

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 06 April 2021 to 05 April 2022

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 Rita Hedley, Robert Miles and Peter Daniel had all completed an initial 5 year term as trustees. They offered themselves for re-election which was approved unanimously.

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 tenth Sidmouth Science Festival which was held from 8th to 17th October 2021. With COVID-19 restrictions of some shape or form remaining in place for most of the Spring and Summer combined with uncertainty about likely audience participation we took a twin track approach. Plans were made for our usual hands on and audience supported events but with contingency measures for a scaled back programme of virtual talks if necessary. It was only in early September that we

decided that the risks from COVID had reduced sufficiently for us to go ahead with most of our hands on and audience supported events. Sadly, due to social distancing constraints, this did not include our Family Fun Day at the Norman Lockyer Observatory. We launched an enthusiastic publicity campaign and delivered 63 activities over the festival period including 26 speakers. The committee would like to thank all of the presenters and volunteer organisers for their flexibility and cooperation to make this happen. Events were organised for all age groups and all parts of the community, including activities for schools.

For a second year opportunities to participate in other local events were limited due to COVID concerns but we continued to run our successful monthly Cafe Scientifique using the ZOOM network and averaging some 80 participants per session.

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 2021 Sidmouth Science Festival celebrated our tenth year of activities and attracted some 2730 attendances across our 63 events. Most people came from the East Devon area but some from much further afield.

We asked for “three words” to describe their experience. Here are some of them

- * diverse intriguing informative
- * informative engaging interactive
- * wonderful fascinating educational
- * fun amazing brilliant

Our review analysis also revealed 309 facebook fans, 734 Twitter & 186 Instagram followers, and, 6200 website visits (4000 separate users and 11500 page views).

The festival commenced with an action packed Super Science Saturday with fun and talks for all the family. A gigantic dinosaur roamed through the town capturing the imagination of children and adults alike; a “Make it and Take it” zone creating felting & weaving, kites, aeroplanes, carts and more was busy throughout the day; a world record attempt for the longest “tin can telephone” took place on the beach; over 1500 pieces of art work created by local schools especially for the festival were exhibited; demonstrations of a wide range of scientific principles took place at venues across town; and, a dedicated geology venue celebrated the Jurassic Coast with a series of talks and exhibits. The momentum was maintained throughout the following week with talks ranging from making pickles to cosmic particles, from plants in space to the health of our soil, from sleeping to brewing, from COVID statistics to marine litter. Live streaming of the night sky was broadcast from the Norman Lockyer Observatory. The Youth Centre hosted talks on the physics behind the various tricks you can do on a skateboard and a Rock Guitarist, using a mixture of science and comedy, explained the physics and theory of music, including frequency and wavelengths. On the final Saturday the Parish Church hosted a Climate Day: an opportunity for local sustainability organisations to showcase their work and for people to learn how “Net Zero” is to be achieved in the Sid Valley. Talks were given by Dr Alice Bell, Dr Peter Stott and Dame Julia Slingo.

Additionally, a programme of eleven science related activities was run for ten local primary schools. 1000+ pupils attended these events. Unique for this year was the opportunity to collaborate with The Electric Voice Theatre which ran musical workshops with Sidmouth Primary School as part of the “Voices for the Future” initiative. They created a Megasong about Mary Anning, the famous paleaontologist, and her discovery of the Ichthyosaur which was broadcast on You Tube.

Sidmouth College also had a practical chemistry demonstration about the properties of gases from the Bristol University Outreach team.

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.

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. With COVID restrictions lifted we are now looking forward to mounting full festival programmes in future years and the resumption of audience attended Cafe Scientifiques.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:


P. E. Burtt.

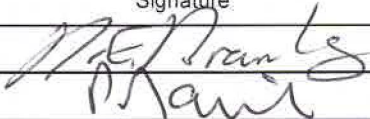
Full Name: Pamela Evelyn Burtt

Position: Secretary

Date: 13/01/2023

APPENDIX

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Sidmouth Science Festival			1168115		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	06/04/2021	To	05/04/2022		
Section A Receipts and payments						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year	
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	
A1 Receipts						
Grants and sponsors	11,241	400	-	11,641	2,285	
Advertising income	- 0	-	-	-	-	
Donations	1,903	-	-	1,903	168	
Ticket sales	- 0	-	-	-	-	
Other	1,013	-	-	1,013	446	
Local supporters	- 0	-	-	-	-	
	- 0	-	-	-	-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	14,158	400	-	14,558	2,899	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-	
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0	
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0	
Total receipts	14,158	400	- 0	14,558	2,899	
A3 Payments						
Communications	1,555	-	-	1,555	827	
Venues and hospitality	1,874	-	-	1,874	-	
Speakers, presenters, events	6,824	-	-	6,824	1,529	
General and admin	1,162	400	-	1,562	366	
	- 0	-	-	-	-	
	- 0	-	-	-	-	
	- 0	-	-	-	-	
	- 0	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	11,415	400	-	11,815	2,722	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-	
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-	
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0	
Total payments	11,415	400	- 0	11,815	2,722	
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,744	-	-	2,744	177	
A5 Transfers between funds	- 0	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,196	-	-	14,196	14,019	
Cash funds this year end	16,939	-	-	16,939	14,196	
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period						
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £		
B1 Cash funds		14,196	-	-		
		2,744	-	-		
		-	-	-		

	Total cash funds	16,940	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	0	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		D. E. BRAMLEY	13/01/23	
		P. DANIEL	13/1/23	