COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 02397322
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 801888

Brightlingsea Museum

Company Limited by Guarantee

Unaudited Financial Statements

For the Year Ended

31st December 2025

Brightlingsea Museum

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st December 2025

	Pages
Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)	**1 to 2**
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	**3 to 4**
Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account)	**5**
Statement of Financial Position	**6 to 7**
Notes to the Financial Statements	**8 to 17**

Brightlingsea Museum

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year Ended 31st December 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name	Brightlingsea Museum
Charity registration number	801888
Company registration number	02397322
Principal office and registered office	Dove House Station Road Brightlingsea Essex CO7 0DT

The Trustees

N Skinner	(Chairman & Treasurer)
M Stone	
V Chapman	
P Skerritt	
O Reilly	
T Snow	(Appointed 14th July 2025)

Company Secretary	P Skerritt
Independent Examiner	Peyton Tyler Mears Middleborough House 16 Middleborough Colchester Essex CO1 1QT

Structure, Governance and Management

The company is limited by Guarantee and does not have share capital.

Objectives and Activities

The principal activity of the charity is the provision of a museum to advance the education of the public in Brightlingsea and District.

Achievements and Performance

The charity continues to run the museum in Brightlingsea.

Financial Review

Overall the surplus for the year was £2,361. This compares to a surplus of £3,655 for the previous fourteen month period.

Income held up well with relatively high interest rates maintaining interest earnings. Grants from Community Reach (£3,000), Museums Dev. South East (£3,000) and Museums Essex (£450) added to income.

Expenditure was generally in line with expectations although there were additional payments related to the provision of conservation works (£3,600), energy audit (£3,000) and audio equipment (£590). Of these payments £6,450 was met by grants. Expenditure on the Masonic Bell display was £4,380.

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on ..... and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

N Skinner (Chairman & Treasurer)
Trustee

Brightlingsea Museum

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Brightlingsea Museum

Year Ended 31st December 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Brightlingsea Museum ('the charity') for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or

4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Peyton Tyler Mears
Independent Examiner

Middleborough House
16 Middleborough
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1QT

Brightlingsea Museum

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)

Year Ended 31st December 2025

	Note	Year to 31 Dec 25 Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Total funds £**	Period from 1 Nov 23 to 31 Dec 24 Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	**5**	18,680	2,115	**20,795**	13,890
Other trading activities	**6**	1,111	–	**1,111**	1,872
Investment income	**7**	7,010	–	**7,010**	9,231
Total income		26,801	2,115	**28,916**	24,993
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	**8,9**	24,440	2,818	**27,258**	21,338
Total expenditure		24,440	2,818	**27,258**	21,338
Net income and net movement in funds		2,361	(703)	**1,658**	3,655
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward as previously reported		755,219	154,719	**909,938**	906,283
Prior year adjustment		–	1,090	**1,090**	–
Total funds brought forward as restated		755,219	155,809	**911,028**	906,283
Total funds carried forward		757,580	155,106	**912,686**	909,938

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 8 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Brightlingsea Museum

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31st December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	**13**	**756,018**	756,018
Current Assets			
Stocks		**2,167**	2,339
Debtors	**14**	**1,610**	1,842
Cash at bank and in hand		**156,029**	153,873
		159,806	158,054
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**15**	**3,138**	4,134
Net Current Assets		**156,668**	153,920
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		**912,686**	909,938
Net Assets		**912,686**	909,938
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds		**155,106**	154,719
Unrestricted funds		**757,580**	755,219
Total charity funds	**16**	**912,686**	909,938

For the year ending 31st December 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The statement of financial position
continues on the following page.
The notes on pages 8 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on ....., and are signed on behalf of the board by:

V Chapman
Trustee

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Dove House, Station Road, Brightlingsea, Essex, CO7 0DT.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

4. Limited by Guarantee

Every member of the charity undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1, to the charity's assets if it should be wound up while he or she is a member or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

5. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Donations			
Friends of Brightlingsea Museum	1,250	–	**1,250**
Walks	450	–	**450**
Gift aid	961	–	**961**
Fundraising	130	–	**130**
General donations	2,556	–	**2,556**
Donations - Friends of Brightlingsea Museum	–	70	**70**
Essex Lottery	186	–	**186**
Commission & hanging fees	1,143	–	**1,143**
Collection Boxes inc Contactless	3,481	–	**3,481**
Grants			
Brightlingsea Town Council	1,073	–	**1,073**
John Fowlers sponsorship	–	–	**–**
Beach hut	–	–	**–**
Community Reach	3,000	–	**3,000**
Museums Dev. South East	3,000	–	**3,000**
ORSTED Business Sponsorship	1,000	–	**1,000**
Book of Appreciation	450	–	**450**
Subscriptions			
Subscriptions - Friends of Brightlingsea Museum	–	2,045	**2,045**
	18,680	2,115	**20,795**

5. Donations and Legacies *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Friends of Brightlingsea Museum	1,500	–	1,500
Walks	300	–	300
Gift aid	1,002	–	1,002
Fundraising	285	–	285
General donations	1,323	–	1,323
Donations - Friends of Brightlingsea Museum	–	–	–
Essex Lottery	216	–	216
Commission & hanging fees	786	–	786
Collection Boxes inc Contactless	3,332	–	3,332
Grants			
Brightlingsea Town Council	2,146	–	2,146
John Fowlers sponsorship	1,500	–	1,500
Beach hut	500	–	500
Community Reach	–	–	–
Museums Dev. South East	–	–	–
ORSTED Business Sponsorship	1,000	–	1,000
Book of Appreciation	–	–	–
Subscriptions			
Subscriptions - Friends of Brightlingsea Museum	–	–	–
	13,890	–	13,890

6. Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Shop income	1,111	**1,111**	1,872	1,872

7. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds	**Total Funds 2025**	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	**£**	£	£
Bank interest receivable	7,010	**7,010**	9,231	9,231

8. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total Funds 2025**
	£	£	**£**
Running the museum	3,728	–	**3,728**
Support costs	20,712	2,818	**23,530**
	24,440	2,818	**27,258**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Running the museum	145	–	145
Support costs	21,193	–	21,193
	21,338	–	21,338

9. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	**Total funds 2025**	Total fund 2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Running the museum	3,728	20,322	**24,050**	20,948
Friends of Brightlingsea Museum	–	2,818	**2,818**	–
Governance costs	–	390	**390**	390
	3,728	23,530	**27,258**	21,338

10. Analysis of Support Costs

	Running the museum £	Friends of the museum £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
Premises	7,349	–	**7,349**	14,258
Finance costs	–	4	**4**	–
Independent Examiner fees	390	–	**390**	390
Legal & professional fees	–	63	**63**	–
Insurance	1,626	2,751	**4,377**	2,817
Sundry costs	11,347	–	**11,347**	3,728
	20,712	2,818	**23,530**	21,193

11. Independent Examination Fees

	Year to 31 Dec 25 £	Period from 1 Nov 23 to 31 Dec 24 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	**390**	390

12. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 Jan 2025 and 31 Dec 2025	**756,018**
Depreciation	
At 1 Jan 2025 and 31 Dec 2025	**–**
Carrying amount	
At 31 Dec 2025	**756,018**
At 31 Dec 2024	756,018

14. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	**1,610**	1,842

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	**3,138**	4,134

16. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 Jan 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Prior year adjustments £	**At 31 Dec 25 £**
General unrestricted finds	714,231	26,801	(24,440)	–	**716,592**
Founding Legacy	28,356	–	–	–	**28,356**
Brightlingsea Sunday School Donation	12,632	–	–	–	**12,632**
	755,219	26,801	(24,440)	–	**757,580**

	At 1 Nov 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Prior year adjustments £	At 31 Dec 24 £
General unrestricted finds	710,576	24,993	(21,338)	–	714,231
Founding Legacy	28,356	–	–	–	28,356
Brightlingsea Sunday School Donation	12,632	–	–	–	12,632
	751,564	24,993	(21,338)	–	755,219

16. Analysis of Charitable Funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 Jan 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Prior year adjustments £	**At 31 Dec 25 £**
New Museum Projects	154,719	–	–	–	**154,719**
Friends of the Museum	–	2,115	(2,818)	1,090	**387**
	154,719	2,115	(2,818)	1,090	**155,106**

	At 1 Nov 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Prior year adjustments £	At 31 Dec 24 £
New Museum Projects	154,719	–	–	–	154,719
Friends of the Museum	–	–	–	–	–
	154,719	–	–	–	154,719

17. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Tangible fixed assets	601,299	154,719	**756,018**
Current assets	159,419	387	**159,806**
Creditors less than 1 year	(3,138)	–	**(3,138)**
Net assets	757,580	155,106	**912,686**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	601,299	154,719	756,018
Current assets	158,054	–	158,054
Creditors less than 1 year	(4,134)	–	(4,134)
Net assets	755,219	154,719	909,938