

Annual Report for The Mere Lecture Hall Trust
For the Year Ending 30th June 2025

(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	Ms S Catley	Mr M Durkee
Mr S Fletcher	Mrs J Hurd	Mr G Jeans
Mr D Lamb	Mr P Manning	Mrs C Morton
Mr A Rees	Mr C Rutter (chairman)	Mr S Rutter
Mr B Watts	Mrs H Watts	Mrs J Wilding
Mrs M White	Mr C Wood (treasurer)	

Number of Active Trustees at Year End: 17

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 increasingly 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.

At the AGM on 26th September 2024 all the new Trustees were duly confirmed and all trustees were present.

The following resolution was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

The consumption of alcohol will be permitted on the Lecture Hall premises, provided that:

- 1) The alcohol consumed is limited to wine, fortified wine, beer and lager.
- 2) The provision or consumption of spirits will not be permitted.
- 3) Consumption is only between 12.00 and 22.30 hrs.
- 4) No alcohol is sold. Events requiring a licenced bar will not be permitted.
- 5) Events offering alcoholic beverages as part of the admission price will be limited to one normal size measure per person/ticket.

In drafting this proposal, I have given consideration to the value attached to temperance by those responsible for the establishment of the Lecture Hall.

My personal belief is that these provisions will permit moderate consumption at social events: if more is required, hirers can apply for a licence at the Grove Building or hire one of the licenced venues in the town.

I suggest that, if adopted, this proposal be reviewed annually by the Trustees to ensure that it is working satisfactorily.

Andrew Rees

August 2024

On 24th November 2024 the centenary of the trust was celebrated with an opening evening and an exhibition of the Trust activities over the years.

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.

A number of property repairs and improvements have been made over the last year particularly to the Truscott and Homelea.

A professional insurance valuation was made of all the Trust's properties and new quotations obtained for overall insurance, including trustee liability, and even though the property insurance values had increased significantly a saving was made on the overall annual premium.

All domestic rents have been reviewed by the agents, the use of the Lecture Hall has increased by 35% over the previous year and gas and electricity price have come down.

£6,440 of grant aid was distributed to the community as per the Trust document guidance and it is hoped that the improvement in the Trust finances will enable the Trustees, at the AGM in September, to increase the grant aid in 2026.

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th June 2025

for

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30th June 2025**

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Mere Lecture Hall Trust
General Information
for the Year Ended 30th June 2025

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 2025

Accountant's Report to
Mere Lecture Hall Trust

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 2025.

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:

Mere Lecture Hall Trust
Trading and Profit and Loss Account
for the Year Ended 30th June 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations received	10		-	
The Gables - ground floor	6,500		5,958	
The Gables - Drama Room	400		400	
The Gables - Top floor flat	7,400		6,675	
Hartfield	10,140		9,740	
Courtfield	5,400		5,333	
Newport House - Maisonette 1	6,050		6,675	
Newport House - Maisonette 2	10,500		7,555	
Newport House - Office	1,848		1,578	
Town & Country House - office	5,000		5,000	
Town & Country House - snooker room	850		850	
Homelea	9,800		9,400	
Truscott	8,100		8,100	
Lecture hall	8,467		7,391	
Garage	480		480	
		80,945		75,135
Property direct costs				
Repairs to property - Gables	2,513		2,367	
Repairs to property-Courtfield	648		95	
Repairs to property				
- Newport House	607		6,297	
Repairs to property - Truscott	9,864		95	
Repairs to property - Homelea	9,714		205	
Repairs to property - Lecture Hall	2,602		1,855	
Repairs to property - Town & Country House	4,380		600	
Repairs to property-Hartfield	4,116		377	
		34,444		11,891
GROSS PROFIT		46,501		63,244
Other income				
Deposit account interest		446		242
		46,947		63,486
Establishment costs				
Security	955		623	
Management fees	6,926		7,254	
Rates, water, & insurance	5,666		5,978	
Cleaning	3,523		3,050	
Heating & lighting	2,337		3,740	
		19,407		20,645
Carried forward		27,540		42,841

Mere Lecture Hall Trust
Trading and Profit and Loss Account
for the Year Ended 30th June 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Brought forward	27,540	42,841
Administrative expenses		
Telephone	313	302
Post and stationery	-	12
Advertising	50	50
Sundry expenses	218	16
Accountancy	650	700
Other professional fees	-	1,500
Donations & grants	6,440	7,500
	<u>7,671</u>	<u>10,080</u>
	19,869	32,761
Depreciation		
Improvements to property	724	696
Plant and machinery	161	143
	<u>885</u>	<u>839</u>
NET PROFIT	<u><u>18,984</u></u>	<u><u>31,922</u></u>

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Balance Sheet
30th June 2025

	Notes	£	2025	£	2024	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	1		197,263		189,559	
CURRENT ASSETS						
Trade debtors		923		426		
Deposits held by Gilyard Scarth		6,507		6,332		
LloydsTSB deposit		45,688		35,242		
Bank current account		18,026		18,183		
Cash in hand		843		324		
		<u>71,987</u>		<u>60,507</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Trade creditors		704		679		
Deposits received from tenants		6,507		6,332		
Accrued expenses		700		700		
		<u>7,911</u>		<u>7,711</u>		
			<u>64,076</u>		<u>52,796</u>	
NET ASSETS			<u>261,339</u>		<u>242,355</u>	
FINANCED BY						
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	2		<u>261,339</u>		<u>242,355</u>	

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th June 2025

1. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST					
At 1st July 2024	159,462	34,803	2,720	2,179	199,164
Additions	<u>5,662</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,927</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,589</u>
At 30th June 2025	<u>165,124</u>	<u>34,803</u>	<u>5,647</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>207,753</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1st July 2024	-	5,960	1,466	2,179	9,605
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>885</u>
At 30th June 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>6,684</u>	<u>1,627</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>10,490</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 30th June 2025	<u>165,124</u>	<u>28,119</u>	<u>4,020</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>197,263</u>
At 30th June 2024	<u>159,462</u>	<u>28,843</u>	<u>1,254</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>189,559</u>

2. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2025 £	2024 £
Brought forward	242,355	210,433
Add		
Net profit	<u>18,984</u>	<u>31,922</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

2

261,339

242,355

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

Chairman

Treasurer

Date: 9-10-25

Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30th June 2025

Accountant's Report to

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

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