

Annual Report

1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024

Registered Charity number 1182315

Information:

Trustees

Mrs A Kilworth (Chair)
Mr G Kent (Treasurer)
Mr C Baines
Mr C Collett
Mr G Gilgrass
Mr P Jones
Mr S Luck
Mrs J Pozzoni
Mr R Todd

Independent Financial Examiner

Mr K Templeton

Hall and Correspondence Address:

Stewart Village Hall
West End
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
Oxfordshire
OX10 0RY

Background information

The Stewart Village Hall is embedded in the history of our Village. It started life in 1870 as the Village School and village publications tell the story of those halcyon days when classes were held in what is now the main hall and of legendary teachers that are still remembered fondly today. An old abacus on the wall of the main hall bears the legend, "Manners makyth man" and is a lovely reminder of the hall's original role.

There have been many changes since the Hall opened in 1976, it is maintained and run as a charitable trust to support and maintain this historic building on behalf of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell villagers, community groups, local businesses and all hall users, and to remain at the heart of our Village.

Report of the Trustees:

There has been one change to the Board of Trustees this year with Michael Moore resigning. We continue to be ably supported by Gris Davis as minute secretary and Shena Luck as Hall Manager.

Although the incorporation process was completed on 1st November 2019, we are still awaiting completion of the transfer of some assets from the 'old' charity to the new entity. We have instructed Slade Legal in Wallingford to complete this for us and they have registered the change in Title name with the Land Registry. As trustees we are responsible for both the Hall and the Swan Allotments – the allotments are constituted as a separate charity (reg charity no 1182315-1).

There are two parcels of land:

1. The Village Hall land and building, HM Land Registry title number BK124947 ("the Village Hall Land"); and
2. The Swan Allotments land title number ON377699

Legal titles to both the allotments and the Hall are vested in the Official Custodian for Charities.

The hall continued to operate successfully during the year, our annual income has increased slightly due to our fundraising efforts raising £6575. We appreciate the support of all the local groups who use the hall regularly and the people who book it for meetings, parties and celebrations. Whether for fun or fundraising, the Hall remains at the heart of the village. The range of activities carried out in the Hall has increased and include keep fit, pilates, Village Toddler group, WI, Bowling, Badminton, Dance groups, war gamers, lectures, and exhibitions.

We would also like to acknowledge the support we received from the Community Association and the Parish Council.

Because ongoing support from our community is key to the success and future of the Hall we try to maintain and improve the hall and our facilities for all users and have continued to carry out regular maintenance tasks.

In February 2024 we were granted planning permission to carry out a restoration and enhancement project. This will include extending the hall and upgrading all the essential elements, new roof and clay tile covering, electrics and heating, bringing some much-needed improvements to the insulation and structure of the building.

In developing the plan we carried out 2 village surveys, had an information stand at all village events and had regular updates in the village magazine which is delivered by hand to every house in the parish. We believe that these activities have ensured the plan developed is one the community approve of and the overriding feedback has been 'it will be a great improvement to this vital community building'.

The focus of the project now turns to fundraising the monies required to achieve this ambitious project. We believe securing the funding could take 18 months or more and we have a dedicated fundraising team working on this.

During this year several successful fundraising events have taken place including a Ladies Disco, Bridge Afternoon and Wine Tasting. A Cosy Café is hosted once a week and has proved a very successful meeting place for the community. More events are already planned for this year along with our continued attendance at Village Events.

Review of Financial Activities

First, we must acknowledge and thank Shena Luck for her continued help and support, as always this is key to how smoothly the accounts process works, she has mastered the use of Hallmaster, an online booking and invoicing system and it is firmly embedded into our ways of working and has benefits for both Hall users and for Hall management.

Stewart Village Hall accounts are produced based on receipts and payments. Although we are not required to have these audited under The Charity Commission reporting guidelines, we believe it is good practice to have our accounts reviewed independently annually.

Our accounts:

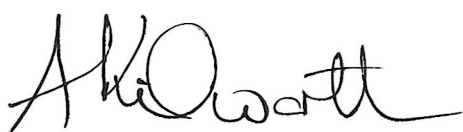
Our income has increased slightly to £30,692 (2021-22 £26,123) and expenditure of £24,220 (2021-22) £19,198). Giving a balance of £6,472.

Our Balance Sheet shows our total account balances at 31/3/22 was £62,237. With the prospect of a Restoration project in the future we have been actively fundraising and seeing grants and donations to assist with the running costs of the hall and to continue to build our reserves to put us in a stronger position when seeking funding for the project.

Looking forward, we will continue to work to maintain the hall for all our users. Any maintenance expenditure will be weighed against future proofing of the work (ie will it exist after refurbishment) or if it is essential maintenance that must be carried out to allow hall hirers to safely and comfortably use the hall thus securing our income.

Annual report Balance Sheet and Income/Expenditure reports are copied below.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by



Annette Kilworth
Chair of Trustees

Date 24/5/2024

STEWART VILLAGE HALL

Balance Sheet to 31st March 2024

		31/03/2024		31/03/2023	
Property	Old School House		£ 34,266		£ 34,266
Bank	Current Account	£	14,143	£	9,900
	COIF Account	£	48,094	£	45,865
			£ 96,503		£ 90,031
General Fund	Balance at start of year		£ 90,031		£ 83,106
	Surplus (deficit) for the year		£ 6,472		£ 6,925
	Balance at the end of Year		£ 96,503		£ 90,031

Receipts and Payments Accounts 31st March 2024

		31/03/2024	31/03/2023
Receipts	Hall Letting and Furniture Hire	£ 17,306	£ 17,009
	Current and Deposit Account Interest	£ 2,229	£ 526
	Allotments/Wayleave	£ 238	£ 238
	Grants and Donations	£ 4,344	£ 5,561
	Fundraising	£ 6,575	£ 2,789
	Sundry		
	Total Receipts	£ 30,692	£ 26,123
	Utilities (water,gas,electric)	£ 4,496	£ 3,248
	Insurance	£ 1,411	£ 1,267
	Caretakers and Cleaners	£ 5,520	£ 5,460
	Cleaning Materials	£ 346	£ 322
	New Equipment & Improvements	£ 95	£ 3,479
	Repairs & Maintenance	£ 3,494	£ 2,607
	Performing Rights Society	£ 204	£ 255
	Subscriptions & Licences	£ 676	£ 638
	Stationery/Post/Telephone	£ 4	£ 3
	Advertising	£ 272	£ 165
	Sundry Expenses	£ 1,246	£ 1,300
	Project Costs	£ 5,331	
	Fundraising Costs	£ 1,125	£ 454
	Total Payments	£ 24,220	£ 19,198
	Surplus (deficit) for the year	£ 6,472	£ 6,925