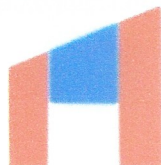


Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Registered charity number 1175075

Trustees' Annual Return & Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2024

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**Hastings &
St Leonards
Men's Shed**

Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 30 September 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statements of Recommended Practice published in 2008.

Full name: Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Other names by which the charity is known Men's Shed

Registered charity number: 1175075

Charitable structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Association Model

Principal address: 20 Manhattan Gardens, Hastings, TN35 5DQ

Trustees: Godfrey Bevan, Chair
Jerome Wesley Hill, Secretary
Mags Pawson, Treasurer
Simon Reeves

Bankers: Barclays Bank, Hastings branch

Independent examiner: Laura Dawson, employee of Hastings Voluntary Action,
Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution, adopted 12th July 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 10th October 2017.

The trustees of the charity are appointed using the guidelines laid down in the constitution. Trustees are appointed on a rotational 3 year basis, and nominations are sought from the membership.

Aims and objectives

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people aged 18 or over, within the borough of Hastings and the surrounding area, from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society through the provision of facilities in which they can meet to undertake creative, physical or recreational activities, learn or pass on skills and knowledge, and support each other socially.

Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 30 September 2024 - cont'd

For the Purposes of this clause "Socially excluded" means being excluded from Society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors; unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health(physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainmen; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Public benefit statement

Hastings and St Leonards Men's Shed follows Charity Commission Guidelines and must report annually to the Charity Commission to affirm its obligation to function for the public benefit. In planning activities, the trustees were mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Summary of the Development, Structure, Activities and Aims for the period

Hastings and St Leonards Men's Shed was set up in October 2016 by representatives of Ore Valley Big Local which was administered by Orbit Housing Association, now Hastings Voluntary Action. It is constituted as a Charity (CIO) and is run entirely by volunteers.

The Shed is aimed primarily at older men (thought there are also lady members), a group traditionally under-represented in community and social activities. Loneliness, isolation and depression are high risk factors for this group.

The health impact of loneliness has been documented by the Campaign to end Loneliness, whose report in 2015 shows that lacking social connections is as damaging to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Social networks and friendships not only have an impact on reducing the risk of mortality or developing certain diseases, but they also help individuals to recover when they do fall ill. The report showed that:

- 17% of older people are in contact with family, friends and neighbours less than once a week and 11% are in contact less than once a month.
- over half (51%) of all people aged 75 and over live alone;
- two fifths of all older people (about 3.9 million) say the television is their main company;
- 63% of adults aged 52 or over who have been widowed, and 51% of the same group who are separated or divorced report, feeling lonely some or all of the time;
- 59% of adults aged over 52 who report poor health say they feel lonely some of the time or often, compared to 21% who say they are in excellent health.

Hastings is one of the 10 most deprived areas in the country where ill-health and social isolation are of great social concern.

Shed Structure and Activities

The Shed is a 'Member' organisation managed currently by four volunteer Trustees, who are elected by the Membership, with at least one experienced volunteer in attendance at all times that the Shed is open. The Trustees are assisted by volunteer 'helpers' from amongst the Members who undertake specific tasks to facilitate the Shed's operation.

Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 30 September 2024 - cont'd

The Men's Shed aims to mitigate the problems of social isolation by providing workshops and meeting spaces where Members can pursue craft and social activities within the Shed community whilst also serving the local community. The Shed has fully equipped wood and metal workshops.

Members range from the able-bodied to the vulnerable including, for example, people with Autism, and some Dementia sufferers who can attend with carers if necessary. All levels of skill are represented with the Trustees and more skilled members helping to train those less skilled members in the use of tools and machinery in a friendly and co-operative environment.

Members can pursue their own projects but some also make goods or repair donated goods and furniture, which are sold to the local community at modest prices. This income helps to defray the running costs and also meet a local community need. As much use is made as possible of recycled and donated materials.

The Shed is normally open for three and half days per week with at least one volunteer Trustee in attendance at all times. There is a modest £5 fee to become a Member and a charge of £2 per day attended.

Currently we rent premises at 20 Manhattan Gardens next to Ore Community Centre. Though old and in need of refurbishment the building provides good facilities. Minor repairs and improvements continue to be made with the assistance of grants from Big Local and other bodies for which the Shed is most grateful, but much still needs to be done.

The Charity raises about half of its annual operating costs from its independent income from membership fees and goods made and repaired for sale to the local community with the remainder coming from grants. Rent for the building comprises about half of the operating costs. The Charity is fundraising with the aim of purchasing a building to reduce its operating costs to within its independent income so that it can continue to provide its services into the long term.

Community Support and Social Value

We believe our Shed adds social value to the community in a number of ways:

- the Members themselves benefit from having a productive activity and engaging with a community, thus reducing social isolation and depression and facilitating better cognitive functioning and improved mental wellbeing. This in turn has an effect in reducing social care costs;
- where they have them, members families and/or carers benefit from the relief given by having a secure and caring environment where the members can spend time productively;
- the local community benefits from having a low-cost source for craft items and repairs.

We know we have an impact on the families of our members as well as our members themselves. Comments such as the Shed "provides a lifeline", "you've given me my husband back", "my dad has got a purpose again", are not uncommon.

Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 30 September 2024 - cont'd

Current Position and Progress this Year

The Shed nearly had to close permanently during the Covid pandemic because it lost all of its 'self-earned' income. Fortunately it received a number of small grants which enabled it to re-open after the pandemic though attendance was initially much reduced despite the increased need as people were reluctant to mix again initially. The Shed is now growing strongly with Membership having increased from around 150 last year to around 180 at the present time.

The Shed is slowly being re-equipped with the aid of grants from Big Local and donations. This year much of the machinery has been re-located, new tool racking installed to make the maximum use of the existing space and external electricity and water connections installed. Members cleaned and repainted the side of the building and cleared overgrown flower beds which were subsequently planted by Ore-in-Bloom, much improving the appearance of the Shed's public face adjacent to the Ore Community Centre. We are also working closely with Ore-in-Bloom to fund-raise to clear the largest part of the currently derelict Shed grounds with a view to creating an accessible Community Garden and add gardening as an activity for Members and the public.

The big task this year has been to complete the clearing of the space occupied by a stage from the previous use of the building as a theatre, in order to provide more working space needed for the expanding membership. External storage has been built. Stored materials moved from inside the building to the new storage and the space is currently being repainted and re-wired to increase the usable space in the main workshop by around one third to accommodate more machines and benches. We are grateful to Big Local for a grant to meet a large part of the external costs of this work.

A new IT system and web-site has been developed by a Member enabling the Shed both to operate and communicate with the public more efficiently and effectively.

We were fortunate to have been awarded a grant of £8,000 by the Sussex Foundation which met around 50% of the operating costs for this year enabling the Shed to remain open.

We have enjoyed very supportive visits by our local MP, the Lord Lieutenant, and the High Sherriff of East Sussex this year and hope to use the higher profile gained by these visits in furthering the development of the Shed and in fund raising.

We are exploring the possibilities of collaborating with local refugee organisations to identify whether there is a helpful role that the Shed could fulfil in welcoming new members of the community.

The crucial issue for the Shed's development remains finding a building at considerably less cost so that the Shed can become financially secure for the longer term.

Unfortunately, we were not awarded a grant by the National Lottery Fund towards the cost of purchasing the building that we currently rent after two years negotiation, so we are having to start fund-raising again with the aim of purchasing the building or finding an alternative next year.

Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 30 September 2024 - cont'd

Future developments

The Shed's main aims for the next year or two are:

- to continue to meet the expanding demand for its services;
- to secure its financial future by purchasing a building or finding alternative accommodation at lower cost;
- to complete the expansion of the building's working space to meeting the increasing demand;
- to develop part of the grounds as an accessible community garden;
- to increase the range of activities of the Shed to engage with other interests of those in need, such as gardening or facilitating access by those seeking asylum.

Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 30 September 2024 - cont'd

Financial review

Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed is funded by membership fees, sales and small grants. In the period under examination the organisation received £19,602 (2023: £12,867) in income with expenditure of £16,937 (2023: £14,253) giving the group a Surplus of £2,665 (2023: a deficit of £1,386) for the period. Funds brought forward were £35,922 (2023: £37,308) giving a total reserve fund of £38,587 (2023: £35,922).

The charity's policy on reserves

The charity has no specific policy with regard to the level of reserves but aims to build a fund to contribute towards purchase of a building if possible. The charity currently holds £25,000 in a designated fund which is solely for the purpose to purchase and refurbish a building for the charity.

Accounting and reporting responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK generally accepted accounting practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources or the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustee are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and reports) Regulation 2008 and the provision of the governing document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed Godfrey E Bevan
Godfrey Bevan, Chair

Date 23 Oct 24

Signed Jerome Wesley Hill
Jerome Wesley Hill, Secretary

Date 23/10/2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee of Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

I report on the accounts of Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed for the twelve month period ended 30 September 2024 which are set out on pages 2-11.

Respective responsibilities of committee & examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

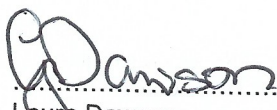
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the supporting documentation presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....

Laura Dawson
Finance Manager
Hastings Voluntary Action
Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Dated: 23/10/24

Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Receipts & Payments accounts

for the period

1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

Previous Year				Current Year	
		Notes	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	<u>Receipts</u>				
2,976	Members subs		-	3,780	3,780.00
4,170	Sales		-	4,701	4,701.02
4,983	Grants and donations		-	10,459	10,458.82
203	Bank interest		-	459	458.64
534	Sundry income		-	204	203.73
<u>12,867</u>			-	19,602	19,602.21
	<u>Payments</u>				
1,183	Consumables		-	1,007	1,007.30
1,169	Equipment		-	2,803	2,803.25
306	Refreshments and cleaning		-	440	440.37
117	Travel exps		-	10	10.00
57	Printing, postage & stationery		-	11	11.03
169	Insurance		-	234	234.41
48	Website & IT costs		-	1,068	1,068.29
60	Independent Examination		-	60	60.00
2,157	Utilities		-	1,543	1,542.99
8,100	Rent		-	8,400	8,400.00
887	Sundry payments		-	1,360	1,359.64
<u>14,253</u>			-	16,937	16,937.28
(1,386)	Net surplus		-	2,665	2,664.93
-	Transfers		-	-	-
<u>37,308</u>	Opening balances at	1/10/23	25,000	10,922	35,921.61
<u>35,922</u>	Fund balances c/f at	30/9/24	25,000	13,587	38,586.54

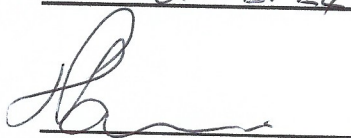
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
as at
30 September 2024

2023				2024
		Cash assets		
4,895		Current Account @ 30/09/24		7,018.22
31,025		Deposit Account @ 30/09/24		31,483.89
1		Cash in hand @ 30/09/24		84.43
		Receipts awaiting banking		-
<u>35,922</u>				<u>38,586.54</u>
		less Current liabilities		
		Uncashed cheques		
		Petty cash owed		
<u>35,922</u>				<u>38,586.54</u>

The Treasurer has a costed list of the physical assets of the organisation.

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on 23rd Oct 24 and signed on their behalf by



Mags Pawson, Treasurer



Godfrey Bevan, Chair

Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024

1 Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debt as they become due.

2 Premises & staff

The premises are rented from a local business man.
The organisation doesn't have any employees.

3 Trustees' remuneration

During the accounting period the charity didn't purchase Trustee Indemnity Insurance. Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits during the period.

4 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period.

5 Previous period comparison

The previous period's figures have been included for comparison.

6 Glossary of terms

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

