

Charity registration number 1086138

Company registration number 04171822 (England and Wales)

VILLAGES IN ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

VILLAGES IN ACTION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees H Bovey
N G Chapman
H M Gilbert (Appointed 5 December 2022)
C E Marshall (Appointed 5 December 2022)
G Plant (Appointed 23 March 2023)
R H Sutton
W A Van Der Plank

Secretary M A George

Charity number 1086138

Company number 04171822

Registered office 26 Brunswick Street
Teignmouth
Devon
TQ14 8AF

Independent examiner Rowlands Webster Limited
Austin House
43 Poole Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
England
BH4 9DN

VILLAGES IN ACTION

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VILLAGES IN ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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 Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The Charity is established for the purposes of promoting, maintaining, improving and advancing education of the public, in particular of the County of Devon by the promotion and encouragement of the arts including the performing, visual, media, plastic and/or written arts, and by empowering communities to develop, organise, and sustain their own cultural activity and, in doing so, enhance their quality of life, encourage social inclusion and build up a sense of enterprise and self-confidence.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Introduction to activities

Our core programme delivers activity in four dynamically interdependent strands of work:

- Rural Touring and Participation
- Talent Development
- Co-creative Communities
- Stretch (reach, inclusion and partnership projects)

Villages in Action is a revitalised charity and social enterprise with a renewed board of trustees and a strong and growing staff team. The charity is responsive and agile, and we continually develop new projects and partnerships, seeking opportunities to enhance our sustainability as an organisation and to root ourselves in Devon's changing cultural ecology.

VILLAGES IN ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements and performance

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continued to be felt by Villages in Action with the staging of productions and performances continuing to experience disruptions due to societal concerns and changing cultural participation habits. Villages in Action delivered 48 performances in 30 venues which enjoyed an overall audience number of 2147. Alongside touring performances, visiting artists delivered 10 participatory workshops attended by 231 participants. 92 individual artists were employed to perform providing over 134 days of employment across the year. Highlights of the touring programme include Just More Production's performance *Do What Your Mama Told Yah!* building on recent explorations into hosting outdoor circus performances, leading us to develop a year-round public performance programme.

Between April 2022 and March 2023, Villages in Action invested £15,000 directly into 22 Devon-based artists through our *From Devon With Love* scratch festival and residencies that make up our Talent Development strand of work. We are committed to platforming diverse voices across identity and experience and the festival supported artists from the Global Majority and neurodivergent artists, new to rural contexts. In turn we are seeing an increase in applications from artists with protected characteristics to our main menu of acts.

We have developed 15 digital works alongside a renewed digital strategy and approach. In partnership with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Moretonhampstead Community Development Trust and Clare Parker, we secured funds from UKRI for a feasibility study, *Active Care Homes*, a research project bringing virtual music and dance content to care homes across Devon with the aim of increasing activity levels of residents. During this 2022-2023 we secured 13,525 online engagements from usually-excluded digital audiences in care homes through the *Active Care Homes* platform, with 135 care homes residents taking part as active participants with our participatory digital movement content.

During 2022-2023 we have enabled 3 projects exploring themes relevant to participants across both geographic communities, and those of identity and interest including *Village Exchange* (memory making, young people and storytelling) in East Devon, *Small is Enough* (C-19 recovery and connection) in Teignbridge and LGBTQ+ artists in libraries (queer identity in rural communities) across Devon. This has led to the development of a Skillshare model supported by a Community Animator now employed to lead on future co-creation and network activity.

We have created clear roles for co-curators and have onboarded new promoters, co-curators and venues, largely through 1:1 engagement. More recently we have been approached by former volunteers who have been reluctant to get involved over the last 4-5 years. We have embedded our network for the longer-term, empowering a web of community promoters and audiences as the architecture of a sustainable model for ViA.

During the 2022-2023 financial year Villages in Action has embedded robust financial management within the staff and trustee team, undertaken CPD for the Board and staff team including exploring Anti Racism in the Arts and EDI. All the development has been underpinned by a year-long cycle of Ripple Effect Mapping informing our iterative action-led learning approach. Additionally to the 134 days of work for touring artists we have provided 393 days of employment for other creatives who have been brought on board during this period.

By nurturing clusters as drivers of grassroots action we have built a network of hyper-local relevance that also filters into neighbouring villages and towns. Particular developments with the East Devon cluster demonstrates the appetite for embedding creative production within communities able to harness their creativity, skills and confidence.

VILLAGES IN ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Looking forward

During 2022-2023 we have been able to test models of working and how we meet the specific needs of Devon's communities. Ripple Effect Mapping and wider feedback (from audiences, artists and organisations) has affirmed impacts in specific areas, allowing us to shape our next steps accordingly. This includes:

- Development support from ViA that artists have identified has shifted their practice long-term to: develop safe touring for artists' mental health, including with neurodiverse artists; significant shifts in artists' integration of participatory and co-creation processes in the development of new performance work.
- ViA's role in enabling diverse representation across Devon's rural touring, securing new platforms for diverse work, supporting artists and venues. Feedback from communities showed the appetite and excitement for diverse artists and perspectives, and this has built co-curators' confidence to host work in future.

We have enabled new networks that will be key to maintaining momentum going forward. This includes:

- A new supportive leadership network emerging from Social School of Entrepreneurs (Dartington). Through this, ViA Creative Director is convening regional leads to develop work across creative engagement with climate adaptation and food security initiatives.
- A grassroots 'Village Exchange' network supporting skills development and community-driven priorities. This is already diversifying the voices inputting into ViA, including for example, relationships between amateur and subsidised culture in rural communities.

Financial review

The charity finances include a variety of income sources including Arts Council England project grant funding to develop our Agri[Culture] programme which was in full swing by April 2022 having undergone a period of organisational development. East Devon District Council provided an annual core funding grant as well as a smaller portfolio of funding from trusts and foundations. Earned income from commissions and box office income from events further bolstered the finances and ability to operate despite the ongoing challenges within an ongoing transformation of the wider cultural sector.

Statement

The trustees believe that Villages in Action is well-placed to make the most of the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead and we will continue to take an agile approach to supporting not only our rural communities but the wider cultural sector. We have made organisational commitments to sustainability and climate change; equality, diversity and inclusion and developing an evidence base for cultural and creative impact.

The Board is firmly committed to the principles of public benefit, widening access, diversity and equal opportunities. In shaping their objectives for the year and planning Villages in Action's activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the importance of demonstrating that Villages in Action fulfils its charitable purposes for the wider good of society. They believe that this report shows clearly that the charity offers a very wide range of support, activities and services to the communities of Devon.

Structure, governance and management

The company is a registered charity, number 1086138, with effect from 12 April 2001. The governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

VILLAGES IN ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

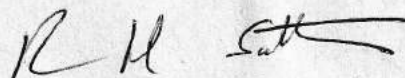
The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

H Bovey	
N G Chapman	
H M Gilbert	(Appointed 5 December 2022)
C E Marshall	(Appointed 5 December 2022)
G Plant	(Appointed 23 March 2023)
R H Sutton	
W A Van Der Plank	
D J Buckroyd	(Resigned 5 December 2022)
C G Devenish	(Resigned 5 December 2022)

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Board has the power to appoint additional trustees as it considers fit to do so. Although no specific training is required for new trustees, they are made aware of the useful guidance offered by the Charity Commission and others. Policy decisions are made by the Board at regular meetings.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



R H Sutton
Trustee

31 August 2023

VILLAGES IN ACTION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VILLAGES IN ACTION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Villages in Action (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Rowlands Webster Limited

Austin House
43 Poole Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH4 9DN
England

Dated: 31 August 2023

VILLAGES IN ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Notes							
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	36,903	5,991	42,894	43,408	-	43,408
Charitable activities		32,506	-	32,506	-	-	-
Total income		69,409	5,991	75,400	43,408	-	43,408
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities		96,150	5,991	102,141	12,632	-	12,632
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	1,254	(1,254)	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/							
Net movement in funds		(26,741)	-	(26,741)	32,030	(1,254)	30,776
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		36,756	-	36,756	4,726	1,254	5,980
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		10,015	-	10,015	36,756	-	36,756

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

VILLAGES IN ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Notes							
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	36,903	5,991	42,894	43,408	-	43,408
Charitable activities		32,506	-	32,506	-	-	-
Total income		69,409	5,991	75,400	43,408	-	43,408
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities		96,150	5,991	102,141	12,632	-	12,632
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	1,254	(1,254)	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/							
Net movement in funds		(26,741)	-	(26,741)	32,030	(1,254)	30,776
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		36,756	-	36,756	4,726	1,254	5,980
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		10,015	-	10,015	36,756	-	36,756

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

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The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

VILLAGES IN ACTION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	7	3,577	-
Cash at bank and in hand		16,155	37,436
		<u>19,732</u>	<u>37,436</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(5,723)	(680)
Net current assets		<u>14,009</u>	<u>36,756</u>
Deferred income	9	(3,994)	-
Income funds			
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	10	-	32,006
General unrestricted funds		<u>10,015</u>	<u>4,750</u>
		<u>10,015</u>	<u>36,756</u>
		<u>10,015</u>	<u>36,756</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

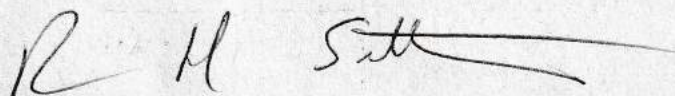
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 31 August 2023

R H Sutton
Trustee



Company registration number 04171822

VILLAGES IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Villages in Action is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 26 Brunswick Street, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8AF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

VILLAGES IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Unrestricted funds	
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Other grants				14,250
Arts Council England	26,903	-	26,903	29,158
National Lottery Awards for All	10,000	5,991	5,991	-
	<u>36,903</u>	<u>5,991</u>	<u>42,894</u>	<u>43,408</u>

4 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

VILLAGES IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

6 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

7 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	3,577	-

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	5,723	680

9 Government grants

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Shown as deferred income on the face of the balance sheet	3,994	-
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	-	-
Resources deferred in the year	3,994	-
Deferred income at 31 March 2023	3,994	-

VILLAGES IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			
	Incoming resources	Balance at 1 April 2022	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Agriculture	24,506	24,506	(24,506)	-
SSE	7,500	7,500	(7,500)	-
	<u>32,006</u>	<u>32,006</u>	<u>(32,006)</u>	<u>-</u>

11 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).