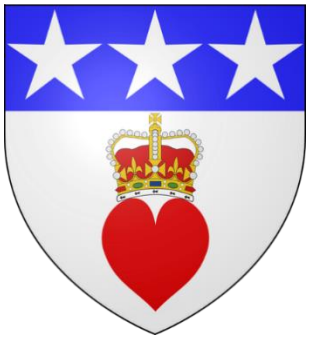


Douglas Heritage Museum Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

January 2025 – December 2025

Charity contact information

Douglas Heritage Museum Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC022058

Bell's Wynd

Douglas

LANARK

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Website www.douglasheritagemuseum.co.uk

Facebook Douglas Heritage Museum

Charity Trustees

1. Miss Caroline Douglas Home Withdrew 14 Mar 2026
2. Mr Michael. D. A. Douglas-Home, 16th Earl of Home Joined
3. Mrs M. Bannatyne
4. Mr. J. Clarkson
5. Mr. J. Fleming Withdrew 14 Mar 2025
6. Mr. R. Jackson (Deceased)
7. Mr J. Macleod
8. Miss. M. Mitchell
9. Mr. D. Skidmore Withdrew 14 Mar 2025
10. Mr. A. Smith Withdrew 14 Mar 2025
11. Ms. A. Taylor Withdrew 14 Mar 2025
12. Ms. G. Telfer (Deceased)
13. Ms. M. Tweedie

Objectives and activities

The charity was established in 1993 and subsequently took on the rental of the former St Sophia's Church in Douglas to open it as a museum.

The purpose of the museum is to portray, for local people and visitors alike, the history of the town of Douglas. Also, that of the Douglas family, a family highly influential in the history of Scotland.

Our team of volunteers are responsible for

- The production of display materials on an on-going basis
- The administration of and care for, the collection of artefacts held by the museum
- The manning of the museum during opening hours on a rota basis
- Greeting visitors and answering any enquires they may have about the village, its history and the Douglas family.
- The sale of books and Douglas associated memorabilia.

Structure, governance, and management

The Douglas Heritage Museum Trust operates under the governance of the original Deed of Declaration of Trust, which was agreed by the original body of Trustees in August 1993.

A separate Constitution exists for the Douglas Heritage Museum Society, which is responsible for the operation of the Museum, through the Museum Committee.

As you will be aware, this Constitution underwent minor operational changes, agreed at a Trustees Meeting held after the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

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Trustee recruitment and appointment

At a Trustees Meeting held after Annual General Meeting held on 15th March 2025, we were obliged to review the composition of our group of Trustees. This was due to a small number having passed away and others wishing to resign for health and age reasons.

Michael Home gave his agreement, via Estate Factor, the late Mr. Henry Birch, to take on representation amongst the Trustees, of the Douglas Family, in place of Miss Caroline Home.

We also took the opportunity to make some minor changes to the Society Constitution, which were approved by the Trustees present.

Achievements and performance

As well as ongoing work to improve the building and its facilities, the society was able in early 2025 to secure a grant of £20,000 from the Mainshill Trust to replace the old storage heater based heating system.

The old system was replaced with a new air heat pump system, both raising the ambient temperature in the museum slightly and hopefully reducing electricity costs.

Two successful fund-raising Bingo Nights were held in 2025, raising just under £1,090 between them.

Spring saw the annual outing for Museum Volunteers, in 2025, to Loch Katrine. The purpose of the outing is two-fold, to reward the volunteers for their work and to widen their knowledge of historic sites in Scotland. The outing was, as usual, fully funded by grants (See below)

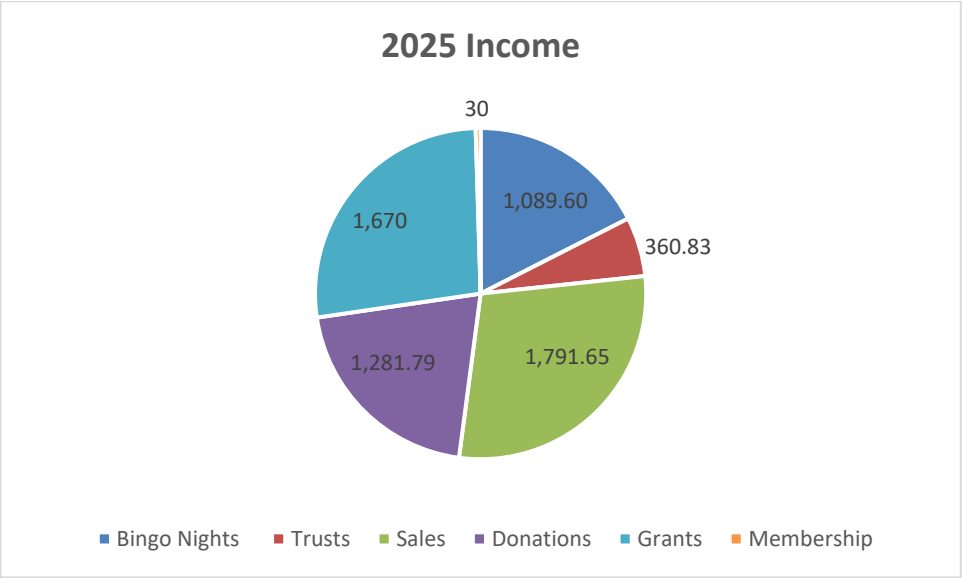
September saw the Museum taking part in the South Lanarkshire Open Doors Weekend.

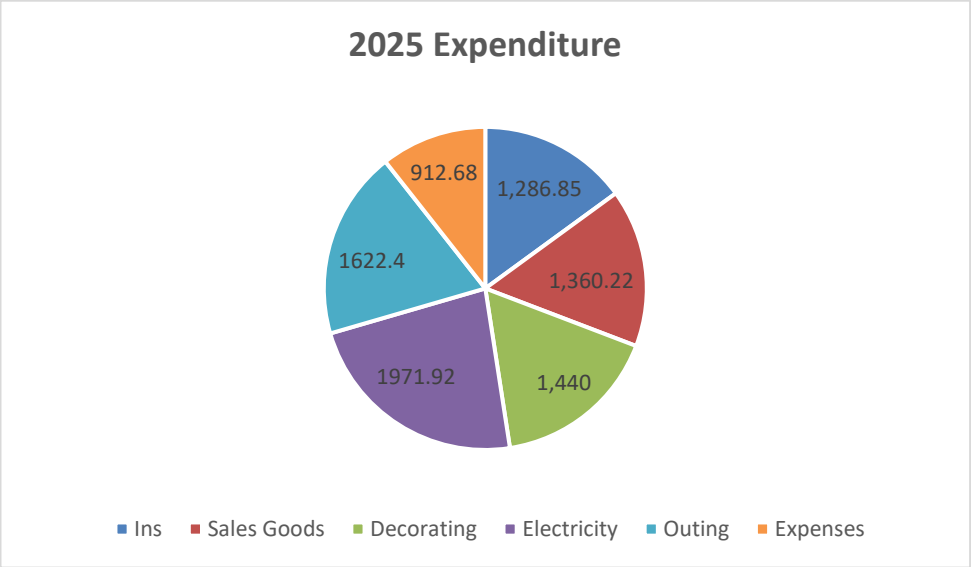
Following the museum closing to visitors at the end of September, we took the opportunity to repaint the doors and windows, as well as guttering, downpipes etc.

Visitor numbers for 2025 were 480, compared to 348 in 2024.*

*Our recorded visitor numbers are highly conservative, being based purely upon the number of names in the Museum Visitor Book.

Financial review





* Given the size of the Mainshill Trust grant in comparison to the museum annual turnover, it has been removed from the Income sources. The £19,800 spent on the new heating system has also been omitted from Expenditure.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our policy is not to let our funds fall below £6,000.

Details of any deficit

In 2025, we had a deficit of £2,058.20, which we absorbed, still having a balance in the bank of £9,243.00 at the end of the financial year.

Donated facilities and services

None

Future plans

In 2025, the museum began working with the Scotland's Eco Museum's Coalmining Landscape Project, and as a result Heritage Trails have now been designed and are awaiting publication.

We also started to explore potential funding pathways to help with potential staffing costs. So far these have just been conversations – management advice what would we need to do?, what kind of funding is available? etc.

It appears there is funding available, but it is bundled in with business planning/ management advice. Basically, they will help fund a post for three years but on the basis that we take those three years to become self -sustaining. Funding models in the area have since evolved quite considerably and the conversations need to be re-visited. At this stage it is something that the Trustees and the Committee need to discuss so that we can draw up a Job Description, advertise, hire and apply for funding.

Meanwhile, if we are to maintain our current opening hours, it is crucial, in terms of manning the museum, that we try and extend our team of volunteers.

We also need to try and boost visitor numbers, which we aim to do by securing funding for a significant republication and distribution of the museum leaflet.

We also need to undertake a reprint of our popular St Brides Church Booklet.

Additional information

None.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name	Margaret L. Bannatyne
Designation	Trustee
Date	25th September 2026