

Darsham Country Centre
Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023

Darsham Country Centre
(a company limited by guarantee)
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Charity number	1047729
Company number	2831131
Directors/Trustees	Sue Cole Hilary Sutton Bryan Osbon Tim Delaney Sara Harvey Helen Spilsted
Company Secretary	Susan Cole
Registered office	The Station House Yard, Main Road, Darsham, Saxmundham, IP17 3PN
Centre address	The Station House, Main Road, Darsham, Suffolk, IP17 3LA
Independent examiner	Fiona McArthur FCCA (reg no. 1688933)
Bankers	Co-operative Bank plc, PO Box 250, Delf House, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Trustees' Report for 2023

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objects of the Charity

Darsham Country Centre is established under its memorandum and articles for the furtherance of educational and recreational activities for the benefit of persons in the south east of England, particularly but not exclusively those resident in the London Borough of Hackney and other London boroughs, to provide and assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of such persons.

Activities

The company carries out its charitable objects by managing a hostel in Darsham near Yoxford in Suffolk. The trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance and believe that the centre's activities are wholly undertaken to further the charitable purposes for the public benefit.

It offers 24 bed spaces, catering facilities and recreational opportunities primarily for the users of voluntary and statutory organisations which support people who lack access to affordable holidays and would benefit from communal activities. The groups using the centre reflect the objectives and include children and young people's organisations, older people and those with disabilities.

The trustees, acting as the board of directors, are responsible for strategic and practical management, financial control, fundraising and the supervision of two staff members. The centre works in partnership with Woodcraft Folk, which organises certain services such as payroll and insurance.

Achievements during the year

Following on from a challenging period in which bookings were much reduced due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2023 bookings recovered significantly. During the year there were 44 weekend bookings (2022: 43) and 4 further days (2022: 87).

There were no big projects on the building in 2023.

Financial Review of the Year

Total income for the year was £37,078 (2022: £37,803). The majority of income was booking fees, which increased slightly to £36,530 (2022: £33,900). Expenditure totalled £31,853 (2022: 21,873), and included £3,322 non-routine expenditure on repairs to damp in the building. The year ended with a surplus of £5,225 (2022: £15,930).

Reserves policy

Trustees have tried to build up reserves over recent years given the need for ongoing repairs and improvements to an ageing building, rising expectations among potential users for more sophisticated facilities and the uncertainty of income from voluntary and statutory organisations.

Booking levels are vulnerable to external events beyond the trustees' control. The Centre seeks grants for special projects and major improvements to the building. However, appropriate sources of funding are increasingly difficult to identify.

Annual expenditure, needed to maintain staff and basic services only, is about £18,000. The centre will seek to designate funds of:

- £6,000 for any essential repairs and renewals and emergencies to be agreed by trustees and revised annually as circumstances dictate.
- £4,000 to enable the centre to maintain basic services should bookings decline for a defined period
- £2,000 to meet redundancy payments for one staff member.

Should the centre cease operation, it would need to repay a secured loan of £14,500 to Hackney Borough Council. The sale of the premises would enable this liability to be met.

Statement of directors'/trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Darsham Country Centre for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the board of Trustees/Directors on: 26th September 2024

And signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sue Cole', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sue Cole (Chair of Trustees)

Darsham Country Centre
(a company limited by guarantee)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Darsham Country Centre
For the year ended 31st December 2023

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out in pages 6 to 11..

Responsibilities and basis of report

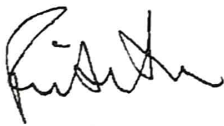
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your 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 Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts 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 accounts 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.



Fiona McArthur FCCA (reg. No 1688933)
Cambridge, UK

Date: 26/09/24

Darsham Country Centre

Statement of Financial Activities For the Year Ended 31st December 2023

		2023			2022		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Charitable activities	2	36,612	-	36,612	37,770	-	37,770
Investments	3	466	-	466	33	-	33
Total income		37,078	-	37,078	37,803	-	37,803
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	4	31,539	-	31,539	21,845	-	21,845
Governance	5	314	-	314	28	-	28
Total expenditure	6,7	31,853	-	31,853	21,873	-	21,873
Net movement of funds		5,225	-	5,225	15,930	-	15,930
Funds brought forward		41,738	43,453	85,191	25,808	43,453	69,261
Funds carried forward		46,963	43,453	90,416	41,738	43,453	85,191

All amounts relate to continuing activities. There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included above.

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Darsham Country Centre

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	8	1	57,953	57,954	57,954
Current Assets					
Stock (oil)		800	-	800	800
Debtors and prepayments	9	252	-	252	252
Cash at bank and in hand		51,123	-	51,123	45,747
Total Current Assets		52,175	-	52,175	46,799
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	5,213	-	5,213	5,062
Net Current Assets		46,962	-	46,962	41,737
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		46,963	57,953	104,916	99,691
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		-	14,500	14,500	14,500
Net Assets		46,963	43,453	90,416	85,191
Restricted Funds	11	-	43,453	43,453	43,453
Unrestricted Funds		46,963	-	46,963	41,738
Total Funds		46,963	43,453	90,416	85,191

The trustees are satisfied that an audit is not required of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993.

Small Companies Audit Exemption

The trustees are satisfied that an audit is not required of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit, in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

Small Company Accounting Exemption

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board on 26th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Sue Cole, Director and Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of the financial statements.

Darsham Country Centre

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

1.1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2. Cash Flow Statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006 from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

1.3. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings: Over five years

1.4. Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net residual value.

1.5. Donations and Grants

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are received.

1.6. Income from Activities and Other Income

Income from Activities and Other Income is included in the period to which it relates.

1.7. Resources expended

Resources expended, including Value Added Tax, are included in the period to which they relate.

1.8. Funds

Resources received are allocated to Restricted Funds according to the limitations on their use specified by the donors or other providers. Funds received in the direct operation of the Charity are treated as unrestricted income funds. Other resources received without external restriction are designated by the trustees for particular purposes as deemed appropriate.

Darsham Country Centre

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

2. Income from Charitable Activities

	2023 Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Hostel accommodation	36,530	-	36,530	33,900
Grants	-	-	-	2,667
Other income	82	-	82	1,203
	36,612	-	36,612	37,770

3. Income from Investments

	2023 Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	466	-	466	33
	466	-	466	33

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2023 Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Salary costs	12,234	-	12,234	10,686
Volunteers' travel and subsistence	-	-	-	333
Rates	200	-	200	266
Water and Sewerage	562	-	562	439
Heat and Light	2,892	-	2,892	3,163
Equipment	249	-	249	456
Repairs and refurbishment	8,970	-	8,970	2,936
Garden works	-	-	-	83
Refuse disposal	557	-	557	1,007
Cleaning materials	726	-	726	181
Insurance	1,049	-	1,049	774
Advertising	786	-	786	661
Administration	2,836	-	2,836	433
Phone and broadband	478	-	478	428
	31,539	-	31,539	21,846

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Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

5. Expenditure on Governance

	2023 Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Trustees' travel and subsistence	314	-	314	28
	314	-	314	28

6. Total Expenditure

	Staff costs	Other costs	2023 Total costs	2022 Total costs
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	12,234	19,305	31,539	21,845
Governance		314	314	28
	12,234	19,619	31,853	21,873

7. Staff costs

	2023 Total costs	2022 Total costs
	£	£
Salaries	11,792	9,055
Social Security costs	442	1,632
	12,234	10,687

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
Balance brought forward	57,953	15,129	73,082
(Disposals)	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	57,953	15,129	73,082
Depreciation			
Balance brought forward	-	15,128	15,128
Charge for year	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	15,128	15,128
Net book value			
Brought forward	57,953	1	57,954
Carried forward	57,953	1	57,954

Darsham Country Centre

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

9. Debtors and Prepayments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Share account with East of England Co-op Society	252	252
	252	252

10. Creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Deposits and prepaid income	4,561	4,930		-
Trade creditors and accruals	652	132		-
Secured loans	-	-	14,500	14,500
	5,213	5,062	14,500	14,500

11. Restricted Funds

	Property Reserve	Grant funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Income	-	-	-
Expenditure	-	-	-
Net movement	-	-	-
Opening balance	43,453	-	43,453
Closing balance	43,453	-	43,453

12. Commitments

There are no capital commitments at the end of the financial year for which provision has been made (2022: nil).