

Lowewood Museum Trust CIO. Charity Number: 1192966













LOWEWOOD MUSEUM TRUST CIO

Annual Report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023



Contents

Administrative Information	3
Staff	3
Bankers	4
Aims and Objectives	4
Memberships	4
Chair's Introduction	5
Background	6
Formation of the Lowewood Museum Trust	7
Reopening	8
Exhibitions	9
Events	10
Attendances	12
Volunteers	13
Accreditation	14
Collections	14
Community Venue	15
Hertfordshire Association of Museums	15
Promotion and Marketing	16
Friends of Lowewood Museum	16
National Lottery Heritage Fund	17
Other Grants	18
Appendix One: Trustees	19
Trustee Attendance at Board Meetings	21

The Board of Trustees of the Lowewood Museum Trust CIO present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the Lowewood Museum Trust CIO is Lowewood Museum, High Street, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 8BH.

As of 4 January 2021, Lowewood Museum is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission (Registered Charity Number – 1192966)

The Trustees serving during this year were as follows:

David Dent (from 4 January 2021) Chair
Pete Dockar (from 29 April 2021) Treasurer
Steve Whitlam (from 4 January 2021) Secretary

Bryan Hewitt (from 4 January 2021)
Siobhan Monaghan (from 4 January 2021)
Leone Rayner (from 4 January 2021)

Claire Haggerty (from 29 April 2021 to 26 January 2023)

Stephen Harris (from 29 April 2021) Liz Robertson (from 29 April 2021)

Functions, duties, eligibility and election of Trustees are defined in the Trust's constitution.

Broxbourne Borough Council, as owner of the museum building and collection, may appoint two charity trustees. These are Siobhan Monaghan and Steve Whitlam.

Biographies of the trustees can be found at Appendix 1.

Staff

Rosanna Zaffuto took up the role as Museum Project Manager at the beginning of April 2022 but resigned later that month.

Naomi Delamore, who had been appointed as Community Engagement Officer in January 2022, acted up as Museum Project Manager following Rosanna's departure and was appointed to the substantial post in October 2022.

Gina Wu was appointed as Community Engagement Officer in October 2022.

Helen Giles was contracted to provide freelance curatorial support to assist the Trust with the re-opening of the museum, new policies, collections care and the development of exhibitions.

The Board is also grateful for the services contracted from Deirdre Back and Andy Richards throughout the period covered in this report.

Independent Examiner

Keith Grover
HB Accountants
Plumpton House
Plumpton Road
Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire, EN 11 OLB

Bankers

Virgin Money Clydesdale Bank 154 Kensington High Street London W8 7RL

Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the Lowewood Museum Trust CIO are:

To advance education for public benefit in particular but not exclusively in the archaeology, natural history and social history of the Borough of Broxbourne, as told through its heritage, landscapes and stories of the people within the Borough by such means as the trustees see fit, including but not limited to;

- the provision and maintenance of a permanent museum and information service in the Borough of Broxbourne;
- the care and curation of the museum collections, holdings;
- the exhibition and interpretation of the museum collections and holdings and the provision of public access to them;
- the provision of learning experiences and activities for the education and enjoyment of the public;
- the provision of exhibitions, conferences, workshops and other events; and
- to research, promote and publish studies.

Memberships

The Lowewood Museum Trust is a member of the Museums' Association, the Association of Independent Museums and the Hertfordshire Association of Museums. It also works with SHARE, the Regional Museum Development Agency for the East of England. Lowewood Museum Trust works closely with the Friends of Lowewood Museum, Love Hoddesdon Business Improvement District and the Broxbourne Arts Forum; members of all three organisations are represented on the Board of Trustees.

Chair's Introduction

Having come through a challenging first year of reopening Lowewood Museum, my fellow trustees and myself were hopeful that 2022/23 would be slightly less stressful. Sadly, that was not to be the case.

Rosanna Zuffuto took up her role of Museum Project Manager in early April but resigned after just three weeks into the job. This placed a great deal of pressure on Naomi Delamore, our Community Engagement Officer, who coped admirably with the added responsibility forced upon her. We were indeed fortunate that after some discussion Naomi agreed to step up into the Project Manager role once the Trust appointed a new Community Engagement Officer. Gina Hin Yan Wu was appointed and commenced her duties on 25 October 2022 and quickly became a valued and well-liked member of the team.

Helen Giles our part-time curator worked hard with our volunteers to produce the Jubilations and Coronations Exhibition, which opened on the 30 April. In conjunction with the exhibition the museum collaborated on a joint project with The Gifted titled 70 Sewn Stories. The next exhibition scheduled was 40 Fascinating Finds, which was to reflect the diverse collection of items in the museum collection. A number of volunteers were responsible for putting the display together. The museum had originally opened on 2 July 1982 and the exhibition was designed to commemorate the 40th Anniversary. A very successful Garden Party was held in the museum garden as part of the celebrations. Unfortunately, towards the end of the Garden Party afternoon it was once again noticed that there was a recurrence of the dry rot problem in the temporary exhibition space.

A drastic rethink was required. The solution was to revamp the Atkinson Gallery on the first floor to house the 40 Fascinating Finds Exhibition and this was achieved with a lot of effort from the volunteers and the delay to opening was minimal. In October 2022 Black History Month was celebrated with an outreach event in Wormley and a display in the café space. Christopher Snary, our archaeology volunteer delivered two talks on Theobalds Palace on 29 October. The Lowewood Woolly Crafters decorated the museum for Christmas.

The museum closed for the whole of January to enable a refresh of the Petter Gallery to take place, as well as a repaint of other areas including the James Ward Gallery. This was achieved with a massive amount of volunteer hours. The Ward gallery is now home to our community curated exhibitions and the first display featured photographs chosen by the people of Wormley. We were without Gina for the early part of the New Year as she was injured in a road traffic accident during the Christmas break. By 31 January the museum was open again and able to host a Hertfordshire Association of Museums training day.

At the beginning of February, the dry rot problem was still unresolved and it was seriously impacting upon the planning for the Windrush and Borough Beats exhibitions scheduled for later in 2023. The bright features of February were firstly the news that the museum's Four Swannes had obtained the most votes in the Hertfordshire Museums Object of the Year 2023 award and the excellent visitor numbers that we had for our two half-term holiday Egyptology Days.

Before the end of March 2023, the decision was taken to use the café space for the Windrush Exhibition, which was scheduled to start in June. As our second year as a Trust came to a close, how to repurpose that space was foremost in our thoughts.

2 C Dent

David Dent

Chair of the Board of Trustees Lowewood Museum Trust

Background

Lowewood Museum was officially opened on Friday 2 July 1982 by Councillor D. C. Smith, Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee and Councillor D. F. Poole, the Mayor.



In 2011, a Service Level Agreement was set up between Broxbourne Borough Council and Epping Forest District Council's Museum Service for them to run the Museum. The Museum continued to be funded and maintained by Broxbourne Borough Council and under the new partnership the Museum continued to thrive and develop, attracting considerable sums of National Lottery funding for projects like the Pulhams of Broxbourne, the Stephen Warner I (WWI) Diaries and the James Ward exhibition.

In June 2019 Epping Forest District Council decided to give notice that they intended to end the Service Level Agreement on 30 June 2020. Broxbourne Borough Council explored other ways of keeping the Museum open, but reluctantly announced that it was to close in 2020.

The Friends of Lowewood Museum launched a campaign to raise public awareness that the building, which housed so much of the Borough's heritage would be lost to future generations. They were supported by other local organisations, including the Hoddesdon Society, as well as members of the local community.

Formation of the Lowewood Museum Trust



Trustees with the Mayor of Broxbourne at the Museum's re-opening on 17 July 2021

Following a public campaign to keep the museum open, in February 2020 the Council funded the appointment of a museum consultant to work with officers and the community on the feasibility of establishing a charitable trust to run the museum.

A successful consultation event with community groups in October 2020 helped define the new priorities for the Trust.

The Lowewood Museum Trust CIO was registered with the Charity Commission in January 2021 and the first board meeting was held on 28 January 2021. The initial board of five trustees was strengthened by the addition of a further four trustees in April 2021.

A five year rolling service level agreement was signed between Broxbourne Borough Council and the Trust. The Council pays an annual management fee for the Trust to deliver museum and heritage services. The Lowewood Museum Trust has a 25 year lease on the museum and pays a peppercorn rent. The Trust is responsible for looking after the contents of the museum whilst Broxbourne Borough Council is responsible for the exterior, garden and fabric as well as insurance for the collection and building.

Reopening

Lowewood Museum was officially re-opened on Saturday 17 July 2021 by the then Mayor of Broxbourne, Councillor David Taylor.



Refreshing the Ward Gallery in January 2023.

Since re-opening, the museum has been open every Friday and Saturday, 10am to 4.30pm except for the first three weeks of January 2023 when it was closed for cleaning and renewal of the galleries. The museum has also opened on additional days to put on family activities. The museum is free to attend.

The Trust was delighted to receive the Outstanding Partner Award at the Community Alliance for Broxbourne and East Herts' Annual General Meeting on 11 October 2022. The following month saw a visit to Lowewood from the MP for Broxbourne, Sir Charles Walker, OBE.



Naomi Delamore, Museum Project Manager, receiving the Outstanding Partner Award at the Community Alliance AGM from Richard Roberts, leader of Hertfordshire County Council



Sir Charles Walker meets the Museum's Archaeology volunteers who are cataloguing finds

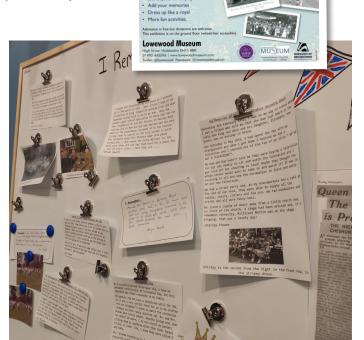
Exhibitions

From February to April 2022 the museum hosted Voices from the Voluntary Sector, a record of the contribution of the community and voluntary sector in Broxbourne.

Jubilations and Coronations opened on 30 April 2022 and ran until 2 July 2022. This exhibition documented how Borough residents and businesses had celebrated Royal occasions over the past 150 years.



Brian Barltrop spotted himself, his brothers and sisters in one of the Jubilations and Coronations exhibition panels



JUBILATIONS

SATURDAY 30 APRIL

SATURDAY 18 JUNE 2022

Visitors to the Jubilations and Coronations exhibition shared their memories of jubilees in the past

During this period, the Museum hosted 70 Sewn Stories, a Jubilee tapestry produced by young people working with local youth charity The Gifted using their funding from an Arts Council grant.

The next exhibition opened on 3
September and marked the 40th
anniversary of the museum's opening.
Forty Fascinating Finds highlighted
rarities from the museum's collection.
This included talks by Archaeology
volunteer Christopher Snary on
fascinating archaeology finds from
the collection. This tied in with the
national Heritage Open Day initiative.
A birthday party for the Museum was
held on 2 July.





Curated by Wormley showcased items from the museum's photographic collection. It opened on 4 March 2023 and all of the photographs were chosen and curated by local residents who provided information and memories at a community workshop at Wormley Community Centre in January 2023.



Work began on two exhibitions for 2023 – one on the Windrush Generation, funded by a Windrush Day grant, and one entitled Borough Beats on the local music scene in the 1960s and 1970s.

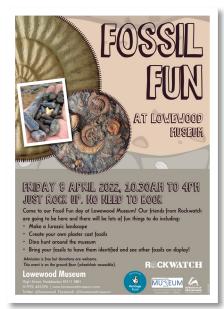
Events

Events held at the museum during this period included:

- Fossil Fun (April 2022)
- 40th Birthday Celebration (July 2022)
- Model Railway Day (August 2022)
- Family Fun Day (August 2022)
- Fascinating Archaeology Talks (September 2022)
- Spooky Day (October 2022)
- Royalty and Revolution archaeology talk (October 2022)
- A Georgian Christmas (December 2022)
- Egyptology Days (February 2023)
- Food @ The Museum fundraising event (February 2023)
- Broxbourne's Hero Admiral history talk (March 2023)

Quiet hours are provided at all family-orientated events to support children with additional needs.

The museum also participated in the St George's Day celebration in Hoddesdon arranged by Broxbourne Council and the Love Hoddesdon Business Improvement District. The parade commenced at the Museum. The museum's garden hosted the annual Holocaust Memorial Day service in January 2023.













A Georgian Christmas was experienced at Lowewood in December 2022.

Attendances

There were 4,951 visitors to Lowewood Museum during 2022/23, plus an additional 138 remote users. The busiest month was February 2023 helped by large attendances at the Egyptology Day. The quietest month was January 2023 as the museum was closed for three weeks for cleaning and the refreshing of the Ward and Petter galleries.

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Attendance	670	201	264	548	844	237	562	294	130	17	858	326



Having fun at the October half-term Spooky Day



Christmas Craft Day in December 2022



The Egyptology Days in February 2023 were extremely popular

Volunteers

The museum is heavily dependent on volunteers to provide 'front of house', collections development, simple maintenance and gardening. Additional volunteers were recruited and trained during 2022/23. A volunteer Christmas party was held to show appreciation for the work of the volunteers. Volunteers were vital for the refresh of the Ward and Petter Galleries, contributing over 400 hours in January 2023 alone.

At the Hertfordshire Association of Museums' annual awards, Lynn Phillips was recognised with a Heritage Hero award.









Accreditation

On 12 October 2022 the museum was awarded Provisional Accreditation by Arts Council England. This is for a period of 12 months, to ensure that there is time to provide all the necessary policies, plans and procedures to demonstrate that the museum is committed to certain standards in all areas. The Trust has worked on reviewing and adopting existing policies to ensure their suitability including a Collections Care and Conservation Policy.

Collections

During 2022/23 the Trust continued to develop its collection, adding items to the MODES collection management software especially items from the extensive photographic collection. Highlights include a pewter Hoddesdon Grammar School Athletic Cup from 1876, a war damage survey map of Cheshunt from 1939-1941, an iron age Belgic pot found in Wormley in 1962, photographs of silver jubilee celebrations at Sheredes Primary School and items from the excavation of Perriers Manor in 1958/59.

The Petter Gallery, the main permanent exhibition space, was refreshed in January 2023 to showcase other objects from the museum's collection. New display panels were also installed telling a wider history of the Borough and utilising photographs from the collection.

Staff and volunteers photographed, repacked and stored the framed art works not on display. Thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of Lowewood, the Museum purchased plastazote to interleave between the framed works to protect them.

Volunteers produced an inventory of the archaeology collection, scanned over 1,400 slides and added their details to MODES, added details of the library reference books to an access database and updated the subject history files with information from the Hoddesdon Journal and Hertfordshire Countryside.

In February 2023, the Hertfordshire Association of Museums awarded the Object of the Year award to Lowewood's Four Swans. These were originally on a gantry in Waltham Cross Town Centre but can now be found behind the museum's reception.





Hoddesdon Grammar School Athletic Cup from 1876

Community Venue

The museum established a crafting group which decorated the museum for the Christmas period with a knitted Christmas tree. The Woolly Crafters continue to meet fortnightly at Lowewood, with a core of 5-6 people each session.



A new monthly storytime session commenced on 25 February 2023.

Conversations began with the Hoddesdon and Broxbourne Primary Care Network about hosting their dementia café led by their social prescribers.

Hertfordshire Association of Museums

At the end of January, Lowewood Museum hosted the Hertfordshire Association of Museums to deliver training on museum basics. This was the first event Lowewood had hosted at a charge and the venue was well received. Hosting such events makes the museum more visible within the museum community and boosts the profile of the museum.

Promotion and Marketing

Broxbourne Borough Council's Design team produce the posters and images for the Museum's events and exhibitions as per the Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Trust. The Council's Print Services have produced flyers and posters. The Trust is very grateful to both teams.

The Trust is also grateful to the Love Hoddesdon volunteers who have promoted the museum's events and exhibitions on market days and at town centre events. This has been organised by trustee Stephen Harris who has also arranged for banners directing visitors to Lowewood to be installed at locations throughout Hoddesdon and Broxbourne.



Volunteers in Hoddesdon town centre promoting the museum.

Friends of Lowewood Museum

The Lowewood Museum Trust CIO is grateful for the support received from the Friends of Lowewood Museum. Their members have assisted with the development of exhibitions, promoting the museum and have purchased a number of items for the museum including plastazote to interleave between the framed works to protect them and the aforementioned Hoddesdon Grammar School Athletic Cup.

The Friends of Lowewood booklets are now printed in-house and sold in the museum's shop.

National Lottery Heritage Fund



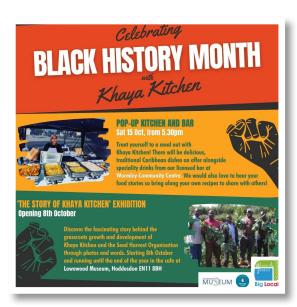
Your Museum, a three year project to work with diverse communities throughout the Borough of Broxbourne, who haven't traditionally used the Museum's services. The programme will recruit community curators through a series of outreach activities, pop-up events and locally generated exhibitions. They will help redefine and refresh the Museum galleries to tell local stories,

past and present, replacing the dated static displays alongside an enhanced virtual presence and digital engagement.

The programme includes funding for two members of staff; a Museum Project Manager and a Community Engagement Officer. These staff are employed by the Community Alliance for Broxbourne and East Herts who provide personnel and payroll services to a number of charities within the local area. They are managed by David Dent, the Chair of the Board, with input from other trustees. Delays with recruitment of staff as documented earlier in the report, resulted in a request to NLHF to extend the project to September 2025 which was accepted.

Space To Be was a project at Wormley Community Centre that used items from the museum's collection to stimulate creativity and combat social isolation in young people.

The museum also worked with the Wormley and Turnford Big Local for an exhibition at Wormley Community Centre to celebrate Black History Month. This led to a display in the Museum café on the work of local organisations, the Seed Harvest Organisation and Khaya Kitchen. The latter provided a Food @ the Museum fund-raising event on Saturday 18 February 2023 which raised £100 for the museum.





The NLHF programme funded a project with local youth charity The Gifted that commenced in February 2023 to explore how heritage links to young people's sense of identity and belonging.

Work began in early 2023 on two exhibitions to be held in the 2023/24 financial year – Windrush and Borough Beats.

Work has also begun on the creation of a new website for the museum.

Other Grants

During 2022/23, the Lowewood Museum Trust has also received grant funding from:

- Hertfordshire County Council's Locality Budgets
- Hertfordshire Association of Museums
- Shell Pension Fund

A grant from SHARE (Eastern Region Museum Development Agency) in 2021 enabled freelance consultant Tracey McGeogh to undertake audience research work to help the Museum Trust better understand who is visiting the museum. Her findings were that the most common age of adult visitors was 35-44, followed by 65-74. Most child visitors were aged 0-5. There were very few teenage visitors. 79% of visitors said they were 'extremely likely' or 'highly likely' to recommend Lowewood Museum. Over 25% of those surveyed had visited the museum for the first time. Main reasons for visiting were to see a specific exhibition or to bring children to an activity. The key recommendation was to focus on events for families with children, and the family activity days throughout 2022/23 have been in response to this and have been very popular.

Appendix One: Trustees

Bryan Hewitt

Bryan Hewitt was born and raised in Waltham Cross. Professionally he was a qualified gardener for the Lee Valley Regional Park at its headquarters at Myddelton House in Enfield for 34 years. He has a great interest in the history of the Borough of Broxbourne especially Waltham Cross. He was fortunate in having two great friends and mentors in local historians Jack Edwards and Peter Rooke.

David Dent

David Dent is the Trust's Chairman. He has lived and worked in the Borough of Broxbourne for most of his life. He retired in 2017 when the family business of H Dent and Sons closed after 60 years of trading. He is a keen local historian and has written a number of books including Broxbourne and Wormley's Past in Pictures, 150 years of the Hertford and Ware Railway and Hoddesdon's Past in Pictures. He is a former chair of the Friends of Lowewood Museum and a committee member of the Friends of Wormley Open Spaces.

Lee Rayner

Lee Rayner has lived in the Borough since 1971 and taught in a local school for 20 years before becoming a freelance tutor for films and TV. She has been involved in the local Arts scene since 1973, as a performer, writer and director and was the Director of the Broxbourne Midsummer Festival for five years. In 2007, she helped her actor grandson open a local theatre school, Mayhem Theatre Arts. Currently, she is Director of Programming for Broxbourne Arts Forum (BArts) and edits their monthly newsletter.

Liz Robertson

Liz Robertson is Assistant Director, Public Engagement and Learning, at Imperial War Museums (IWM). She was previously Head of Partnerships at IWM, where she oversaw collaborative programming with local, national and international impact. This includes the IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund, a £2.5 million programme of art commissioning across the UK. Previously Liz managed IWM's First World War Centenary Partnership, working with organisations across the world to share and amplify centenary commemorations.

Pete Dockar

Pete is the Trust's Treasurer. He is the Chief Commerical Officer at Generation Home, a new digital Mortgage Lender dedicated to driving homeownership for all. Previously, he was responsible for customer and digital banking propositions at Virgin Money UK and was also at HSBC for 12 years holding senior UK and European positions including UK Head of Mortgages. He lives in Broxbourne with his wife and two young children and has a keen interest in the area's history and architecture.

Siobhan Monaghan

Siobhan has lived in the Borough of Broxbourne for the last 20 years and became a local councillor in 2018. She took up the role of Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Services in 2019. She has experience of working with TV, newspapers and magazines as well as in international banking and human resources. Siobhan is also a Foster Carer, Chair of The Police & Crime Panel for Hertfordshire, member of The National Association of Police Fire & Crime Panels Executive, The Fawcett Society, The Conservative Women's Association and The Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development.

Stephen Harris

Stephen has operated a transport business with his family in Hoddesdon for the past 45 years. He sits as a Trustee representing the Love Hoddesdon BID (Business Improvement District). Stephen is also the Chair of the Love Hoddesdon Events and Promotions Committee, an Honorary Member of The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain, a member of The Whitewebbs Museum of Transport and a member of three other heritage societies. He is proud to have received both the 'Broxbourne Council's Leaders Award for Contribution to Local Economic Development' and one of the Council's Achievement Awards for Town Centre Vibrancy.

Steve Whitlam

Steve is the Trust's Secretary. Steve has worked for Broxbourne Borough Council as Community Development Manager since 2007. His team has responsibility for community engagement, youthwork, sports development, support to vulnerable people, town centre events, and environmental sustainability. He has been the Council's lead for Lowewood Museum since 2018. Steve is also a Trustee of All Saints Highams Park, where he and his wife are part of the leadership team. For the past sixteen seasons he has contributed articles on the history of former players to Norwich City's matchday programme.

Trustee Attendance at Board Meetings

	May 2022	June 2022	October 2022	January 2023	March 2023
David	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Bryan	Apologies	Apologies	Present	Apologies	Present
Claire	Present	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	N/A
Lee	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Liz	Apologies	Present		Present	
Peter	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Siobhan	Apologies	Present	Apologies	Present	Apologies
Stephen	Present	Present	Present	Present	Apologies
Steve	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present



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Lowewood Museum

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