

Annual Report from the Chair 2023-24

Stocksfield Community Centre continues to be well-used for a range of activities, and as a meeting place for various groups within the village. The trustees have been pleased to see an increase in children's activities this year. It has become a popular venue for children's parties, and a group providing art and craft activities for young children has been hiring the hall regularly throughout the year. Regular activities that have taken place for many years include aerobics, Pilates, badminton and yoga. Tuesday Club continues to provide a hot lunch, the option of carpet bowls and the chance to socialize for older members of the community. The Stocksfield Players put on a very successful performance of 'A Christmas Carol' in December, and other events during the year have brought more people into the Community Centre. Much of the credit for the day-to-day running of the association goes to our manager Terri Anne, and I would like to thank her for her welcoming approach and efficiency. I would also like to thank Peter and Betty Scott for keeping the building scrupulously clean and inviting to the community of Stocksfield.

Our active involvement with the Village Halls Heritage Project concluded with an event held in July, although we hope to add more oral history recordings in due course. Oral histories - memories of the people and the groups who have used our community centre in the past - are now held at the Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn, and we retain digital copies. A video of excerpts was compiled and shown at the event in the hall, along with a display of photographs, newspaper articles and other items of historical interest, and some of these are included in the recently-published book 'The Heritage of Northumberland Village Halls'.

Stocksfield Community Association has had a website since 2006, and this was replaced in 2016. By 2023 it had become difficult to update and was in need of replacement. A new website would have involved significant initial investment as well as ongoing charges for maintenance. After looking at the available options, trustees took the decision to remove the old website and link our domain name to our pages on the Northumberland Village Halls site. Terri Anne is now able to update the website quickly and easily to provide information about regular activities, bookings and events.

The high cost of heating has been a major concern for the trustees this year, in particular for heating the hall. Work carried out in 2022 and 2023 means that the Mary Clayton Room, the Richardson Room, the Computer Room, the kitchen and the Parish Office are now heated by efficient electric radiators. This is much more flexible than the previous gas central heating system, in that we do not heat rooms when they are not occupied. These upgrades have been made possible by a grant received from the edf Renewables Fund via the County Durham Community Partnership, and we are grateful for their support.

January saw the filming of a promotional video commissioned by the Northern Powergrid Foundation in the Community Centre. The film also featured two other community buildings in the northern region which have benefitted from grant funding for energy security projects. We received funding from the Foundation for batteries to store energy produced by our solar PV panels, which were fitted several years ago. The batteries were installed and commissioned over the summer. Unfortunately there have been sporadic but ongoing difficulties in getting the batteries to work with the panels, and the installers are working with us to find a permanent solution.

Climate change along with the cost of energy present an increasing challenge to Stocksfield Community Association. Looking forwards, we hope to reduce our reliance on gas by installing a more efficient electricity powered heating system for the hall. This will necessitate improvements to the electricity supply to the building, and we are applying for grant funding to help with these projects.

July also saw the retirement of our long-standing treasurer. It has been difficult to find a permanent replacement, and I would like to thank Paul Westbury for taking on the role of temporary treasurer. Finally, I would like to thank all of my fellow trustees whose individual contributions have not been mentioned but are much appreciated, and without whom Stocksfield Community Association would not be able to provide a service to the village.

Receipts	2023	2024
Hire of Premises	£24,611.56	£25,840.09
Subscriptions	£2,329.00	£2,052.87
Donations	£176.00	£20,495.88
SCAN	£1,056.54	£390.00
Miscellaneous	£110.63	£414.50
Activities	£911.82	£1,958.04
Government Grants	£5,800.00	
Job Retention Scheme		
Interest Received	£99.33	£453.87
Computer Funds	£30.00	
Gift Aid Tax Refund	£449.78	£477.50
Receipts not yet banked in curr. Acc.		-£246.83
Total	£35,574.66	£51,835.92

Balances at 1st April	2022	2023
Unity Trust Bank		
Current a/c	£10,727.54	£7,853.98
Virgin Savings	£37,789.27	£37,888.60
Office Cash	£432.04	£325.37
	£84,523.51	£97,903.87

Opening bank and cash at 1st April 23	£46,067.95
Total receipts	£52,082.75
Total payments	<u>-£64,315.69</u>
Net deficit in the year	-£12,232.94
Less receipts not yet banked at 31/3/24	-£246.83
Closing bank and cash at 31st March 24	£33,588.18
Variance	£0.00

Payments	2023	2024
Manager's Salary	£11,618.46	£12,159.36
Cleaner's & Caretakers wages	£7,767.60	£7,921.50
Office (Postage, Stationery & Telephone)	£1,988.68	£2,830.58
SCAN		£32.00
Installations & Repairs	£4,038.28	£23,966.22
Electricity, Gas & Water	£7,764.42	£11,510.60
Insurance	£1,660.07	£2,575.64
IT (Software/etc.)		£594.52
Licences & Service Contracts	£381.08	
Cleaning	£329.38	£703.84
Miscellaneous	£666.99	£59.90
Activities	£180.00	£896.55
HMRC		£915.58
Bank charges	£60.60	£149.40
Bywell Event Repaid	£2,000.00	
Total	£38,455.56	£64,315.69

Balances at 31st March	2023	2024
Unity Trust Bank		
Current a/c	£7,853.98	£2,927.00
Savings	£37,888.60	£20,248.31
Office Cash	£325.37	£412.87
Saffron Bldg. Soc.		£10,000.00
	£84,523.51	£97,903.87



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Stocksfield Community Association

On accounts for the year ended

31/3/2024

Charity no
(if any)

1139996

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of 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 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

M. S. Brunskill

Date: 02/10/2024

Name:

Martin Brunskill F.C.A

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Fellow of the ICAEW

Address:

12 Mount View Terrace
Stocksfield
Northumberland NE43 7HL