

THE PEARSON HALL

Registered Charity No. 1049420 (England & Wales)

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements and the Independent Examiner's report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name and charity registration number

The Pearson Hall – Registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales 1049420

Address

Pearson Road, Sonning, Berkshire RG4 6UL

Trustees

Mrs L A Bates	Chairman – Elected member
Ms S P Robinson	Secretary – Appointed by Sonning Parish Council
Mr R J Brighton	Treasurer – Elected member
Mrs B C Goodacre	Elected member (Appointed 10.04.24)
Mr F Head	Elected member – Appointed by Sonning Club
Mr M P M Hart	Elected member
Mrs P A Feathers	Elected member
Mrs S J Bell	Elected member
Mr P D Rennie	Representing the Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner

Mr Jonathan Crump
9 Queen's Gate
London SW7 5EL

Structure Governance and Management

Governing documents

The charity is regulated by conveyance and trust deed dated 26 February 1903 and by order of the Charity Commission in England and Wales dated 31 March 1995 that established an approved scheme for the charity.

Appointment of trustees

The Committee of Management comprises the charity trustees who are also its Members and consists when complete of ten persons being, one ex-officio member (the incumbent for the time being of the benefice of St Andrews Sonning); six elected members; and three representative members (Sonning Parish Council), Parochial Church Council and Sonning Club (formerly known as Sonning Working Men's Club).

The six elected members are appointed at the Annual General Meeting and the three organisations are each entitled to appoint one representative member.

Management

The Committee of Management holds at least two ordinary meeting each year and is responsible for the management and administration of the charity in conformity with the governing documents.

Charitable objects

- 1). The provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Sonning (the area of benefit) without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
- 2). The Committee of Management shall continue to appropriate and use the land and buildings for the purposes of a village hall.

Activities

Rental of a cottage and shop unit and hall hire for local club meetings, yoga, parties, concerts, films, table tennis, lectures and exhibitions.

Achievements, performance and results

During the year we replaced the toilets and the toilet floors for £9,000. Income from hall lettings rose by £4,000 to in excess of £18,000 and consequently we were able to transfer £5,000 to the endowment reserve which now stands at £50,580.

Reserves policy

It is not the charity's policy to build up unnecessary high reserves although the trustees endeavour to maintain these at a reasonable level to meet rental voids and unforeseen or unusual expenditure. The investment policy of holding surplus funds in interest bearing accounts is considered appropriate and the trustees are satisfied that there is a reasonable expectation that there are adequate reserves to continue to meet the charity's objectives in the foreseeable future.

It is intended that the Pearson Hall Trust Endowment Fund be built up over a number of years in order to meet any future major repair or structural costs which cannot be funded out of the day to day revenue.

Plans for future years

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are very much aware that the viability of the trust is dependent on the occupancy of the cottage and letting the retail unit and that to guarantee occupancy it is vital to keep the properties in good structural condition.

Trustees' responsibility statement

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection and fraud.

Approved by Order of the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf

Mrs L A Bates Chairman



Date

18/06/2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Pearson Hall
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out in the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities and trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Pearson Hall you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general direction given by the Charity Commission (England & Wales).

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes a consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required on an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act, or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as a part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Mr Jonathan Crump

9 Queen's Gate London SW7 5EL

Date: 13.06.24.

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities (Receipts and payments)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022 (see note 12 for full comparatives)
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	-	420
Charitable activities	18,763	-	-	18,763	14,028
Other trading activities	14,200	65	-	14,265	14,543
Investments	2,530	194	-	2,724	514
Total	£35,493	£259	-	£35,752	£29,505
Resources expended					
Charitable activities (Note 11)	23,663	35	-	23,698	18,608
Total	£23,663	£35	-	£23,698	£18,608
Net income	£11,830	£224	-	£12,054	10,897
Transfer	-5,000	-	5,000	-	-
Net movement of funds	6,830	224	5,000	12,054	10,897
Funds brought forward 1 January	24,771	5,989	45,580	£76,340	£65,443
Funds carried forward 31 December	£31,601	£6,213	£50,580	£88,394	£76,340

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets (Note 6)	-	-
Current assets		
Bank current accounts	20,455	16,125
Bank deposit accounts	67,939	60,215
	£88,394	£76,340
Liabilities due in one year	-	-
Total net current assets	<u>£88,394</u>	<u>£76,340</u>
The funds of the charity (Note 3)		
Unrestricted (Management Committee)	31,601	24,771
Restricted (Social Committee)	6,213	5,989
Endowment (Pearson Hall Trust Fund)	50,580	45,580
Total funds	<u>£88,394</u>	<u>£76,340</u>

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis as a going concern under the Charities Act 2011. They include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Committee of Management is responsible in law. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity.

2. Cash flow statement

The charity is not required to produce a cash flow statement.

3. Description of funds

a) Restricted funds in the Pearson Hall Trust Endowment Fund and the Social Committee Fund may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust.

b) Unrestricted funds are general funds and are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

4. Incoming resources

Donations, grants, legacies, bank interest and rental income are recognised when received. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

5. Resources expended

All expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred.

6. Fixed assets

In May 2020 a reinstatement value of the building for insurance purposes of £1,405,000 was independently assessed in accordance with Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' guidance notes. The building and fixtures and fittings are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities in the accounts as there is no requirement to do so. They are valued for insurance purposes on a replacement cost basis at £1,951,200 and £69,940 respectively.

7. Related party transactions

The charity's combined insurance policy includes trustee indemnity insurance for all its trustees. No remuneration or expenses were paid to the trustees in the year (2022 nil).

8. Grants received

There was no unrestricted grant income in 2023 (2022 nil).

9. Governance costs

There were no costs in the year attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, trustee meetings and reimbursed expenses. (2022 nil).

10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities to the extent that its income and gains are applied for charitable purposes.

Notes to the financial statements

11. Costs of charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowmen t Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Event expenditure	491	-	-	491	422
Property expenditure					
Gas, electricity & water	4,442	-	-	4,442	3,402
Rates	81	-	-	81	151
Internet/Telephone	698	-	-	698	535
Insurance	1,367	-	-	1,367	1,290
Repairs and maintenance	6,921	-	-	6,921	11,977
Sundries	605	35	-	640	245
Fittings & equipment	9,059	-	-	9,059	166
Total	£23,633	£35	-	£18,188	£18,188

12. Statement of financial activities - prior year comparatives (See page 5)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Incoming resources				
Donations and legacies	-	420	-	420
Charitable activities	14,028	-	-	14,028
Other trading activities	14,200	343	-	14,543
Investments	67	43	404	514
Total	£28,295	£806	£404	£29,505
Resources expended				
Charitable activities	18,122	486	-	18,608
Total	£18,122	£486	-	£18,608
Net income	10,173	320	404	10,897
Transfer	(7,000)	-	7,000	-
Net movement of funds	3,173	320	7,404	10,897
Funds brought forward 1 January 2022	£21,598	£5,669	£38,176	£65,443
Funds carried forward 31 December 2022	£24,771	£5,989	£45,580	£76,340