

THE FRIENDS OF
ABINGDON
CIVIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the period from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025.

1. The Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the United Kingdom Charity Commission under registration number 1183397. Its governing document is a constitution dated 8th May 2019
2. The Society's registered address is 18 Thames Street, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3HZ
3. The Society was registered as a charity on May 14th 2019

4. The objects of the Society are:

For the benefit of the people of Abingdon-on-Thames

- To promote high standards of planning and architecture
- To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the area
- To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest

Examples of the ways we seek to achieve these objects are:

- Organising events and contributing to public discussions to foster civic pride and promote the civic life, heritage and environment of the town
- Monitoring and commenting on planning applications and lobbying the relevant authorities to encourage high standards of historic conservation, planning and development worthy of the town's civic tradition and character
- Managing a town centre community space which other groups and not-for-profit organisations can use at little or no cost for activities, exhibitions etc
- Contributing in whatever other ways we can to help make Abingdon a great place to live, work and visit.

5. The Trustees who served during the period were:

Keith Butler	Bobbie Nichols
Andrew Coker	Olga Senior (to 31 March 2025)
Hester Hand	

The Trustees are supported by a wider Committee with members working on our various activities and projects.

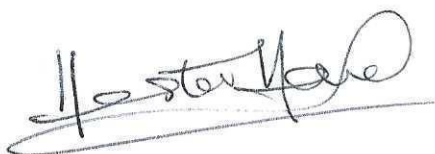
6. Governance

- **Meetings** - The Committee (including Trustees) met on six occasions during the year; the Trustees held one additional meeting to discuss governance matters.
- **Finance** - During the year the majority of our funds were transferred into two savings accounts which generated £217 of additional income for the Society. The bank balance at the end of the period was £12,535: full details are in the accounts.
- **Membership** – the Society has 239 members, with over half being life members. The Committee has continued to try to engage and inform the membership of the Society’s activities via regular e-newsletters
- **Public Benefit** - The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the UK Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

7. Summary of the year’s activities

- **Planning** – the Society has monitored planning applications in the area and made submissions and comments where appropriate, with the aim of preventing developments which we believe would be detrimental to the town’s character or vibrancy or to the wellbeing of residents in general.
- **Consultations** – the Trustees publicised consultations on local projects such as the White Horse Reservoir and the Town Centre traffic schemes and encouraged members to respond.
- **Heritage Open Days** – as part of the national scheme, the society led the organisation of the town’s Heritage Weekend. The theme was “Exploring Architecture” and we worked in collaboration with the Museum, the Historical Society, the Flower Club and Abingdon Artists. During the weekend, the Museum’s re-enactment day had over a thousand visitors in six hours, other venues had over 700 in the two days, despite the heavy rain. As well as the stories and pictures in our ‘Lost Buildings’ and “Evolving Abingdon” exhibitions, visitors were able to enjoy no fewer than 13 other “Open Doors”, ranging from medieval houses and churches to the ultra-modern Sophos building together with activities for children.
- **Unit 24/25 Community Space** – early in the year we were required to move from Unit 24 to Unit 25. We also started to having to pay for our electricity. The new premises were very popular and were very well used during the year, by a wide range of groups for meetings, exhibitions, training courses, repair workshops etc. We are also able to help other groups with storage of equipment. Groups who can afford it are encouraged to make donations and these were sufficient to cover all of the running and maintenance costs during the year. We have also been grateful for practical assistance from some of the regular user groups.

- **Archive** - work is in hand to digitise the extensive collection of historic photographs in our archive – and others which have been lent to us to share - and the first 100+ are now available to the public on our website. It is hoped to expand this to include a wide range of interesting photographs held by other groups and individuals.
- **Banking review** – following the closure of several bank branches, the Society investigated the options for alternative provision, then produced an information sheet on the services available for those wishing to do in-person banking.



Hester Hand

On behalf of the Trustees of The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

June 2026

Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Note		2025 £		2024 £
Income					
Membership Subscriptions			1,099		1,018
Unit 24 then Unit 25	1	Income 3,400		2,073	
		Expenditure <u>(3,006)</u>	394	<u>(516)</u>	1,557
Heritage Open Days	2	Income 1,907		1,868	
		Expenditure <u>(1,521)</u>	386	<u>(2,725)</u>	(857)
Other income			320		590
Bank interest received			217		0
Total Income			<u>2,416</u>		<u>2,308</u>
Expenditure					
AGM			59		75
Annual insurance			284		243
Archive boxes			308		334
Other			0		36
Walks leaflets			510		549
Web site			115		115
Total Expenditure			<u>1,277</u>		<u>1,352</u>
Surplus for year			<u>1,139</u>		<u>956</u>
Funds bought forward			11,396		10,440
Surplus for year			1,139		956
Funds carried forward			<u>12,535</u>		<u>11,396</u>

KE Butler

K E Butler BA FCA
Treasurer and Trustee
14th June 2026

Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2025

Notes to the accounts

Note

- 1 Income for the community spaces (Unit 24 then Unit 25) includes Council grants of Nil (2024: £1,000).
- 2 Income for Heritage Open Days includes Council grants of £1,800 (2024: £1,700).
- 3 Reserves Policy
The Society holds reserves of £12,535 as at 31st December 2025 in order to fund its activities for the foreseeable future.
- 4 These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.