Charity registration number: 311799

THE NORRIS MUSEUM

Wherever Your Curiosity Takes You

HERBERT ELLIS NORRIS LIBRARY & MUSEUM
TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Herbert Ellis Norris Library & Museum
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Herbert Ellis Norris Library & Museum
Reference and Administrative Details
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

Trustee	St Ives Town Council
Charity Number	311799
Principal Address	The Town Hall, Market Hill The Old Riverport St Ives Cambridgeshire PE27 5AL
Independent Examiner	Tacconi Green & Co Tacconi Green & Co 32a East Street St. Ives PE27 5PD

The trustee presents his report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Objectives and Activities

Aims and Objectives

Charitable Objective

The stated objective of the Trust is to provide a library and museum for use by and for the advancement of the education of the public, as far as possible separate from any library to which the statutes shall apply.

Charitable Purpose

The purpose of the Norris Museum is to collect, preserve, document, interpret and display material relating to the history of Huntingdonshire. It serves to educate, inspire, entertain and inform the widest possible audience by communicating the knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of its collections.

Significant Activities

Charitable Activities & Public Benefit

a. Collections

The Museum houses a collection of over 35,000 objects covering different periods and types, including palaeontology, archaeology and social history. There is also an extensive and diverse library and archive with collections of printed books and pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, photographs, newspapers and newspaper cuttings, works of art on paper and easel paintings. The collections relate to the geographical area of what was the County of Huntingdonshire.

The Museum collections are made up of the original Herbert Norris collection, items deposited at the Museum since 1931, and a large collection of objects from the Huntingdon Literary and Scientific Institute, when the Huntingdon Museum closed down in 1959.

The Museum's redevelopment project (2015-2017) ensured that the collections are now being stored in line with best practice, including bespoke roller racking and better environmental controls and accessibility. The project also began the process of creating a fully digital (and therefore easily searchable) inventory of our collection, including photographing every item in our social history collection.

In 2025/26, highlights included the arrival of 3 new Treasure Cases (TC) from the curators at The British Museum (via the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)), which the Museum has been granted ownership and care of:
- Treasure Act 1996: 2022 T1196 Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring from Kimbolton
- Treasure Act 1996: 2023 T721 Roman silver finger-ring from Broughton
- Treasure Act 1996: 2024 T660 Early Medieval silver coins (2) from Upton & Coppingfield

Once again, the Museum is grateful to The Friends of the Norris Museum for their kind donation to support the acquisition of the 3rd TC listed above.

The Museum's collection of samplers (needlework) has been assessed by The Landi Company Textile Conservators, supported by MDSE funding. This assessment enables progression to the second phase of the project, which will focus on fundraising to support staff upskilling in textile care, repackaging the collection in line with the conservators' recommendations, and developing an online exhibition to increase public access and engagement.

The collection is managed through a series of policies, procedures and risk assessments in line with Museum Accreditation standards. The most recent review of these policies by Arts Council England (ACE), the national governing body of accreditation awards, was in 2022, where full accreditation was awarded.

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Significant Activities - continued

Talks programme

The Museum offers a broad range of talks offered to groups and organisations in both their own venue and at the Museum. The uptake for this programme has increased year on year since the pandemic (where we offered virtual talks) and we have recently expanded the topics on offer to include broader subject matter rooted in the Norris Museum's collection to keep up with demand.

Town tours programme

Town tours are offered alongside our talks as part of group bookings. These have been very well received over the years. With the retirement of several of our volunteers who run them, we are in the process of recruiting new volunteers to refresh this programme and looking to run them to be bookable by individuals visiting the Museum on special event days. In the interim, we offer a self-guided tour map of the town for our day/tourist visitors.

b. Children and Family Learning

The Museum's Children and Family Learning programme has continued to grow and develop throughout 2025/26, building on the foundations established following the Learning Officer's return from maternity leave. With the revised staffing structure now fully embedded, the Learning Officer and Learning Assistant have focused on strengthening existing programmes, responding to feedback from schools and families, and ensuring activities remain both high quality and sustainable for the future.

A particular focus this year has been the continued development of the schools programme. Alongside delivering a busy programme of curriculum-linked workshops, the Museum Learning Team has invested time in reviewing and refining its learning offer in response to teacher feedback, strengthening partnerships and developing new resources. This work has laid strong foundations for the continued growth of the programme while ensuring it remains sustainable, responsive and relevant to the needs of local schools.

Planning and Development

Throughout the year, significant work has been undertaken to strengthen and future-proof the Museum's learning provision. Key developments have included:

- Continuing to develop and refine the schools programme, ensuring sessions remain engaging, curriculum-linked and sustainable to deliver.
- Expanding the Museum's growing collection of loan boxes, enabling schools to access Museum resources before or after visits, or as a cost-effective alternative where travel is not possible.
- Beginning the development of optional afternoon craft workshops to complement school visits, extending learning opportunities and supporting the long-term sustainability of the schools programme.
- Creating new town history walks and learning resources in direct response to requests from local schools, demonstrating the Museum's close working relationships with teachers.
- Continuing to strengthen partnerships with organisations including the St Ives Electric Boat Company and Holt Island Nature Reserve, providing unique learning experiences that combine local history with the natural environment.
- Beginning work towards achieving the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, reviewing current practice against national standards to support future accreditation.
- Continuing to develop the Museum's Early Years provision through new themed resources and the planning of an expanded programme for younger visitors.

Schools

The Norris Museum's schools programme continues to provide curriculum-linked workshops for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils, using the Museum's collections and the rich heritage of St Ives to bring local history to life.

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Significant Activities - continued

A major highlight this year has been the continued success of the River Heroes programme, developed in partnership with the St Ives Electric Boat Company. The session enables pupils to explore the environmental importance of the Great Ouse through hands-on activities at the Museum and a trip along the river. Following a successful pilot year, the programme has continued to develop through teacher feedback and is now firmly established within the Museum's schools offer.

The Museum has also continued its successful partnership with Holt Island Nature Reserve, delivering combined history and environmental learning experiences that allow pupils to explore both the cultural and natural heritage of St Ives.

Throughout the year, existing workshops have remained extremely popular, with sessions covering topics including Jurassic fossils, prehistoric Britain, the Romans, World War Two, Toys through Time and historical town walks. The Museum was fully booked for school visits through much of the academic year, reflecting the continued demand for high-quality local learning experiences.

Development has continued alongside delivery. During the year, the Museum has reviewed its existing schools programme in response to teacher feedback, identifying opportunities to develop new resources and learning experiences that meet schools' needs while remaining sustainable to deliver. This work will continue into the coming year alongside the expansion of the Museum's growing loans boxes.

In order to strengthen relationships with local teachers, the Museum hosted a teacher INSET session, providing opportunities for curriculum discussion, object handling and feedback on future learning provision. The session has helped ensure that future developments to the schools programme continue to respond directly to the needs of local schools.

Early Years Group Visits

Development of the Museum's Early Years offer has continued throughout the year. Sessions have been reviewed and expanded to provide engaging learning experiences for nursery and reception classes, pre-schools, childminders and home educators through storytelling, imaginative play, object handling and creative activities.

Work has also begun on a range of supporting resources, helping create a consistent and welcoming experience for the Museum's youngest visitors and supporting the Museum's wider ambition to encourage lifelong engagement with heritage from an early age. Planning is also underway to expand the Museum's Early Years offer in the coming year through regular sessions for young children and their adults.

Major Museum Events

The Museum continues to develop larger community events, working in partnership with local organisations to create memorable experiences that celebrate both the history and natural heritage of St Ives and Huntingdonshire.

Alongside its established programme of family activities, significant planning has taken place for a major community celebration marking the 600th anniversary of the Bridge Chapel. Working with local partners, freelancers and community organisations, the Museum has developed an ambitious event that will take place during the following financial year.

Family Events and Drop-in Activities

The Museum has continued to deliver a varied and well-attended programme of family workshops, holiday activities and drop-in events throughout the year.

Seasonal programmes included Easter and February half-term story sessions, creative workshops, family trails and hands-on activities. World Microscope Day returned in partnership with the Milton Microscopy Group, providing visitors with the opportunity to explore fascinating specimens through live microscopes and take part in science-inspired crafts. The May half-term programme included sold-out workshops alongside free family activities in the Museum garden.

Planning was also well underway by the end of the financial year for an ambitious summer programme of family activities, continuing the Museum's commitment to providing creative opportunities throughout the school holidays.

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Significant Activities - continued

Art Adventure Family Art Club

The Art Adventure Club has continued to go from strength to strength, with almost every term during 2025/26 selling out. The programme has explored a wide variety of artistic themes inspired by history, literature, world cultures and the natural environment, encouraging children and their adults to experiment with a broad range of materials and techniques.

Sessions have included themes inspired by books, ancient civilisations and world wonders, with participants creating work in clay, collage, weaving, silk painting, acrylics and mixed media. Special fundraising sessions supporting environmental charities have demonstrated the Museum's commitment to community engagement beyond its collections.

Youth Group Sessions

The Museum has continued to develop its offer for uniformed organisations, delivering bespoke sessions for Explorer Scouts, Scouts, Beavers and, for the first time, Squirrels.

Activities have ranged from behind-the-scenes collections visits and archaeological discoveries to sessions exploring Victorian collecting, local legends and museum history. The successful adaptation of River Heroes for Beaver Scouts further demonstrates the flexibility of the museum's learning offer and the value of its community partnerships.

Looking ahead, plans are in place to expand this programme further through a broader range of dedicated sessions for youth organisations.

Summary

Despite continued pressures on school budgets and the wider challenges facing the heritage sector, the Norris Museum's learning programme continues to thrive. Strong partnerships, responsive programme development and a commitment to sustainable delivery have enabled the Museum to strengthen its reputation as an important learning resource for schools, families and community groups. By continuing to adapt in response to feedback while investing in new resources and experiences, the Museum remains well placed to deliver high-quality, inclusive and inspiring learning opportunities for many years to come.

c. Community Projects

Booked Sessions

The Museum offers a diverse range of engaging bookable sessions, available both at the museum and off-site. We are proud to regularly deliver inspiring sessions to care homes, day centres, and friendship groups, SEND schools and young carers, including interactive object handling, arts award and heart-warming reminiscence activities. These sessions create meaningful connections and bring the museum experience directly to the community.

Regular Sessions

The museum proudly hosts a variety of regular sessions designed to inspire creativity, connection, and community. These include our popular Creative Café, Reminiscence at the Museum, and a Men's Group. In addition, we're delighted to partner with the St Ives Dementia Group to deliver a regular off-site session, extending our reach and support into the wider community.

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Significant Activities - continued

Project Work

The Norris Museum is dedicated to enriching the lives of local communities through a wide range of creative and inclusive projects. Our project work focuses on using the Museum's unique collections to engage people of all ages and backgrounds, often working in partnership with local organisations, and community groups. These projects aim to spark curiosity, promote wellbeing, and encourage lifelong learning through hands-on experiences, storytelling, and shared memories. Due to project funding we are now also delivering Arts Award Discover to the wider community. We have worked with / delivered to the following partners in 2025/26:

- Men's Group
- Love to move
- Reminiscing at the Museum
- Reminiscing/object handling at many local Care Homes
- SENSE students' programme
- Creative Café
- Snowman trail project
- Museum Takeover Day
- Papworth School
- Centre 33 young carers
- Somersham carers group
- RAF Reminiscence
- Hunts Blind Society
- St Ives in Bloom
- Spring Common Academy
- St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group
- St Ives Town Council, advisory panel for older people

Over the course of 2025/26, this strand of work engaged with almost 2,000 members of our community.

Achievements and Performance

Main Achievements

Opening hours are as follows:
Monday to Saturday: 10am – 4pm, year-round.
During these times the garden, permanent gallery, exhibition gallery and toilet facilities are open to the general public.

The Museum ordinarily closes during the Christmas period, between Christmas Eve, and the day following the New Year's Day bank holiday

The Museum opened after its redevelopment on 29th July 2017.

It should be noted that the Museum was subject to periods of limited accessibility during 2025/26 due to concerns over structural stability after the discovery of fractures in the main gallery's supporting roof beams. The team continued to operate as fully as possible, modifying gallery led activities creatively, so as to avoid disruption. Investigations were undertaken by structural engineers in 2025, with recommendations for remedial works set out, and quoted for. As of March 2026, conversations between all appropriate partners were still engaged, with a hope to begin works in early 2027 to allow for the important pre-programmed events through 2026 to take place as scheduled. Structural supports and regular monitoring for evidence of movement have enabled the whole site to be opened and accessed safely at the point of this report being submitted.t.

a. Visitor Numbers in 2025/26

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Main Achievements – continued

April	680
May	1,733
June	1,283
July	1,610
August	2,093
September	1,285
October	1,173
November	1,046
December	795
January	846
February	1,096
March	1,143
Total	**14,783**

b. Volunteer Hours

Quantifying the contribution of our volunteers is always a challenge, as their support spans a wide range of activities and fluctuates throughout the year. From assisting with collections, school visits, exhibitions, and events, to supporting outreach initiatives, and stewarding the Bridge Chapel, their time and expertise are integral to the Museum's operations. While it is difficult to capture every hour they give, it is clear that their dedication underpins our ability to engage meaningfully with the local community both on-site and beyond.

Based upon our on-site signing in system, we estimate that in 2025/26, we received approximately 2,950 hours of volunteer support.

c. 'The Friends'

The Friends of the Norris Library and Museum are an independent charity, now 50 years old, whose sole aim is to promote and support the Museum. There are currently about 140 members, some of whom are also volunteers at the Museum. The Friends raise funds through their subscriptions and gift-aid claims, sales of publications and their annual Christmas card which has become a long-established tradition for the town and Museum. In 2025 The Friends received a significant legacy, and are keen to encourage similar donations. The Friends act as a grant-giving body when the Museum requests financial aid for a project or purchase of an artefact. In 2025 there was only one request from the Museum, for a purchase of two medieval coins declared as Treasure Trove.

The Friends keep members in close contact with the Museum activities through their 4-monthly newsletter and also regular email circulars. In 2025 The Friends hosted two Exhibition Previews with refreshments, and also a Christmas Lunch-time party for staff, volunteers and the Friends committee.

d. The Museum Locally and Nationally

The 2025/26 financial year was a vibrant and impactful period for The Norris Museum, highlighting its role as a cultural hub locally while strengthening connections regionally and nationally. Throughout the year, exhibitions, events, and community projects demonstrated the Museum's commitment to education, accessibility, and collections development.

Local history talks were booked steadily through the year reaching 250 attendees across eight events, and the programme was expanded to include a range of talks covering broader historical themes connected to local heritage and museum collections.

The Museum continued to strengthen its regional and national networks. Contributions to the Annual Museums Survey supported benchmarking across the UK and enabled grant eligibility via Museums in Cambridgeshire (MiC).

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Main Achievements - continued

Volunteer and student engagement remained strong, with many new volunteers recruited, as well as continued support from many of the long-serving volunteers. The Museum also hosted 2 work experience placements for local secondary students, and supported 2 university students in developing their skills through hands on projects with Museum staff.

The Museum also hosted two week-long residencies for a PhD researcher who sampled the metallurgy of a vast selection of coins from The Muddy Hoard, the Museum's most significant acquisition to date. The Muddy Hoard was formally accessioned into the collection in 2022, and comprises of over 9,000 Roman coins, spanning the rule of 15 emperors, and 1 empress. Work continued to catalogue and photograph the hoard in 2025/26, with the permanent display to be unveiled in 2026/27.

In 2025/26, the Museum opened two temporary exhibitions:

• 'Trading Traditions: A History of St Ives' Markets and Fayres' an exhibition centering on the Museum's own collection, enabling public access to a diverse range of objects, as well as its extensive photography collection.
• 'Appreciating the Picturesque – An Artistic Legacy' with Bridget Flanagan. The exhibition focused on a celebration of artists along the River Great Ouse, and the impact of the artistic movement on the region.

In 2026, the Museum began a year-long celebration marking the 600th anniversary of the Bridge Chapel, St Ives – one of only four surviving bridge chapels in England and a Grade I listed Scheduled Monument. The programme demonstrated the Museum's role as a cultural leader, bringing together heritage expertise, community partnerships, and diverse audiences to celebrate this significant medieval asset.

The Museum began developing new educational resources for schools and community groups, made possible through partnership funding from Huntingdonshire District Council, the Freemasons, the Co-op, Cube6, and St Ives Rotary Club, with ongoing support from St Ives Town Council. This demonstrates the Museum's ability to leverage external support and build collaborative relationships that extend its reach and impact.

The anniversary programme reflects the Museum's mission to share heritage stories with new audiences and ensure the long-term understanding of significant local assets. The Bridge Chapel's continued use represents both the Museum's stewardship role and its commitment to making medieval heritage accessible and relevant to contemporary communities.

The programme will be at its fullest between April - October 2026, and will be fully reported in the 2026-2027 annual report.

Overall, the 2025-2026 year reflected the Museum's continued impact locally, regionally, and nationally, through exhibitions, lectures, community projects, volunteer and student engagement, and professional partnerships, enriching cultural life and preserving heritage for diverse audiences.

The Museum continued to collaborate closely with fellow museums at local, regional, and national levels, drawing on peer expertise and shared learning.

Financial Review

Financial Position

a. Reserves Policy

The Trustee has examined the Museum's requirements for reserves with consideration given to the main risks faced by it, in terms of contractual liabilities in the event of forced closure, emergency repairs and the like. A policy has been established whereby the unrestricted funds held by the charity should be 6 months of operating costs which, at April 2026, stand at £52,000. The reserves policy is to be reviewed every two years.

b. Investments

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Financial Position - continued

As part of the original Herbert Norris bequest the Trustee has an investment portfolio to manage and this increased in value by £5,142 (2025 £5,036) during the financial year.

York House is owned by the Trustee. It is rented to private individuals and benefitted the Museum with rental income of £9,617 (2025 £18,008) during the financial year. It should be noted that the property was empty from 1 November 2025 onwards for the remainder of the financial year.

The Trustee uses an external local management company to manage the tenants and any issues they raise as well as ensuring that the monthly rent is paid promptly. The Trustee paid total management fees for the year of £1,950 (2025 £3,472).

Whilst empty, York House was refurbished as required and these costs, together with utilities, amounted to £9,006.

c. Expenditure

During the 2025/26 financial year, total expenditure was £133,309 (2025 £164,919).

d. Income

The income received during the year was £91,432 (2025 £93,271). Of this £40,428 was grant income towards the redevelopment and associated projects (2025 £42,149). The Learning and Outreach activities contributed £13,512 in income (2025 £10,189) with the remainder coming from small grants, donations, investments, retail sales and York House rent.

e. Fundraising

Throughout the year the Norris Museum continued to focus on fundraising. In total £46,341 was achieved in donations and successful grant applications (2025 £52,362).

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The governing document for the Trust is the will of Herbert Norris, proved on 27 May 1931.

Organisation Structure

For over 40 years St Ives Town Council (the Town Council) has been the sole trustee for The Herbert Ellis Norris Library and Museum (also known as The Norris Museum) and has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to The Norris Museum through its active management and provision of financial, management and human resource management and support. In particular it manages the employment of staff and funds pertaining to staff related costs such as travel, utilities costs, office equipment and stationery, together with building repairs and maintenance costs.

The day-to-day management of the Trust is delegated to the Trustee Board consisting of all Town Councillors and three members of The Friends of The Norris Museum.

The Town Council supported the Museum through the Huntingdonshire's Heritage re-development work with match-funding of approximately £45,000 (development and delivery phases) and by managing HLF invoicing and cashflow. The Friends of the Norris Library and Museum contributed £35,000.

The Norris Museum is embedded within the Town Council's 2025-2030 Strategic Action Plan and supports the Town Council to deliver on a range of objectives including heritage, tourism, education and professional standards. To achieve this plan the Town Council is committed to continuing to contribute to staff and building related costs.

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Governing Document - continued

History and Background

Opened in a purpose-built location in the town of St Ives in 1933, the Museum's collections of documents, books, paintings, and other items relating to the former county of Huntingdonshire were assembled by St Ives born local amateur historian and photographer Herbert Norris over many years. Herbert Norris lived most of his adult life in Cirencester but continued to amass relics of his home county of Huntingdonshire, with the hope that one day he would return to the county and have a museum to show his collections to the residents of the area. He died in 1931 and bequeathed his collections together with the bulk of his estate to the then St Ives Borough Council. Acting upon Norris's wishes, the Borough Council used the funds to buy the site and build a museum, with some provision for future maintenance. The 'Norris Library and Museum Trust' was established, the sole trustee being the Borough Council. The governing document for the Trust is the will of Herbert Norris, proved on 27 May 1931.

Some of Norris's estate was used to purchase 'York House', an early 19th century dwelling adjacent to the Museum, as an investment property. The balance was put to creating a portfolio of bonds, stocks and shares, intended to generate a capital sum which would provide a regular annual income for the Museum.

The Museum and House were designed by the Huntingdon ecclesiastical architect Sidney Inskip Ladds and built between 1931 and 1933. Inskip Ladds demolished the older maltings building that stood on the site, but retained its plinth foundation, the stones of which were probably taken from the ruined St Ives Priory centuries before.

The Museum was officially opened in September 1933. The collections grew steadily, and in 1959, the old Huntingdon Museum was closed and most of its collections were transferred to The Norris Museum. It was not until the mid-1960s that a professional museum curator was employed to look after the collections. As a result of Local Government reorganisation in 1974, the trusteeship of the Museum was transferred to St Ives Town Council.

In December 2015, the Museum closed for a period of eighteen months to undergo a complete redevelopment. This was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and by grants and donations.

In July 2017 Dr Alice Roberts officially reopened the Museum to the public and a festival weekend was held to celebrate the occasion.

There has always been a policy of free admission to the Museum.

Public Benefit

In the operation of the Trust, the Town Council, when making decisions as the Sole Trustee, confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements 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 trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements the trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustee is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at anytime the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. He is 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 trustee's report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Date 27 OCTOBER 2026

I report to the trustee on my examination of the accounts of Herbert Ellis Norris Library & Museum (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustee of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Tacconi Green & Co

Date
32a East Street
St. Ives
PE27 5PD

Herbert Ellis Norris Library & Museum
Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	33,000	7,428	40,428	42,149
Charitable activities:					
Outreach income		13,512	-	13,512	10,189
Other donations		5,541	-	5,541	10,102
Bridge Chapel income		372	-	372	111
Community Room income		556	-	556	75
York House income		9,617	-	9,617	18,008
Shop sales		10,807	-	10,807	3,894
Investments	4	10,599	-	10,599	8,743
		84,004	7,428	91,432	93,271
EXPENDITURE:					
SITC grant expenditure		(33,000)	-	(33,000)	(33,500)
Grant expenditure		-	(7,428)	(7,428)	(8,649)
Shop purchases		(5,469)	-	(5,469)	(6,041)
Other expenditure		(87,412)	-	(87,412)	(50,739)
Adjustment to creditor position					(65,990)
		(125,881)	(7,428)	(133,309)	(164,919)
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT GAIN		(41,877)	-	(41,877)	(71,648)
Net gains on investments		5,142	-	5,142	5,036
NET EXPENDITURE		(36,735)	-	(36,735)	(66,612)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(36,735)	-	(36,735)	(66,612)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		260,895	-	260,895	327,507
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	13	224,160	-	224,160	260,895

The notes on pages 16 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

Herbert Ellis Norris Library & Museum
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	3	34,700	7,449	42,149
Charitable activities:				
Outreach income		10,189	-	10,189
Other donations		10,102	-	10,102
Bridge Chapel income		111	-	111
Community Room income		75	-	75
York House income		18,008	-	18,008
Shop sales		3,894	-	3,894
Investments	4	8,743	-	8,743
		85,822	7,449	93,271
EXPENDITURE:				
SITC grant		(33,500)	-	(33,500)
Grant expenditure		(1,200)	(7,449)	(8,649)
Shop purchases		(6,041)	-	(6,041)
Other expenditure		(50,739)	-	(50,739)
Adjustment to creditor position		(65,990)	-	(65,990)
		(157,470)	(7,449)	(164,919)
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		(71,648)	-	(71,648)
Net gains on investments		5,036	-	5,036
NET EXPENDITURE		(66,612)	-	(66,612)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(66,612)	-	(66,612)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward		327,507	-	327,507
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	13	260,895	-	260,895

The notes on pages 16 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

Herbert Ellis Norris Library & Museum
Statement of Financial Position
As At 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments		7,199	-	7,199	159,179
		7,199	-	7,199	159,179
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	7,791	-	7,791	5,626
Cash at bank and in hand		322,526	-	322,526	198,133
		330,317	-	330,317	203,759
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	11	**(43,632)**	**-**	**(43,632)**	**(26,901)**
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		**286,685**	**-**	**286,685**	**176,858**
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**293,884**	**-**	**293,884**	**336,037**
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year	12	**(69,724)**	**-**	**(69,724)**	**(75,142)**
NET ASSETS		**224,160**	**-**	**224,160**	**260,895**
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds				224,160	260,895
TOTAL FUNDS	13			224,160	260,895

On behalf of the board

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Date 27 OCTOBER 2026.

The notes on pages 16 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

1. Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities Act 2011.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Going Concern Disclosure

The Trustee considers that the going concern basis is appropriate, as they consider the reserve levels and expected investment income to be at sufficient levels to ensure that the Trustees can meet their financial obligations for the next 12 to 18 months and, on that basis, the Charity is a going concern.

2.3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustee.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

2.4. Incoming Resources

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income wil be received and the amount can be reliably measured. Income generated through shop sales and donations from visitors has been analysed on a more accurate basis this year and will continue to be going forward.

2.5. Resources Expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

2.6. Heritage Assets

The artefacts in the museum are not brought into the accounts at cost or valuation because the Trustee considers they have no value other than as part of the collection .

2.7. Investments

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

During the year, the investment fund held with Rathbones was withdrawn and the proceeds transferred to the COIF Deposit Fund.

Prior to the withdrawal, the value of the Rathbones fund stood at £157,122 (2025 £151,309). The gain on disposal recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities was at £5,813.

The investment held with COIF charities investment fund had a value of £7,199 at 31 March 2026 (2025 £7,870) leading to a loss recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of £671.

Therefore, the net gain from investments on the Statement of Financial Activities is £5,142.

2.8. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £
Grants:			
SITC annual grant	33,000	-	33,000
Other grant income	-	7,428	7,428
	33,000	7,428	40,428

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Grants:			
SITC annual grant	33,500	-	33,500
Other grant income	1,200	7,449	8,649
	34,700	7,449	42,149

4. Investment Income

	2026 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Unrestricted funds £
Bank interest receivable	10,599	8,743

5. Net Income/(Expenditure)

The net expenditure shown on the face of the SOFA is stated after charging other expenditure as follows:

Phone/internet/alarm	£510.91
Website hosting/updates	£178.20
Bank charges	£507.59
Stationery	£196.31
Office equipment/photocopier	£1,200.29
IT support	£8.336.70
Repairs & renewals	£4,305.95
Postage/delivery	£240.64
Subscriptions	£199.11
Exhibitions/training/conference	£1,938.18
Heating & lighting	£14,600.29
Business rates	£3,131.08
Water rates	£2,152.76
Cleaning requisites	£5,836.66
Accountancy	£1,095.00
Maintenance	£5,740.68
Museum beams	£616.00
Conservation	£3,329.78
Acquisition fund	£545.00
General expenses	£429.10
Health & safety	£723.09
Outreach activities	£8,045.99
Staff costs not covered by SITC grant	£12,213.57
Staff training	£383.00
York House maintenance	£9,006.20
York House Fees	£1,949.93
Total	**£87,412.01**

6. Independent Examiner's Remuneration

	2026 £	2025 £
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,200	1,095

7. Staff Costs

Wages and salaries, including Employer's National Insurance & Pension: £48,786 (2025 £43,505).

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

The museum pays the salary of 1 member of staff on a full time basis. In the year ended 31 March 2026, they utilised the expertise of a further individual on an ad hoc basis who is employed by St Ives Town Council. The element of that individual's wages attributable to assisting the Norris Museum has been allocated as a cost to it and is included in the figure above.

8. Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees during the year was: 1 (2025: 1)

9. Adjustment to Creditor Position

A historical anomaly was identified in the year ended 31 March 2025 which was corrected on independent examination.

10. Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	1,571	936
Prepayments and accrued income	627	2,953
VAT	5,593	1,737
	7,791	5,626

11. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	21,544	6,395
Bank loans and overdrafts	920	-
Receipts in advance	347	658
SITC creditor	18,641	18,786
Accruals	2,180	1,062
	43,632	26,901

12. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year

	2026	2025
	£	£
SITC	69,724	75,142

13. Movement in Funds

	As at 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	260,895	84,004	(120,739)	224,160
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	-	7,428	(7,428)	-
Total funds	260,895	91,432	(128,167)	224,160

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	327,507	85,822	(152,434)	260,895
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	-	7,449	(7,449)	-
Total funds	327,507	93,271	(159,883)	260,895

14. Transactions with Trustees

None of the trustees received any remuneration or any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity during the current or previous year.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

15. Related Party Disclosures

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.