Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	01	2025	To	31	12	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Friends of the Red House Museum and Gardens
Other names charity is known by	-
Registered charity number (if any)	307087

Charity's principal address	Red House Museum and Gardens	
	Quay Road	
	Christchurch	
	Postcode	**BH23 1BU**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Gillian Pitt	Chair		Friends Committee
2	Carolyn Guest	Vice Chair/Secretary		Friends Committee
3	Robert Maddock	Treasurer		Friends Committee
4	Richard Giddings	Membership Secretary		Friends Committee
5	Lorna Markey			Friends Committee
6	Susan Pilgrim			Friends Committee
7				
8				
9				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by Trustees (Committee Members)

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

History

The Friends of the Red House Museum and Gardens charity was registered in 1972 but the early formation can be traced back to 1951.

Statutory Policies

Regular **committee meetings** were held in 2025. An emphasis on collective decision-making and responsibility was maintained.

The Trustees have been directed to watch the Gov.uk 5-minute guides for trustees alongside their volunteer handbook.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the Friends shall be to support and to assist the Museum and to promote its use and enjoyment by the public and in furtherance thereof and ancillary thereto:

(a) To aid research into local history and natural history of the Western half of the Hampshire basin, including East Dorset and the New Forest, from the earliest times, to assist in the preservation of the natural resources of the region;
(b) To help and encourage the publication of works of educational interest connected with the Museum's activities;
(c) To raise funds for the purposes connected with the Museum and to give financial assistance for its work including the purchase of exhibits, pictures and documents;
(d) To take and accept gifts of property, whether subject to any special trust or not, for the object of the Friends;
(e) To undertake and execute any Charitable Trust;
(f) To do all such things as are necessary for the attainment of these objects provided these objects are of a charitable nature.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The museum, a former Workhouse, is situated close to Christchurch Priory and welcomes residents and visitors to come and explore the many artefacts held and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the gardens. Entry is free.

The Friends regularly contribute financially with the costs of exhibitions and displays within the programme of events held at the museum. The Friends gave funds towards the conversion of an ancillary building to provide a ground-floor activity room which now hosts a regular dementia group, enables workshops to be accessible to all, and enables the Friends committee to meet in person.

The Friends also regularly contribute financially to assist the work carried out by the volunteers in the Archive team at the museum by providing equipment to assist in the preservation and cataloguing of paper and photographic records. They respond to queries from Friends and visitors to the museum for help in researching family history or the history of their Christchurch property.

The Friends also consider financial requests from the Garden volunteers for the purchase of tools, plants, etc. The gardens provide a resting place in a tranquil setting away from the bustle of the High Street.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Friends recognise that without the time given freely by the volunteers to supplement the 3 staff members, the museum would have shorter opening hours for the public to visit. They provide a warm, welcoming presence at Reception and share their knowledge of the history of Christchurch with obvious pride. The talks programme and museum workshops which are open to staff, volunteers, Friends and community groups, are widely publicised and it is noticeable how many visitors return on a regular basis throughout the year.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2025 was another successful year for the museum with visitor numbers increasing year-on-year following the Covid pandemic in 2020.

This is due in the main to the varied programme of interesting exhibitions, art displays in the Main Gallery and family events organised by the Community Manager. The museum receives funding from Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Unitary Authority. The Friends consider requests for 'top up' funds on a case-by-case basis and also provide a monetary prize to an artist in the local Christchurch Arts exhibition. Committee meetings give all the committee an opportunity to discuss and agree that the money is being spent in accordance with the Friends stated aims and objectives.

In a previous year the Friends applied for a small grant from Christchurch Town Council to part fund the making of a mosaic for the museum reception area. Workshops were held and members of the public, Friends and museum volunteers were invited to participate in their creation under the tutelage of a qualified ceramicist, having decided as a group what items should be depicted to represent the history of Christchurch.

Activities held at the museum which engage with members of the local community are high on the Friends list of priorities and funding is made available, when requested.

The annual summer Garden Party organised by the Friends has become a well anticipated event in the Christchurch calendar and the combination of artisan stalls, activities for children and musical entertainment appeals to all ages. Donations for the plant and cake stalls together with raffle prizes are received from members of the Friends and supportive local businesses.

The programme of talks is organised by a past committee member and there is a regular waiting list for tickets. Such is their attraction that payment for the full series is often made in advance and Friends and visitors are never disappointed by the subject or the speaker.

Funding for 4 additional water butts has reduced the gardeners' reliance on tap water and supports local initiatives to reduce tap water consumption.

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Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The Friends have two ongoing costs • Employers and Public Liability Insurance • Bank charges Purchases are considered by the committee if funds are available and any major projects are discussed and agreed with the Museum's Community Manager under a Memorandum of Understanding before a commitment to fund is reached.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about: • the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); • how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; • investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.	The Friends collect an annual fee from members and fundraise by organising a annual summer Garden Party and a programme of talks twice a year, both of which attract not only the Friends but newcomers to the museum who are then encouraged to become apply for membership. A donation box giving visitors the opportunity to donate directly to the Friends is held at Reception. Volunteer gardeners sell surplus plants. During 2025 the Friends received the first and second payment from a bequest made by a late Friend. This took the Friends income over the £25,000 threshold and now requires the accounts to be audited. This has been successfully completed. Expenditure has provided the Archive team volunteers with equipment to carry out their tasks of storing, recording and displaying information held at the museum. Expenditure has also enabled the gardeners to care for the gardens which attract large numbers of visitors. This includes new plants, tools and refurbishment of bench seating.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Robert Maddock	C J Guest
Full name(s)	Robert Frank Maddock	Carolyn Jane Guest
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Vice Chair/Secretary
Date	24th August 2026	

Friends of the Red House Museum and Gardens, Christchurch

Registered Charity 307087

Accounts 2025

Income		Expenditure		Museum purchases		Reserved funds
Subscriptions	£ 736.00	Garden	£ 1,208.86	ear trumpet exhibition	£ 1,030.00	£2000 received from CADArts
Income from talks	£ 717.00	Speakers	£ 245.00	Willow workshop	£ 150.00	last year is reserved for the
Other cash/card income	£ 1,080.31	Museum purchases	£ 5,136.71	art show prize	£ 150.00	revovation of the Romney Green
Donation box	£ 194.21	Fund raising expenses	£ 66.23	Poet workshop	£ 500.00	room.
CADArts donation	£ 2,207.30	BALH insurance	£ 90.00	Gallery lighting	£ 2,224.00	
Sylvia Marston bequest	£ 30,000.00	Bank and card charges	£ 60.22	Local history exhibition	£ 1,000.00	All other funds are unreserved.
Other donations	£ 200.00			other	£ 82.71	
Gift aid	£ 255.06					
plant sales	£ 355.64					
garden tours	£ 272.00					
Garden party	£ 1,232.50					
CLAC event 2024	£ 500.00					
CLAC event 2025	£ 704.79					
	£ 38,454.81		£ 6,807.02		£ 5,136.71	

bank 1.1.2025	£ 20,810.06	bank 31.12.2025	£ 12,457.85
		savings account 31.12.2025	£ 40,000.00
balance start 2025	£ 20,810.06	balance end 2025	£ 52,457.85
2025 income	£ 38,454.81	expenditure 2025	£ 6,807.02
	£ 59,264.87		£ 59,264.87

R F Maddock, treasurer
10-Mar-26

Hi Bob
Further to your email requesting a digital confirmation for the Charity Commission I can confirm that I examined the 2025 accounts you prepared for the Friends of the Red House Museum and that to the best of my knowledge from the supporting documentation provided these are an accurate record of the accounts.

Hope this fulfils their requirements.
Regards
Denise

Denise Smith
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Mudeford
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