

## THE PEARSON HALL

Registered Charity No. 1049420 (England & Wales)

### Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements and the Independent Examiner's report for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **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 – Retired 27.05.24
Mrs S J Bell	Elected member
Mr P D Rennie	Representing the Parochial Church Council
The Reverend J A Taylor	Ex-officio – Appointed 01.12.24

#### **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, when the cottage was vacant, we took the opportunity of changing the radiators and redecorating. We also replaced the cooker in the kitchen. Evening lettings in the hall were slightly down at £16,000, but with our tenant in the cottage paying her rent a year in advance we were able to transfer £15,000 to our reserves in the Pearson Hall Trust Fund which currently stand at £65,580.

### 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



**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Pearson Hall  
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 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:** 11-06-25

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities (Receipts and payments)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023 (see note 12 for full comparatives)
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	16,889	-	-	16,889	18,763
Other trading activities	27,100	200	-	27,300	14,265
Investments	3,482	237	-	3,719	2,724
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£47,471</u></b>	<b><u>£437</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>£47,908</u></b>	<b><u>£35,752</u></b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities (Note 11)	<u>31,109</u>	<u>5</u>	-	<u>31,114</u>	<u>23,698</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£31,109</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>£31,114</u></b>	<b><u>£23,698</u></b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b><u>£16,362</u></b>	<b><u>£432</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>£16,794</u></b>	<b><u>£12,054</u></b>
<b>Transfer</b>	<b><u>(15,000)</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>15,000</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement of funds</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>16,794</b>	<b>12,054</b>
<b>Funds brought forward 1 January</b>	<b><u>£31,601</u></b>	<b><u>£6,213</u></b>	<b><u>£50,580</u></b>	<b><u>£88,394</u></b>	<b><u>£76,340</u></b>
<b>Funds carried forward 31 December</b>	<b><u>£32,963</u></b>	<b><u>£6,645</u></b>	<b><u>£65,580</u></b>	<b><u>£105,188</u></b>	<b><u>£88,394</u></b>

**Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible fixed assets (Note 6)	-	-
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank current accounts	18,529	20,455
Bank deposit accounts	86,659	67,939
	<b>£105,188</b>	<b>£88,394</b>
<b>Liabilities due in one year</b>	-	-
<b>Total net current assets</b>	<b>£105,188</b>	<b>£88,394</b>
<b>The funds of the charity (Note 3)</b>		
Unrestricted - Management Committee	32,963	31,601
Restricted - Social Committee	6,645	6,213
Endowment - Pearson Hall Trust Fund	65,580	50,580
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>£105,188</b>	<b>£88,394</b>

**Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**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**

The building and fixtures and fittings are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities in the accounts on page 6 as there is no requirement to do so. At 04.06.24 the estimated rebuilding costs of the hall and attached cottage for insurance purposes were valued by Insurance Surveys Ltd on a replacement cost basis at £1,818,000.

**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 (2023 nil).

**8. Grants received**

There was no unrestricted grant income in 2024 (2023 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. (2023 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	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Event expenditure	865	-	-	865	491
<b>Property expenditure</b>					
Gas, electricity & water	4,519	-	-	4,519	4,442
Rates	85	-	-	85	81
Internet/Telephone	799	-	-	799	698
Insurance	1,325	-	-	1,325	1,367
Repairs and maintenance	16,673	-	-	16,673	6,921
Sundries	1,679	5	-	1,684	640
Fittings & equipment	<u>5,164</u>	-	-	<u>5,164</u>	<u>9,059</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£31,109</u></b>	<b><u>£5</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>£31,114</u></b>	<b><u>£23,688</u></b>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	18,763	-	-	<b>18,763</b>
Other trading activities	14,200	65	-	<b>14,265</b>
Investments	<u>2,530</u>	<u>194</u>	-	<b><u>2,724</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£35,493</u></b>	<b><u>£259</u></b>	<b><u>£-</u></b>	<b><u>£35,752</u></b>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Charitable activities	23,663	35	-	<b>23,698</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£23,663</u></b>	<b><u>£35</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>£23,698</u></b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b><u>£11,830</u></b>	<b><u>£224</u></b>	<b><u>£-</u></b>	<b><u>£12,054</u></b>
<b>Transfer</b>	<b><u>(5,000)</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>5,000</u></b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement of funds</b>	<b>6,830</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>12,054</b>
<b>Funds brought forward 1 January 2023</b>	<b><u>£24,771</u></b>	<b><u>£5,989</u></b>	<b><u>£45,580</u></b>	<b><u>£76,340</u></b>
<b>Funds carried forward 31 December 2023</b>	<b><u>£31,601</u></b>	<b><u>£6,213</u></b>	<b><u>£50,580</u></b>	<b><u>£88,394</u></b>