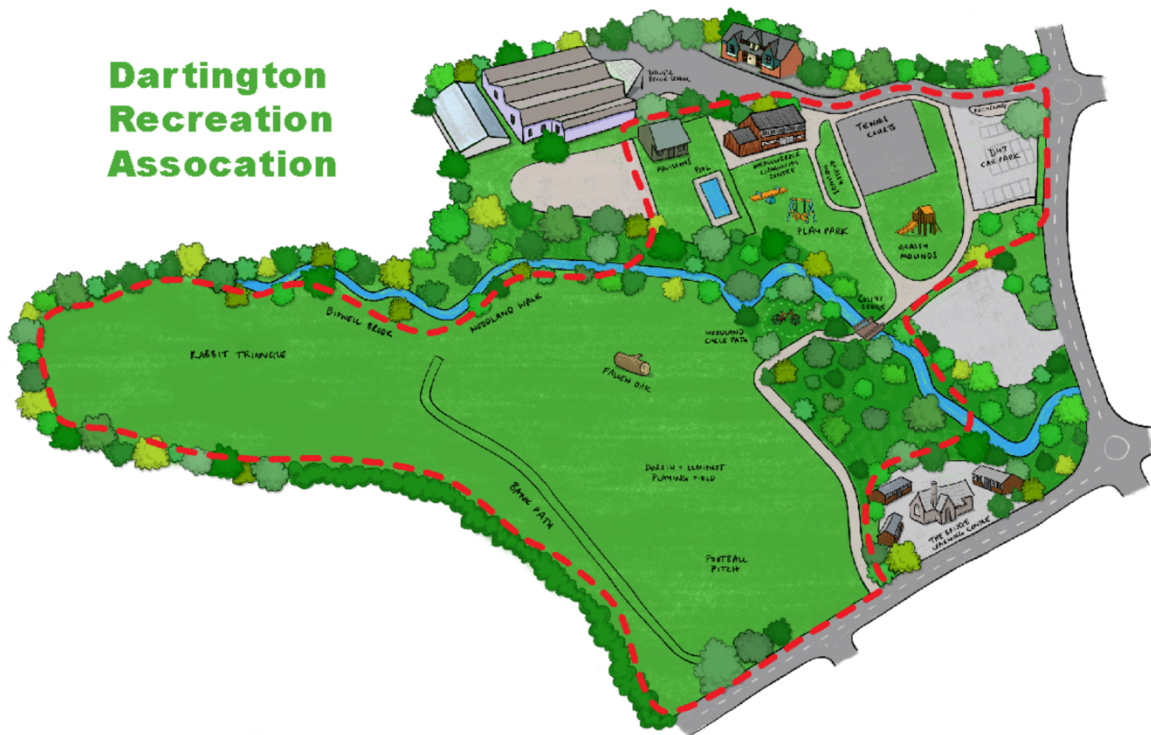


Type of governing document: Constitution

Trustee selection method: by election (appointed trustees) and nomination by affiliate clubs (nominated trustees)

To provide or assist in the provision of land and facilities for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Dartington and the surrounding area, and of such other area or areas as the trustees may from time to time resolve to invite, for recreation, sport, education or other leisure time occupation of groups and individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.



After 5 years of delivering capital projects – two phases of the play park and the bike track, this year was focussed on making the most of these amazing resources and ensuring good upkeep of the entire estate. All grants (total value £16,060) raised were used to run activities for the community or improve the existing facilities. The site is thriving as a hub for recreation and sport with eight clubs/organisations, two businesses and three schools as regular users. In good weather there are often 250 – 350 people on site using the facilities.

Sadly, the outdoor pool developed an irreparable crack and saw its last season after more than 40 years from its opening. The transformation of the pool to heated facility run on renewable energy is the next major capital project for the charity.

Main achievements

The Meadowbrook community centre is the heart of the DRA estate and continues to attract not only regular users from the village but also visitors from across Devon. Pizzalogica has established a strong reputation for delicious handmade pizza, and the New Lion Brewery maintains a varied programme of live music and events, as well as selling a wide range of locally brewed beers. Between them NLB and Pizzalogica occupy the entire downstairs space. The upstairs space comprises two large rooms, a small meeting room and a snooker room which are all available to be booked for events, meetings and parties. Regular users include Aikaido Club, Ballet classes, Kung Foo Classes, Sub Aqua Dive Club and Drama Club. To improve the accessibility of the community centre, an accessible toilet was added with baby changing facilities in Spring 2023. Most weekends we have pop up caterers serving food in the play park.

The New Lion Brewery made the difficult decision in Spring 2023 to surrender its user agreement to run the Tap Room. This was due to the difficulties being experienced by breweries across the country from the increased costs of ingredients and energy. Working with NLB, the charity enabled the management team to take on the user agreement for the Tap Room. The Tap Room was closed for two weeks for the transition and re-opened as 'Things Happen Here' in May 2023.

Thanks to funding from British Cycling a neglected parcel of woodland was transformed into an exciting two loop rustic bike track. The track opened in Spring 2022 and has proved extremely popular. It is free to use, unsupervised and accessible 24/7. It attracts a wide range of riders from very young children learning to ride to skilled bmx riders who enjoy the challenge of the bumps and burns of the inner track. The outer loop is suitable for three wheel trikes making it accessible for children and young people with disabilities from the nearby Special School. Sessions were run for children from River Dart Academy, Bidwell School, St Johns School and Dartington Primary School to increase their confidence riding. Over 75 children including 31 with additional needs or a disability took advantage of this opportunity. A bike club has been established which runs every week in good weather. It has 35 members and typical attendance of 16 riders.

Our partner Earthjump CIC has led numerous community engagement activities. They make a major positive contribution to the DRA helping to raise grants, manage the site and engaging with schools and other partners in the community.



Earthjump organised the Meadowbrook extravaganza (a day of activities for children and families) in summer 2022 and thanks to sponsorship from Totnes Town Council, raised £4800 for the DRA. The event was a true collaboration between all the clubs and different users offering people the chance to try lots of different activities ranging from Parkour to Bushcraft. The day attracted approximately 1500 people onto the site, further raising the profile of the charity.

In spring and summer 2022 they delivered 6 Natural Play sessions in the field for the public, directly engaging approximately 25 people per session.

Over the last year they have been working with 3 schools, 1 college and TRAYE (Totnes Rural Areas Youth Engagement project) to develop a Green Vision for the much valued natural spaces within our 10 acres. So far over 250 people have taken part. Ultimately, the Vision will lead onto an established Management Plan.

In autumn 2022, they set up a coffee club – a group for people over 55. The group have become active volunteers helping to maintain the site as well as regular petanque players. In partnership with The Woman's institute they have undertaken some wildlife friendly planting in the playpark. Coffee club is supported by Pizzalogica, who provide a space to meet and coffee.

In winter 2023 they created a woodland seating area to allow groups to learn and enjoy nature. This space is used weekly.

Totnes and Dartington Football Club has used the DRA football pitch for junior teams practice and matches throughout 2022/23. The teams are incredibly popular and it is not unusual for there to be 150 people (under 10s, coaches and parents) on site on a Sunday morning.

Meadowbrook is also home to the Totnes Sub Aqua Club which is a vibrant and well supported organisation with 90 members and two ribs, a compressor and a towing vehicle. The club meets weekly at the community centre and dives local wrecks and reefs, with regular expeditions in the UK and further afield. We also have a weekly session in a local pool for swimming and training. In collaboration with Earthjump, 2 schools and a youth group we delivered 11 snorkel sessions for 83 children and young people, 17 of whom had additional needs.

The Dartington Swimming Pool Club had a good season opening the pool for the summer of 2022 from May – September. They faced challenges with staffing – lifeguards are in short supply post pandemic – but the pool was as popular as ever with schools and the public. It had long been feared that the pool was coming to the end of its life. The wood frame and bag liner had lasted much longer than expected (the pool was built in 1976). The decision to close the pool is sad but not unexpected.

Pre-planning permission has been awarded for a new design which includes air source heat pumps powered by solar PV panels to heat the water, improved access and an extended shallow end making the pool much more inclusive for older and younger swimmers and those with disabilities. Work is now underway towards securing Full Planning Permission. Volunteer organised community fundraising events have been a huge success and include; a collaboration between Dartington Trust Barn Cinema, Studio Canal and RADICAL ECOLOGY.

In the winter of 2022/23 the pavilion (a single storey wooden structure) in the pool compound had a burst pipe. The water damage was severe bringing down all of the ceilings in the building and damaging the electrics. This is the second time in 4 years that the pavilion has experienced a burst pipe. All advice had been followed but it was not sufficient to mitigate the severe frost. The charity's insurance has covered the cost of the repairs, which were completed in May 2023.

New fencing and a changed access to the pavilion means that it can now be accessed without the hazard presented by entering the pool compound. This means that the facilities can be rented to local community groups as well as providing changing facilities for sports teams using the field and storage for site users.

In addition to plans to rebuild the pool, there is a longer term project to build a new community centre. The current building cannot be refurbished and as a result a new build is the only option. The project is in the early stages undertaking community consultation to develop requirements of a future centre. At the same time, work is underway to develop a sustainability plan for the charity which will include a review of current and future energy needs and the options available to the charity for more sustainable and affordable future energy supply.

The trustees are proud of the achievements of the charity this year. Meadowbrook is a vibrant hub for recreation and sport and continues to attract more volunteers and organisations wanting to become part of this exciting, inclusive community.

In 2023/24 the trustees will focus on fund raising for the pool re-development, maximising revenue from the existing facilities (particularly the pavilion), developing a Management Plan for the green spaces on site, improving the MUGA, and ensuring a diverse and inclusive range of activities.

Charity's policy on reserves

The charity retains £20,000 as a reserve. This is sufficient to cover the running costs of the charity for a year.

Financial review

The charity received £105,580 in the period 1.4.22 – 31.3.23.

This included:

ESC Lottery grant £7270 for Bike and Splash.

Funded by Sport England through the Queens Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund we have been able to establish a more inclusive community at Dartington Bike Track and teach children and young people the skills to snorkel. We developed a program of regular training opportunities for girls, children and young people with additional needs and those living in deprived areas. Natasha Bradley, World No 2 and British no 1 female champion together with Dynamic Adventure CIC delivered Bike Coaching to enable riders to develop the confidence and ability to access and enjoy the pump track.

Semble Network Action grant £ 1950; Protecting Nature for Community Wellbeing. Meadowbrook Park includes established woodland, wet meadow, amenity green space, wildflower meadow areas, hedgerows, coppiced glades and a brook which have not historically been managed and cared for. We brought people together to care for the site through surveying it and better managing it, nurturing an engaged, knowledgeable local community with more ownership of nature on site.

South West Water £1500 for Bike for People project.

We were able to get second hand bikes and new helmets to allow children from schools who didn't have these to participate in Bike sessions. This enabled us to coach an additional 120 pupils.

Grant from British Cycling £4290 for equipment for the bike track

Totnes Town Council Arts and Events Grant of £1050 to support the Extravaganza. This community day focused on raising awareness of Meadowbrook and all the different activities, groups and facilities that exist in Dartington.

The remaining funds came from a range of sources including contributions from clubs, user fees for use of the community centre, payment for use of the car park and donations.

In the same period, the charity expended £83,937. This comprises running costs of the community centre (utilities, insurance, repairs and maintenance), grant related expenditure and general maintenance of the estate.

At the financial year end, the charity held a balance of £76,154.



Trustees

Current

Margarent Cushen, Louise Morpeth, Mandy Burton, Jan Maddick, Mark Burton, Uma Oliver, James Brittain, Olivia Doherty, Ashish Ghadiali, Joel Riley, Charlotte Huish and Helen Tune

Resigned

Will Fitzgerald (May 2023)

This report was approved by Trustees on 26th September 2023.

DARTINGTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION				Charity no. 1168817	
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023					
RECEIPTS				2023	2022
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
Rent: Dartington Trust Car Park	5932			5932	5691
Other rents	66276			66276	31448
Affiliated Club Rents	0			0	845
Bank Account interest	0			0	1
Miscellaneous Income			0	0	661
Grants: Dartington Parish Council/SHDC 2015			0	0	2443
Grants SHDC S106			0	0	14163
SHDC Covid grant Pavillions/Meadowbrook rate re	0			0	16000
SHDC Covid leisure grant	0			0	2667
Fund Raising	285			285	0
Totnes Town Council grant			1050	1050	0
ESC Lottery Fund			7270	7270	0
Funding Application British Cycling			4290	4290	18320
Semble Network Action grant			1950	1950	0
South West Water grant-bike project			1500	1500	0
Donations	2632			2632	385
Insurance	0		0	0	246
Electricity income	0		0	0	408
Water and sewerage Income	0		0	0	122
Sales	690			690	0
Insurance claim	13705			13705	0
Repairs sink fund		0		0	233
TOTAL RECEIPTS	89520	0	16060	105580	93633
PAYMENTS					
Field Grass cutting & other field maintenance	7607			7607	2961
Play Park Grass cutting	0			0	580
Bins & cleaning	3513			3513	1585
Meadowbrook gas and electricity	17902			17902	12011
Meadowbrook rates	0			0	1592
General Maintenance	18489			18489	3254
Repairs Meadowbrook Building	0			0	5482
Repairs Pavillions Buildings fire extinguishers pool	0			0	11476
Swimming Pool: Water Rates	0			0	122
Pavillions Football Season Water Rates	0			0	95
Pavillions Football Season Sewerage Rates	0			0	116
Electricity Swimming Pool	0			0	50
Electricity Pavillions	0			0	18
Rates	623			623	0
Rent	500			500	0
Insurance	12656			12656	1717
Water and sewerage	3270			3270	0
Telephone	1446			1446	0
Consultancy	4843			4843	0
Accountancy and examination	718			718	0
Advertising and marketing	90			90	0
Bike Track Expenses	0		0	0	37113
Awards for all	0		0	0	5017
Grant expenditure	0		12154	12154	0
Play Park	0			0	3962
Miscellaneous	126			126	4979

Pool grass cuts	0			0	73
TOTAL PAYMENTS	71783	0	12154	83937	92203
Excess of Income over Expenditure	17737	0	3906	21643	1430
Adjustment	-4174			-4174	-79
Bank and cash balances at start of year	40387	14813	3485	58685	57334
Bank and cash balances at end of year	53950	14813	7391	76154	58685
DARTINGTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION <small>Charity no. 1168817</small> STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st MARCH 2023					
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	2023	2022
Assets					
Bank & Cash Balances					
Barclays Current	53950	14813	7391	76154	41970
Barclays Saver less covid grant					14806
Users Repairs Account					1909
	53950	14813	7391	76154	58685
Liabilities					
Independent Examiner	330			330	330

Note:

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees of Dartington Recreation Association CIO Charity no. 1168817**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dartington Recreation Association CIO for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

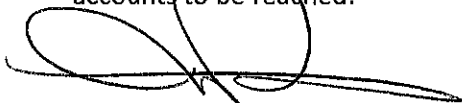
As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:
Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



I P Barrett FCA FCIE
Barretts
Chartered Accountants
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot
Devon TQ12 2JS

10th October 2023