

Annual Report for The Mere Lecture Hall Trust
For the Year Ending 30th June 2023

(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 2023:

Mr A Bristow	Mr S Burroughs	Mr P Platt-Higgins
Mr A Rees	Mr C Rutter (chairman)	Mr S Rutter
Mr B Watts	Mrs H Watts	Mrs M White
Mr C Wood (treasurer)		

Number of Active Trustees at Year End: 10

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 Saturday 22nd November 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

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.

Considerable work was done to the Lecture Hall itself with a complete electrical overhaul and certification along with a refurbishment of the rear toilet and fitting child gates to the main hall doors.

The main expense was for the final bill for the refurbishment of Homelea.

All properties were let for the year and rent reviews have been agreed with a number of tenants which will reflect in the income in the next financial year.

As the number on trustees has been falling in recent years it was agreed that new potential trustees should be sought and a number of people have come forward and will be put to the AGM for approval in September.

Use of the hall has increased considerably and it is hoped that this increase will continue.

A £1000 grant was made in the year and it is hoped that the AGM will agree to a significant increase in the following financial year.

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

for

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

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Copy for Signing

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

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Mere Lecture Hall Trust
General Information
for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

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 2023

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 2023.

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:

30 October, 2023

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
The Gables - ground floor	6,500		6,862	
The Gables - Drama Room	400		400	
The Gables - Top floor flat	6,750		6,997	
Hartfield	9,540		9,540	
Courtfield	4,850		4,800	
Newport House - Maisonette 1	5,700		5,700	
Newport House - Maisonette 2	7,920		7,920	
Newport House - Office	1,584		1,560	
Town & Country House - office	5,000		5,000	
Town & Country House - snooker room	850		921	
Homelea	8,096		-	
Truscott	7,550		7,500	
Lecture hall	5,444		4,161	
Garage	480		480	
		70,664		61,841
Property direct costs				
Repairs to property - Gables	206		258	
Repairs to property-Courtfield	90		2,846	
Repairs to property				
- Newport House	190		3,075	
Repairs to property - Truscott	174		90	
Repairs to property - Homelea	23,530		4,861	
Repairs to property - Lecture Hall	7,077		15,263	
Repairs to property-Hartfield	95		120	
		31,362		26,513
GROSS PROFIT		39,302		35,328
Establishment costs				
Security	1,157		862	
Management fees	6,997		5,271	
Rates, water, & insurance	6,915		6,229	
Cleaning	2,717		1,836	
Heating & lighting	4,686		1,572	
		22,472		15,770
		16,830		19,558
Administrative expenses				
Telephone	299		328	
Post and stationery	-		353	
Advertising	50		50	
Sundry expenses	151		115	
Accountancy	650		650	
Other professional fees	-		120	
Legal fees	976		-	
Donations & grants	1,000		(3)	
		3,126		1,613
Carried forward		13,704		17,945

Mere Lecture Hall Trust
Profit and Loss Account
for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Brought forward	13,704	17,945
Finance costs		
Bank charges	(30)	-
Trustee loan interest	<u>2,103</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,073</u>	<u>-</u>
	11,631	17,945
Depreciation		
Improvements to property	696	696
Plant and machinery	<u>169</u>	<u>199</u>
	<u>865</u>	<u>895</u>
NET PROFIT	<u><u>10,766</u></u>	<u><u>17,050</u></u>

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Balance Sheet 30th June 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	1	190,399	191,263
CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade debtors		282	107
Deposits held by Gilyard			
Scarth		6,259	5,337
Bank current account		20,200	29,038
Cash in hand		457	20
		<u>27,198</u>	<u>34,502</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade creditors		255	111
Deposits received from tenants		6,259	5,337
Accrued expenses		650	650
Loan - Peter Platt		-	10,000
Loan - Chris Wood		-	10,000
		<u>7,164</u>	<u>26,098</u>
		<u>20,034</u>	<u>8,404</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>210,433</u>	<u>199,667</u>
FINANCED BY			
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	2	<u>210,433</u>	<u>199,667</u>

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

Chairman

Treasurer

Date: 5-10-23

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30th June 2023**

1. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST					
At 1st July 2022					
and 30th June 2023	<u>159,462</u>	<u>34,803</u>	<u>2,720</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>199,164</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1st July 2022	-	4,568	1,154	2,179	7,901
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>864</u>
At 30th June 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>5,264</u>	<u>1,322</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>8,765</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 30th June 2023	<u>159,462</u>	<u>29,539</u>	<u>1,398</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>190,399</u>
At 30th June 2022	<u>159,462</u>	<u>30,235</u>	<u>1,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>191,263</u>

2. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2023	2022
	£	£
Brought forward	199,667	182,617
Add		
Net profit	<u>10,766</u>	<u>17,050</u>
	<u>210,433</u>	<u>199,667</u>
	<u>210,433</u>	<u>199,667</u>

Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

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Date:

30 October 2023