **973** | *1,026* |
| Cost Of Raw Materials And Consumables | **(607)** | *(123)* |
| Depreciation And Other Amounts Written Off Assets | **(1,920)** | *(1,699)* |
| Other Charges | **(17,769)** | *(24,479)* |
| **Profit** | **6,044** | *5,830* |

## SCHEDULE TO THE DETAILED ACCOUNTS
### For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Turnover** | | |
| Sales of publications | **712** | *727* |
| Donations | **980** | *562* |
| Members' subscriptions | **145** | *155* |
| Events | **3,115** | *9,706* |
| Grants - Thornbury Town Council | **12,000** | *15,450* |
| Grants - South Glos Council, SLA | **2,800** | *2,800* |
| Grants - WECA | **4,375** | *-* |
| Other project funding | **100** | *70* |
| Other funding | **1,140** | *1,635* |
| | **25,367** | *31,105* |

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Other income** | | |
| Bank interest receivable | **973** | *1,026* |
| | **973** | *1,026* |

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Cost of raw materials and consumables** | | |
| Opening stocks | **3,033** | *1,971* |
| Closing stocks | **(3,017)** | *(3,033)* |
| Purchases | **591** | *1,185* |
| | **607** | *123* |

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Depreciation and other amounts written off assets** | | |
| Depreciation | **1,920** | *1,699* |
| | **1,920** | *1,699* |

## SCHEDULE TO THE DETAILED ACCOUNTS
## For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

| | 2025<br>£ | *2024*<br>*£* |
|---|---|---|
| **Other charges** | | |
| Legal and professional | **2,940** | - |
| Rent | **3,590** | *3,520* |
| Insurances | **1,516** | *1,324* |
| Repairs and maintenance | **5,758** | *9,215* |
| Administration | **718** | *390* |
| Collection care | **153** | *1,247* |
| Projects (Town Hall displays) | **-** | *6,155* |
| Operating costs inc internet | **3,094** | *2,628* |
| | **17,769** | *24,479* |