

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period 06 April 2020 to 05 April 2021**

Sidmouth Science Festival, also known as SSF

Registered Charity No. 1168115

Bickwell Gardens,  
Stadway Meadow,  
Sidmouth  
EX10 8TB

### **Trustees**

David Bramley - Chairman  
Rita Hedley - Treasurer  
Pamela Burt - Secretary  
Peter Daniel  
Robert Miles  
Christopher Lockyear  
Michael Pincock

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Sidmouth Science Festival is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a Constitution (adopted 28 June 2016) whose only voting members are its charity trustees ("Foundation" model). They are supported by an overarching committee that is responsible for organising the main festival and complementary events throughout the year and this, in turn, is supported by 3 sub groups that focus in detail on the festival programme, funding and communications. The committee and its sub groups are made up of volunteers.

Trustees are appointed or reappointed as set out in the Constitution at the Annual General Meeting. This year we have been pleased to welcome Mike Pincock as a new member to the Board of Trustees.

Whilst the SSF has no formal relationship with other organisations it works in close collaboration with the Norman Lockyer Observatory, Exeter University, Sid Vale Association, Jurassic Coast Trust, the Met Office, Local Councils, Devonshire Association, Art Society of Sidmouth, Institute of Physics, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, East Devon Schools and many other local and national scientific organisations.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The advancement of education in science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) disciplines in particular, but not exclusively, among people who would not normally engage in STEM subjects by the provision of a science festival and other STEM focused events. With an underlying theme of "Exciting Curiosity for Science in our Lives" we aim to promote a better understanding of how science permeates what we do and the environment that surrounds us by integrating art, music, comedy and drama with STEM based events.

In planning our activities we kept in mind the Charity Commission's Guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings and the supporting committee meetings.

The main focus of the year was the planning, organisation and delivery of the ninth Sidmouth Science Festival which was held from 9th to 18th October 2020. Usually there's a whole host of hands on events and talks taking place at various venues across the town which are educational and fun. The committee had planned for its normal programme of events culminating in the 10 day festival in October but sadly due to the ongoing high risks posed by the COVID - 19 pandemic and the uncertainty over the level of protective social restrictions which might be in

place at any given time it was decided that physical meetings would not be possible. Wherever possible our planned events went ahead but in a virtual format with workshops and sessions taking place online (with the exception of some events in schools). The committee would like to thank all of the presenters and volunteer organisers for their cooperation and enthusiasm in learning and embracing new skills to make this happen. A much reduced programme therefore saw 14 activities over the festival period with 11 speakers. Events were organised for all age groups and all parts of the community, including activities for schools.

In addition to the main festival in October the Science Festival usually runs events throughout the year as well as having a presence at other local events. In 2020/21 there were no other local events to attend due to the restrictions in place to combat COVID - 19 but we were able to continue to run our successful monthly Cafe Scientifique using the social platform delivered via ZOOM and averaging some 80 participants per session. Talks were given for some of these meetings in collaboration with the Sidmouth Biodiversity Group.

This is a community project organised and delivered by volunteers from all walks of life. The festival demands some 1.5 man-years of voluntary effort. The organisers would like to thank all of the sponsors, volunteers, friends and attendees who make the festival possible by giving their time and skills freely.

### Achievements and Performance

The 2020 Sidmouth Science Festival, the ninth, attracted some 455 ZOOM sessions to our online talks and we estimated that around 700 people attended these talks (sometimes 2 or more people per computer link). Most people came from the East Devon area but some from much further afield.

We received good, positive feedback from an online survey, such as:

- \* An expert and a great communicator. An informative, passionate and entertaining presentation
- \* Proper scientific analysis of a 'live event' in our town (the fatberg!)
- \* Introduced me to a brand new science I have never heard of
- \* Fascinating story with complex matters explained simply and clearly
- \* Thought provoking...and showed how art and science can interact to provide insights
- \* Engaging and informal talk getting some difficult geological concepts across. Science in action
- \* Well balanced information about the pros and cons of beavers
- \* Presented for non specialists without over dumbing down. I sat and watched this with my 9 year old son.

Our review analysis also revealed 369 facebook fans, 694 Twitter & 88 Instagram followers, and, 3200 website visits.

The talks this year were again of a high calibre and well received. Devon based naturalist and TV presenter Nick Baker kicked off the festival with a detailed look into the life of one of our most enigmatic birds - the common swift. His talk explored how anyone can "do their bit" to help these beautiful birds. This was followed the day after by a presentation from gull experts Dr Alex Wilson and Dr Katherine Herborn who were looking for help with their Citizen Science project about gull behaviour. This was featured on the local and national TV news. Other highlights of the week included an analysis of the Sidmouth fatberg from Professor John Love of Exeter University; a presentation by Phil Mawby of Warwick University on the New Breed of Power Electronics as applied in the electrification of transportation; a talk to celebrate Ada Lovelace Day given by Nicola Grahamslaw of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers on the mechanical, structural, electronic and software engineering that is used to conserve the 175 year old SS Great Britain; a talk from David Buckland of the Cape Farewell foundation on how the climate challenge is being addressed through art; Richard Brazier of Exeter University gave an update close to local people's hearts about beavers on the River Otter; geologist Richard Edmonds spoke about another subject of local interest by explaining how modern mapping and modelling techniques are assisting in charting the Great Bindon Landslide east of Seaton in 1839; a special talk from Dr Mary Slingo, Senior Registrar in Anaesthetics at Winchester Hospital about how the human body is capable of extremes, surviving at the limits from mountains to intensive care medicine; and, finally, Dan

Shiguemiti, Head of Swimming at Exeter Golf and Country Club explored the science behind swimming and how swim strokes have developed, returning the skills we once had in water.

Additionally, a programme of science related activities was also run for local primary schools. This included over 1000 pieces of primary school art work on the theme of 'Footprints' displayed in Kennaway House, Sidmouth. The associated children's book 'Footprints' was read at several primary schools by the author, Jo Earlam. The bug hunting and kick sampling results of primary schools' children's experiments were recorded as a part of the Sidmouth Biodiversity Project. Also, two 'at home' science activities were offered - build and race a rubber band car, and build a fantasy Jurassic Park model.

Based on the level of interest shown by the public throughout the year to the number of opportunities for learning and participation in scientific activities not usually open to them we believe SSF has given public benefit and is an asset to Sidmouth and East Devon.

#### Financial Review

The SSF has not held reserve funds to date. Monies are raised within each year to finance each festival and are spent on running costs. We do not have property, or assets or salaried staff to support on an ongoing basis. Any surplus money raised in any given year is used as a float to support the running costs of the following year's festival. This year was no exception but it will be noted that with less activity taking place there was a corresponding increase in the monies carried forward to support the 2021 festival and in-year activities.

There are no funds in deficit.

Our annual Accounts are shown as an Appendix to this Report.

#### Future Plans

We aim to sustain an annual Sidmouth Science Festival and related activities, keeping its tried and tested format whilst incorporating innovation and current scientific research. Where possible we will reach out to new audiences in the Sid Valley and East Devon. As this financial year drew to a close and face to face activities were still being postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic we began optimistically planning for a full programme of hands on activities and audience supported talks in 2021/2022 whilst at the same time drawing up contingency plans for an expanded virtual festival if circumstances demanded it. Cafe Scientifique continued on ZOOM and plans were made for talks to be made available online for those who could not attend events in person even if circumstances allowed a normal festival to go ahead.

#### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:


Signature: *P.E. Burt*

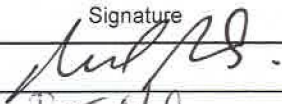
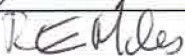
Full Name: Pamela Evelyn Burt

Position: Secretary

Date: 25/11/2021

## Appendix

 <b>CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	Sidmouth Science Festival		1168115		<b>CC16a</b>
	<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
	<b>For the period from</b>	<b>6 April 2020</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>5 April 2021</b>	
<b>Section A Receipts and payments</b>					
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Last year</b>
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants and sponsors	2,285	-	-	2,285	15,574
Advertising income	- 0	-	-	-	-
Donations	168	-	-	168	1,785
Ticket sales	- 0	-	-	-	1,322
Other	446	-	-	446	1,466
Local supporters	- 0	-	-	-	90
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	2,899	-	-	2,899	20,237
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
<b>Sub total</b>	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
<b>Total receipts</b>	2,899	- 0	- 0	2,899	20,237
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Communications	827	-	-	827	3,125
Venues and hospitality	- 0	-	-	-	2,160
Speakers, presenters, events	1,529	-	-	1,529	6,065
General and admin	366	-	-	366	806
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	2,722	-	-	2,722	12,156
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
<b>Total payments</b>	2,722	- 0	- 0	2,722	12,156
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	177	-	-	177	8,081
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	- 0	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	14,019	-	-	14,019	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	14,196	-	-	14,196	8,081
<b>Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period</b>					
<b>Categories</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>	
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		14,196	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	

	<b>Total cash funds</b>	14,196	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-0	OK	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		MICHAEL PINCOCK	24/11/21	
		ROBERT MILES	24/11/21	





## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Sidmouth Science Festival

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

5 April 2021

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1168115

**Set out on pages**

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05 April 2021.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

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:**

**Date:** 26 November 2021

**Name:** Keith W Gillanders

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

Address: Salcombe Close House

Sid Lane

Sidmouth EX10 9AW

## Section B

## Disclosure

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

None