

**Somerset Levels and Moors Shed (SLaMS)**  
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**Charity Number 1182815**

**Trustees' Annual Report  
and Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended  
31st December 2023**

## **Somerset Levels and Moors Shed CIO**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

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## **Somerset Levels and Moors Shed CIO**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

#### **Legal and Administrative Information**

##### **Status**

The Somerset Levels and Moors Shed (SLaMS) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered on 5th April 2019.

##### **Registered Number**

Registered charity number: 1182815

##### **Principal Address**

Canal Workshop  
Canal View  
Old Taunton Road  
Bridgwater  
Somerset  
TA6 3NS

##### **Trustees**

The trustees who served during the year were as follows

Colin D Gorton (Chair to 9th May; from 30th Nov)	(appointed 10th January 2019)
Tom Hart	(appointed 10th January 2019)
Stuart H Jackson (Treasurer)	(appointed 30th June 2020)
Michael G Brown	(appointed 30th June 2020)
Gerald Swayne (Secretary)	(appointed 10th August 2021)
Gordon A Godfrey	(appointed 17th May 2022)
Peter J Smith	(appointed 17th May 2022)

##### **Trustees appointed during the year**

Simon Blackley (Chair 9th May to 13th November)	(appointed 9th May 2023)
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## **Somerset Levels and Moors Shed**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023.

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

The Somerset Levels and Moors Shed (SLaMS) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO is governed by a constitution, with charity trustees to be elected by members at its Annual General Meeting. Any vacant seats may be filled by nomination, election and verification process held by the existing trustees during the year.

The charity trustees are responsible for the management and overall control of the CIO. All trustees are volunteers and undertake activities to further the objects of SLaMS as required, with no remuneration or financial benefit received for their time, which is given freely. No remuneration or benefits or expenses were paid to any connected persons during this period.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the charity are to promote for the public benefit of persons living in Bridgwater, its adjacent towns, villages and the isolated rural communities of the Somerset Levels and Moors, in particular but not exclusively older men, preventing them from becoming socially excluded, and assisting them to integrate into society through the provision of a venue ("Shed") or venues ("Sheds") in which they can meet and jointly or individually undertake and share creative, physical, social and recreational activities of their choice.

SLaMS offers a practical skills sharing environment, where all members contribute to the life of the Shed, working on their own projects, community based projects or those commissioned by members of the public.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

Our beneficiaries include men and women aged 18+, though our members are predominantly male retirees. Many are dealing with issues around physical or mental health, social isolation, ageing, unemployment and include carers seeking respite, ex-offenders/probationers re-integrating back into society, and refugees/asylum seekers awaiting settlement in the UK.

Our members' life experiences are quite diverse. This diversity is a strong feature of Shed life and contributes significantly to our aims of being welcoming and inclusive for all, irrespective of background, aptitude or ability. Our social space and practical workshop environment provide an opportunity for men, who may be struggling to cope with mental health and social isolation, to connect with other men through shared practical activity.

## Somerset Levels and Moors Shed

### Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

The resultant community is one of mutual support, good humour and a strong *esprit de corps*, and greatly contributes to maintaining each individual's sense of worth, acceptance and wellbeing.

As might be expected given the life circumstances of many of our service users, our membership numbers fluctuate, though we retain a core group of around 15 members, providing sufficient continuity for volunteer Trustees and Session Supervisors, and which also enables us to plan ahead in accepting community and other commissioned projects.

2023 has largely been a year of further, steady recovery from the effects of Covid 19 lockdowns and reduced operations between 2020 and 2022. Despite the loss of some members, our membership has again grown steadily such that at year end we had attracted 11 new members and retained a total membership of 32. We were able to sustain twice weekly sessions throughout the period, with an average attendance of 11 members per session. The table below provides the comparison with previous years.

	(SLaMS UA) 2019	(SLaMS UA) 2020	(SLaMS UA & CIO) 2021	(SLAMS CIO) 2022	(SLaMS CIO) 2023
Membership	30	11	19	25	32
Total Sessions	150	40	54	101	102
Total Attendees	1337	266	330	811	1108
Average attendees/ session	8.9	6.6	6.1	8.0	10.9

In respect of community involvement our members have been busy constructing a number of commissioned items, amongst which are :

- For West Monkton and Hamp Infants Schools - wellington boot storage units - for safer storage of outdoor footwear and to encourage children's participation in outdoor curricular activities.
- For SHAL Housing Association - recycling bin storage units - to encourage residents' recycling behaviours, improve the external visual appearance of properties and to deliver an element of "social uplift" to the immediate neighbourhood.
- Remembrance Day soldier silhouettes for The Royal British Legion

We have continued our contacts with signposting agencies and others, including *inter alia* the Probation Service, NHS Adult Community Mental Health Service, and Third Sector agencies working with refugees temporarily accommodated in hotels near M5 Junction 24. responding to individual needs as required. We are also engaged with the Somerset Integrated Care System - Bridgwater Connect initiative which seeks to improve the connections among health, care and other services and the local VCSE sector of which SLaMS is a small, but niche, element. From grants received in-year, we have established a Hardship Fund to assist those in financial difficulty (as a result of the "Cost of Living Crisis") to access and fully participate in Shed activities. Since October 2023, we have publicised and operated The Shed as a "Warm Space".

## **Somerset Levels and Moors Shed CIO**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

Further grants have enabled us to replace significant elements of our woodworking equipment, much of which was acquired second hand and was increasingly becoming "time expired", as well as replenish our stock of essential consumables (PPE, First Aid supplies etc).

#### **Reserves Policy**

Our aim is to retain a minimum 12 months of annual overhead costs in unrestricted reserves as a operational buffer in the event of funding sources substantially reducing or ceasing. This has been achieved.

#### **Financial Review**

Income in 2023 amounted to £28158 of which almost £3000 was as a result of members completing projects commissioned by individuals or community organisations.

Grants received during the year were:

- £5600 from Hinckley Point C "Safe Day" Fund - AED, Replacement 18V hand held and other power tools, Replacement PPE, First Aid materials and other consumables; contribution to operating costs.
- £2039 from The Cooperative Local Community Fund - for materials and consumables for community projects.
- £1000 from Bridgwater Town Council - to replace ageing machine tools.
- £5140 from The Open Mental Health Network - Hardship Fund, Warm Spaces, Christmas Meal etc.
- £4920 from Somerset Community Foundation, HPC Community Fund - materials and consumables for SHAL Housing Association recycling bin storage units.

Operating payments were £13256, of which the single largest item (£5651) was rent for the workshop. Significant capital expenditure during the year of £3346 was spent on an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), upgrading/replacing ageing capital equipment (bandsaw, router) and replacing a diverse and ageing range of 24v corded power tools with new trade rated 18V power tools, bringing total payments for the year to £16603. The charity made a net profit of £11555, and at year end unrestricted cash funds of £15351 were available, with a further £9232 available in restricted funds.

The accounts were reviewed and passed by an independent examiner on 15th April 2024 and found to be an accurate record of the Shed's financial operations.

Approved by the Trustees on 24th April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



C D Gorton Trustee (Chairman)



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Somerset Levels and Moors Shed

1182815

## Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period  
from

01-Jan-23

To

31-Dec-23

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Members Contributions	5,015	-	-	5,015	3,313
Earned Income	2,978	-	-	2,978	1,600
Donations and Bequests	1,436	-	-	1,436	280
Grants	-	18,699	-	18,699	-
Other Income	30	-	-	30	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>9,458</b>	<b>18,699</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,158</b>	<b>5,193</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Sale of Tools	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>9,458</b>	<b>18,699</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,158</b>	<b>5,193</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Rent	5,351	300	-	5,651	5,651
Insurances	339	306	-	645	651
Utilities	-	503	-	470	335
Professional and Legal Services	90	-	-	90	119
Comms and Marketing	81	334	-	415	497
Training	-	77	-	77	500
Tools, Equipments and infrastructure Maintenance	154	744	-	898	311
Materials and Consumables	818	1,309	-	2,127	420
PPE and First Aid	-	187	-	187	59
Travel & Subsistence	-	199	-	199	-
Support to Shed membership	-	1,499	-	1,499	-
Support to Shed Projects	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>6,799</b>	<b>6,457</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,256</b>	<b>8,543</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Capital Tools and Machinery	336	2,170	-	2,505	543
Capital Infrastructure Assets	-	841	-	841	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>3,011</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,346</b>	<b>543</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>7,135</b>	<b>9,468</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,603</b>	<b>9,086</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,323</b>	<b>9,232</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,555</b>	<b>- 3,893</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>13,028</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,028</b>	<b>16,921</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>15,351</b>	<b>9,232</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,583</b>	<b>13,028</b>

ilities



## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Coop Bank	15,351	9,232	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>15,351</b>	<b>9,232</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

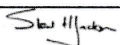

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

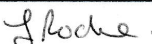
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Machinery	Unrestricted	-	2,671
	Hand Power Tools	Unrestricted	-	1,065
	Tools	Unrestricted	-	527
	Workshop Fixtures	Unrestricted	-	540
	Domestic/Safety Infrastructure	Unrestricted	-	889
			-	-

	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
	Stuart H Jackson	22-Mar-24
	CD Gordon	24/4/24

Independent Inspection

		Date of Inspection
	J Roche	15/4/24





# Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A	Independent Examiner's Report
Report to the trustees/members of	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <small>Charity Name</small>  <b>Somerset Levels and Moors Shed (SLaMS)</b> </div>
On accounts for the year ended	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 10px;"> <b>3 1 1 2 2 3</b> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <small>Charity no (if any)</small> <b>1 1 8 2 8 1 5</b> </div> </div>
Set out on pages	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,</li> <li>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</li> <li>to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</li> </ul>
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 accounts 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.</p>
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):</p> <p>(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;</li> <li>to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or</li> </ul> <p>(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p> <p><small>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</small></p>
Signed	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 60%;"> <i>J Roche</i> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 35%;"> Date <b>15/4/2024</b> </div> </div>
Name	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Judith Roche </div>
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <b>NONE</b> </div>
Address	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> The Willows Woodhill  Stoke St Gregory  Taunton  Somerset TA3 6EN </div>