

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST JANUARY 2025

CHARITY NUMBER: 310521

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

OLNEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2025

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2025 which are set out in pages 2 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

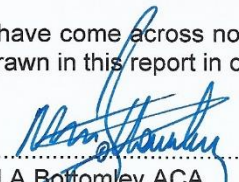
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


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M A Bottomley ACA
Collett Hulance Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
40 Kimbolton Road
Bedford
MK40 2NR

27th February 2025

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

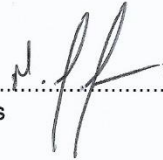
AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Land and Buildings		Not Valued	Not Valued
Exhibits, Equipment, Furniture		Not Valued	Not Valued
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash in Hand and Deposit	(2)	183,580.61	185,659.45
COIF Investment	(3)	21,814.78	21,814.78
Stock		8,818.94	10,209.35
Prepayment		2,749.68	2,717.81
		<u>216,964.01</u>	<u>220,401.39</u>
		=====	=====
<u>FINANCED BY:-</u>			
Museum Fund		140,137.78	135,680.50
Restoration and Improvement Fund		76,826.23	84,720.89
		<u>216,964.01</u>	<u>220,401.39</u>
		=====	=====

Trustees



Trustees



COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2025
RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Donations/Grants	38,386.00	63,475.04
National Heritage Grant	9,876.00	39,504.00
	48,262.00	102,979.04
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
National Heritage	-	58,486.90
Sundry	56,156.66	109,804.93
	56,156.66	168,291.83
(Deficit) for Year	(7,894.66)	(65,312.79)
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward	84,720.89	150,033.68
	76,826.23	84,720.89
<u>Accumulated Fund Carried Forward</u>	<u>76,826.23</u>	<u>84,720.89</u>

COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2025

MUSEUM FUND

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Admissions		29,231.25	29,806.48
Rents and Dividends		17,511.77	14,551.46
Donations		7,418.23	6,548.55
Other		8,533.11	7,802.53
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		62,694.36	58,709.02
Surplus on Saleable Goods	(1)	6,156.57	10,456.60
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		68,850.93	69,165.62
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
Salaries		30,353.61	23,472.60
Printing, Postage and Consumables		888.27	2,159.62
Advertising and Web Support		1,965.96	1,519.72
Stationery		199.77	588.66
Insurance		3,267.73	4,039.15
Electricity		3,726.96	3,231.13
Gas		3,508.42	2,281.00
Water		629.58	386.47
Cleaning		1,323.18	1,324.86
Telephone		1,025.60	817.14
Maintenance – Buildings		11,884.57	6,319.38
Maintenance – Exhibits, etc.		637.78	-
Subscriptions		1,629.53	1,419.49
Other Fees and Expenses - Training		2,097.81	1,993.89
Finance Fees including Credit Card		920.56	819.95
Cottage		-	2,169.00
Vegetable Garden		334.32	2,182.29
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		64,393.65	54,724.35
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for Year		4,457.28	14,441.27
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward		135,680.50	121,239.23
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund Carried Forward		140,137.78	135,680.50
		=====	=====

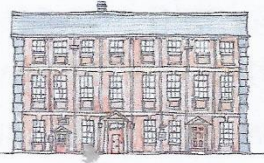
COWPER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
1) <u>Saleable Goods Trading</u>		
Income for Year	12,670.19	14,625.23
Less: Cost of Sales	6,513.62	4,168.63
	<u>6,156.57</u> =====	<u>10,456.60</u> =====
2) <u>Cash in Hand and on Deposit</u>		
House Manager's Float/Imprest	46.70	34.97
COIF Deposit (Endowment Fund)	60,120.84	28,790.07
Barclays Business Premium Account	5,707.35	40,290.53
Barclays Current Account	16,615.34	14,175.13
PayPal Account	210.73	210.73
Buckinghamshire Building Society	20,879.65	20,312.54
Cambridge & Counties Bank	80,000.00	81,845.48
	<u>183,580.61</u> =====	<u>185,659.45</u> =====
3) <u>COIF Investment</u>		

The value of this investment as at 31st January 2025 was £33,159.53 (2024 £31,003.08).



COWPER & NEWTON MUSEUM

Chair of Trustees Report 2025

It's been something of a mixed year at the museum. Attempts to gain a major National Lottery Heritage Fund grant for a new Garden Room (with toilet, kitchen, education and exhibition space), and an Arts Council England MEnD grant for building fabric improvements sadly failed.

We are trying again with both. MEnD as we could easily spend £70k on renovations recommended by our latest Conservation Building survey. But our chances are still slim. The NLHF are now only renovating old buildings within their large project category. We have a much better chance for a new building with a sub £250k grant application so we are giving it a try.

We also tried to get a Heritage England Blue Plaque last year as it was the first year it was extended outside of London. There were close to 500 applications so an old poet didn't make it this time, but we will be trying again this year.

Visitor numbers were fairly flat last year, weather being a big factor, but as I've mentioned before we are almost unique in the UK exceeding our pre-Covid numbers. Our Historic Houses Association membership is paying off and numbers still seem to be creeping up.

The downpours in Sept also highlighted old weaknesses in the fabric of the building. We do not wait for grants where health and safety or a threat to the building and collections is concerned if we have the cash. These have largely been fixed, although there is some window work to do to complete Cowper's kitchen.

But there were many positives and highlights. I'm just picking a few. We have added around 50 volunteers in the last year or so, with a total family now in excess of 170. Along with our Trustees they take care of Finances, Admin, Marketing, Policies & Procedures, Front of House, Shop, Gardens, Buildings, Outreach, Community Partnerships, Collection Care, Events, Catering, Dancing, Archives, Library, Historical Research, Gallery & Fundraising.

I feel the different areas in the museum are complementing each other more now. For example, Wayne Warren's exhibition spilled outside and left us with a legacy of fun items around the garden that the guides can highlight. He's doing his stuff again around the Church as we speak. You can now see a Bank Underground sign next to the Newton's tomb.

We have our newly restored counterpane back on a new specially made bed with a fascinating audio-visual story and this tied in with the Gift of Stitch exhibition and a continuing relationship with the exhibitors such as the Westbury Arts Group.

I've noticed an increased interest in the Lace Room exhibition from visiting religious tours as an illustration of the arrival of non-conformist migrants in the area. Those tours are also noticeably better coordinated with the Church with Malcolm and Derek giving us a very useful linkage. And look out for the Church's 700th anniversary History Day on 5th July.

Our gardeners will tell/have told their own stories but are complementing each other really well. And with increased and very visible plant sales are enhancing the overall visibility of the museum in the town.

We have boosted our Festive Season offering by adding Christmas lighting and consolidating activities such as the already new candlelit tours with an added Christmas theme. And a Turn the

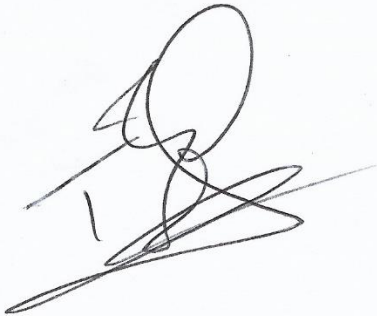
Lights On Santa event to tie in to late night shopping, bringing in pre-school children and their parents. We can add a Jane Austen element this time as it is her 250th birthday in December too. The Spooky History Walk was improved with the added illumination and had 70 turn up – and a new ghost as a bonus.

This year MK City Council have funded a marquee again for a month from 8th August to support and help us justify the Garden Room bid. We will have musical events again, local history talks, arts, crafts, gardening, wellbeing activities including yoga, and other garden events such as our summer social. Local wellness business Nook By Nature will be running many of these.

Our first Refreshments in the Courtyard have bought in about £1000 earmarked this year to subsidize our roof repairs.

We've had visitors from all over the world already this year and will have a couple of dozen tour groups by the end of the year. Thank you to Paula & Linda for reeling those in for us.

I doubt there is a more active museum around. We could not do what we do without our staff, volunteers and trustees, and I thank you for all your fantastic efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Linda', written in a cursive style.

4th June 2025.