

Annual Report for The Mere Lecture Hall Trust
For the Year Ending 30th June 2021

(Charity Registration Number 202620)

1 Administrative Details

Registered Office:

Newport House
Salisbury Street
Mere
Wiltshire
BA12 6HE

Correspondence Address:

Chris Wood (Treasurer)
Swainsford Fish Farm
Woodlands Road
Mere
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 6BY

Trustees as of 30th June 2021:

Mr A Bristow	Mr S Burroughs	Rev M Laurie
Mr Gareth James	Mrs D Potter	Mr P Platt-Higgins
Mr A Rees	Mr C Rutter (chairman)	Mrs H Watts
Mr Simon Rutter	Mr B Watts	Mrs M White
Mrs Audrey Hart-Roy	Mr C Wood (treasurer)	

Number of Active Trustees at Year End: 14

Custodian Trustee:

Legal Trustee Limited
Company registration number 00195819
C/O Rutters Solicitors
2 Bimport
Shaftesbury
Dorset
SP7 8AY

Trust Document:

The Trust was created by Deed dated November 22, 1924

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2 Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is governed by up to 25 Administrative Trustees, with the backing of a Custodian Trustee. Six Trustees are especially representative of the Christian presence in the town and are elected by their own churches each for a period of three years. The rest are self-perpetuating, elected by the remaining trustees for an indefinite term, being gathered from the local community resident within 13 miles' radius.

"The Administrative Trustees shall manage or superintend the management of the trust properties with power to deal therewith as if they were absolute owners thereof." They thus have wide powers.

The Trustees currently meet once or twice a year. They annually elect a management committee to manage the day-to-day business of the trust, consisting of a chairman, secretary, treasurer and four others plus a hall manager. They also appoint a Grants' sub-committee of up to 5 trustees. The management committee meets as required, but usually 4 – 6 times a year. The Trustees approve the annual accounts, set the level of grants for the year, receive and discuss the management committee's report and decide items of policy.

The Trustees employ the services of a Caretaker/Cleaner for the Lecture Hall building. Although they are at liberty to employ any other servant if they wish, all the office holders are also trustees and act in a voluntary capacity. From time to time they employ professional help as required.

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3 Public Benefit Statement

The Primary Objective of the Trust is to provide a meeting place for the community of Mere and surrounding area for non-commercial use. This enables the various groups that make up the community to meet and develop spiritually, physically and socially.

The Hall is available to all sections and groups within the community although there are restrictions on use based on the requirements as set out by the original Trust Deed and the limitations of the building.

The Grants provided to the local community require the benefit to be used within an 8 mile radius of Mere and the purposes of the grant must be consistent with the objectives of the Trust as set out in the original Trust Deed.

None of the Trustees receive any benefit, direct or indirectly from the Trust.

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4 Objectives and Activities

"The objects of the Trust are the promotion of the spiritual, moral, intellectual or social welfare of the inhabitants of Mere in the County of Wiltshire and elsewhere, along lines not inconsistent with non-conforming Christianity, or the promotion of temperance, or the promotion of similar charitable objects elsewhere."

To this end the "Lecture Hall" building, a main 100-seater hall and stage, two smaller halls and various ancillary spaces, was given to the Trust in 1924. In many ways it serves as a community hall. At the same time various properties were also given to the trust as endowment for the Hall to ensure its spiritual freedom and financial independence.

The Trustees maintain the Hall as an attractive and suitable venue for many local activities as a benefit to the community. One of the halls is now a coffee bar and there are modern toilets and disabled facilities. The rooms are offered for rent at a subsidised rate to the community and at a commercial rate for commercial purposes.

The trustees endeavour to make small grants each year to community organisations and continue to explore opportunities to promote the objects of the Trust.

To maintain a viable level of income, the trustees maintain, manage and let a number of properties, both residential and commercial.

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5 Achievements and Financial Review

Having been closed for certain periods during the pandemic the Mere Lecture Hall is now being well used and the Trust is now able to meet the primary objective of providing a suitable venue for the people of Mere and district.

The Trust continued to do various works to maintain the properties the Trust owns and manages. The Trust endeavours to keep abreast of current legislation to ensure all the properties are within the Health and Safety and building regulations.

The property known as Hartfield has been substantially renovated and is now let. Two, fully documented short term loans of £10,000 each at interest of 5% p.a. have been made by two of the trustees to cover the work on Hartfield. The main and front hall have been redecorated and a new efficient gas central heating boiler has been fitted to replace the two 20-year-old boilers. As of 30th June 2021, all the trust properties are let bar Homelea which has just become vacant and is awaiting refurbishment.

During the pandemic some rent holiday was agreed with the snooker club as they were unable to use the premises and no grants were given during the year ending 30th June 2021.

Two long standing trustees have regretfully had to resign their trusteeships and attempts will be made to find new trustees.

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th June 2021
for
Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

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Mere Lecture Hall Trust

General Information

for the Year Ended 30th June 2021

TREASURER:

C R C Wood

ADDRESS:

Newport House
Salisbury Street
Mere
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 6HE

ACCOUNTANT:

Gordon Chubb
542 Bishops Caundle
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 5ND

Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30th June 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 30th June 2021.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners

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 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act)
- 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 Commissioners. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given in the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements have not been met:-

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

Gordon Chubb
542 Bishops Caundle Sherborne
Dorset DT9 5ND

Date: 1st October 2021

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

**Trading and Profit and Loss Account
for the Year Ended 30th June 2021**

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations received	-		10	
The Gables - ground floor	6,500		6,500	
The Gables - Drama Room	400		400	
The Gables - Top floor flat	6,678		3,045	
Hartfield	3,180		600	
Courtfield	4,800		4,813	
Newport House - Maisonette 1	5,700		5,700	
Newport House - Maisonette 2	7,125		4,557	
Newport House - Office	1,620		1,560	
Town & Country House - office	5,000		5,000	
Town & Country House - snooker room	637		605	
Homelea	6,722		6,900	
Truscott	7,500		7,968	
Lecture hall	718		3,169	
Garage	<u>480</u>		<u>480</u>	
		57,060		51,307
Property direct costs				
Repairs to property - Gables	85		295	
Repairs to property-Courtfield	265		630	
Repairs to property - Newport House	484		6,649	
Repairs to property - Truscott	323		85	
Repairs to property - Homelea	85		680	
Repairs to property - Lecture Hall	6,212		1,300	
Repairs to property - Town & Country House	-		19,500	
Repairs to property-Hartfield	<u>66,987</u>		<u>85</u>	
		<u>74,441</u>		<u>29,224</u>
GROSS (LOSS)/PROFIT		(17,381)		22,083
Establishment costs				
Security	476		822	
Management fees	5,262		5,124	
Rates, water, & insurance	4,913		5,214	
Cleaning	1,107		1,622	
Heating & lighting	<u>1,883</u>		<u>2,786</u>	
		<u>13,641</u>		<u>15,568</u>
		(31,022)		6,515
Administrative expenses				
Telephone	315		297	
Post and stationery	-		17	
Advertising	110		110	
Sundry expenses	187		-	
Accountancy	650		600	
Donations & grants	<u>-</u>		<u>4,000</u>	
		<u>1,262</u>		<u>5,024</u>
Carried forward		(32,284)		1,491

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Trading and Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 30th June 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward		(32,284)		1,491
Depreciation				
Improvements to property	696		696	
Plant and machinery	<u>234</u>		<u>275</u>	
		<u>930</u>		<u>971</u>
NET (LOSS)/PROFIT		<u><u>(33,214)</u></u>		<u><u>520</u></u>

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Balance Sheet

30th June 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	1		191,829		192,759
CURRENT ASSETS					
Trade debtors		497		299	
Deposits held by Gilyard					
Scarth		5,407		5,258	
Bank current account		11,701		24,470	
Cash in hand		<u>84</u>		<u>142</u>	
		<u>17,689</u>		<u>30,169</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade creditors		244		1,239	
Deposits received from tenants		5,407		5,258	
Accrued expenses		1,250		600	
Loan - Peter Platt		10,000		-	
Loan - Chris Wood		<u>10,000</u>		<u>-</u>	
		<u>26,901</u>		<u>7,097</u>	
			(9,212)		<u>23,072</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>182,617</u>		<u>215,831</u>
FINANCED BY					
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	2		<u>182,617</u>		<u>215,831</u>

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

Charles Rutter
Chairman

Chris Wood
Treasurer

Date: 30th September 2021

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30th June 2021

1. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST					
At 1st July 2020					
and 30th June 2021	<u>159,462</u>	<u>34,803</u>	<u>2,391</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>198,835</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1st July 2020	-	3,176	721	2,179	6,076
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>930</u>
At 30th June 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>3,872</u>	<u>955</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>7,006</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 30th June 2021	<u>159,462</u>	<u>30,931</u>	<u>1,436</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>191,829</u>
At 30th June 2020	<u>159,462</u>	<u>31,627</u>	<u>1,670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192,759</u>

2. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Brought forward	215,831		215,311	
Add				
Net profit	<u>-</u>		<u>520</u>	
	215,831		215,831	
Less				
Net loss	<u>33,214</u>		<u>-</u>	
		<u>182,617</u>		<u>215,831</u>
		<u>182,617</u>		<u>215,831</u>