

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 2024**

Somerset Levels and Moors Shed CIO

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

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Somerset Levels and Moors Shed CIO

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

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)	(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 who resigned during the year

Tom Hart	(resigned 21st May 2024)
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Somerset Levels and Moors Shed

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

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 2024

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.

2024 has largely been a year when we further consolidated our recovery from the effects of Covid 19 lockdowns and reduced operations between 2020 and 2022. Given the natural churn in membership our numbers have largely stabilised such that at year end we had attracted 6 new members and retained a total membership of 29. On some days attendance at our twice weekly sessions exceeded practical limits. As a consequence from May 2024 we opened on a third day, with the intention that not only would members' attendance be spread over the extra weekly session, but also by offering a third day, we hoped to attract further new members. In practice this was of limited success, with attendance on the third day remaining low and consistently attracting only a few of our very regular members. While overall attendance and participation is up on previous years, average attendance is down from 2023, predominantly due to low attendance on the new Wednesday session. The table below provides comparison with previous years.

	(SLaMS UA) 2020	(SLaMS UA & CIO) 2021	(SLAMS CIO) 2022	(SLaMS CIO) 2023	(SLaMS CIO) 2024
Membership	11	19	25	32	29
Total Sessions	40	54	101	102	137
Total Attendees	266	330	811	1108	1164
Average attendees/ session	6.6	6.1	8.0	10.9	8.5

We have continued our contacts with signposting agencies and others, including *inter alia* the Probation Service in both Bridgwater and Taunton, NHS Adult Community Mental Health Service, and Third Sector agencies working in the mental health space, and with refugees temporarily accommodated in hotels near M5 Junction 24, responding to individual needs as required.

From time to time we have hosted talks by NHS professionals on aspects of male health. This is often well received by our members, and in many cases has resulted in improved awareness and self care.

We have continued to operate 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.

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

Somerset Levels and Moors Shed CIO

Since October 2024, we have publicised and operated The Shed as a “Warm Space”. We received a modest grant as part of Somerset Community Foundation’s “Help through Winter” scheme which enabled us to keep the workshop heating on during the coldest months and provide a weekly hot bacon roll or similar “Man Food” from a visiting burger van on alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays. This proved to be very popular indeed, encouraging attendance on days when several members would normally stay at home.

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

- For West Monkton School and Hamp Infants School - completion of projects started in 2023 - wellington boot storage units - for safer storage of outdoor footwear and to encourage children’s participation in outdoor curricular activities.
- For SHAL Housing Association - completion of a large project started in 2023 to produce 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.
- For Quantock National Park Service - completion of a number of bird boxes, some of which have been decorated by children from schools based in the Quantock Hills.

2024 concluded with no significant Health and Safety incidents or accidents. There was a small number of minor injuries requiring nothing more than a plaster. Trustees and members both recognise the achievement while readily acknowledging the need to guard against complacency. The frequency of incidents and minor first aid cases is recorded and discussed on a quarterly basis with any recommendations for further mitigation being agreed and implemented. The Shed continues to implement the management of risk to ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practical) principles.

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 2024 amounted to £12,272 of which £4890 was as a result of members completing projects commissioned by individuals or community organisations.

Only one grant was received during the year - £1100 from The Somerset Community Foundation’s “Help through Winter“ initiative.

Operating payments were £16204, of which the single largest item (£6334) was rent for the workshop. Capital expenditure during the year of £1207 was incurred on a new bandsaw. The charity made a net loss of £5138 and at year end unrestricted cash funds of £16130 were available, with a further £3315 available in restricted funds.

The accounts were reviewed and passed by an independent examiner on 25th April 2025 and found to be an accurate record of the Shed's financial operations.

Approved by the Trustees on 25th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C D Gorton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

C D Gorton Trustee (Chairman



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Domerset Levels and Moors Shed

1182815

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Jan-24

To

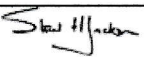

31-Dec-24

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					
Members Contributions	5,419		-	5,419	5,015
Earned Income	4,890	-	-	4,890	2,978
Donations and Bequests	781	-	-	781	1,436
Grants		1,100	-	1,100	18,699
Other Income	82	-	-	82	30
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,172	1,100	-	12,272	28,158
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sale of Tools	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,172	1,100	-	12,272	28,158
A3 Payments					
Rent	6,334		-	6,334	5,651
Insurances	323	338	-	661	645
Utilities	366	170	-	536	470
Professional and Legal Services	73	-	-	73	90
Comms and Marketing	414	12	-	426	415
Training		360	-	360	77
Tools, Equipments and infrastructure Maintenance	576	161		738	898
Materials and Consumables	1,842	771	-	2,614	2,127
PPE and First Aid		121		121	187
Travel & Subsistance	279	156	-	434	199
Support to Shed membership		806		806	1,499
Support to Shed Projects		3,100	-	3,100	1,000
Sub total	10,208	5,996	-	16,204	13,256
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Capital Tools and Machinery	185	1,022	-	1,207	2,505
Capital Infrastructure Assets			-	-	841
Sub total	185	1,022	-	1,207	3,346
Total payments	10,393	7,017	-	17,410	16,603
Net of receipts/(payments)	779	- 5,917	-	- 5,138	11,555
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,351	9,232	-	24,583	13,028
Cash funds this year end	16,130	3,315	-	19,445	24,583

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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	Coop Bank	15,617	3,315	-
	Unbanked Cash	513	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,130	3,315	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Machinery	Unrestricted	-	2,984
	Hand Power Tools	Unrestricted	-	683
	Tools	Unrestricted	-	527
	Workshop Fixtures	Unrestricted	-	540
	Domestic/Safety Infrastructure	Unrestricted	-	678
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		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	
		Stuart H Jackson	07-Apr-25	
			Date of Inspection	
Independent Inspection		J Roche	23-4-25	



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

Somerset Levels and Moors Shed (SLaMS)

On accounts for the year ended

3 1 1 2 2 3

Charity no (if any)

1 1 8 2 8 1 5

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and 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 statement

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.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

- (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 comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

J Roche

Date

15/4/2024

Name

Judith Roche

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

NONE

Address

The Willows Woodhill

Stoke St Gregory

Taunton

Somerset TA3 6EN

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Give here brief details of any items that the
examiner wishes to disclose