

Trustees' Annual Report for Alford Corn Exchange Community Group (Charity No. 1154929) for the period 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023

Charity Name:	Alford Corn Exchange Community Group
Registered Charity Number:	1154929
Charity Principal Address:	Alford Corn Exchange, 9 Market Place, Alford, Lincolnshire, LN13 9EB
Trustees:	Harry Dewick-Eisele, Andy Taylor, Janice McHamilton, Nick O'Farrell, John Hynes, Neil Calvert, Lizzie Arrowsmith, Lucy Iaquaniello, Denver Husband, June Husband and Michael Vickers
Type of governing document:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation with Constitution adopted 10.04.2013

Trustees are appointed (or re-appointed) annually at the AGM.

Objectives:

"To further or benefit the residents of Alford and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power:

To establish or secure the establishment of a community centre at the historic Alford Corn Exchange and to maintain and manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the preservation, maintenance and management of the building for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects."

Summary of Development

2022-2023 has been an exceptionally busy year for the Corn Exchange as public confidence has grown to socialise following the pandemic. The building is used for a wide variety of events including weekly ones – a community café, bingo evening, indoor bowling, a line dancing group, a Zumba class and a yoga class. The monthly tea dance also remains very popular with people travelling from other parts of Lincolnshire (as well as locally) to participate.

Similarly, the Corn Exchange has had many "one off" events during the year including community hot lunches, the annual community Christmas lunch, youth art events (several held per year) charity quiz nights, various fund raising events as well as parties for both children and adults. The Craft Markets are held every year at Easter and Christmas and the hall has proved popular for music events, "sound baths" and wellbeing events. Hirers have the opportunity to use the bar area, the main hall or the upstairs balcony room (or all three).

The 1940s weekend has established itself as one of the town's main annual events and the Corn Exchange is used throughout this weekend holding dances, a busy café and hosting other entertainment.

In addition to the above, the Corn Exchange has established a “niche” for funeral teas which, along with the many varied other events, brings a healthy income stream to the Corn Exchange. The Trustees are very pleased with the wide variety and volume of events that have taken place which is reflected by the additional time that our appointed Manager has spent at the premises overseeing matters.

The Trustees hope that the building can continue to be used in the way that it is in accordance with the charity’s objectives.

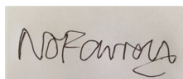
Financial Review:

The Trustees are very mindful of their responsibilities – in particular, in respect of the charity’s finances. A bookkeeper assists with the finances and liaises closely with the Manager and Trustees. All payments made by the Corn Exchange are authorised by one of the appointed Trustees approved by our charity’s Bankers and financial policies are reviewed regularly and updated as necessary. Financial updates are provided at our monthly Trustee meetings and prudent financial management continues to be carried out and remains at the heart of all decisions taken by the Trustees.

Declaration:

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees’ Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity’s Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature appears to read "NO'Farrell" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Signature:

Full name: Nicholas O'Farrell
Date: 24th January 2024