

ASHWICK VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND

England & Wales · Charity number 249510

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1966-11-18

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Rowans
Ashwick
Oakhill
Radstock
BA3 5BB

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Website <https://www.ashwickparish.org/amenities/ashwick-oakhill-village-hall/>

Activities

Objects: THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF A VILLAGE HALL, RECREATION GROUND AND FACILITIES ANCILLARY THERETO FOR THE USE OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE PARISH OF ASHWICK (HEREINAFTER CALLED "THE AREA OF BENEFIT") WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS, INCLUDING USE FOR MEETINGS, LECTURES, CLASSES, AND OTHER FORMS OF RECREATION AND LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION, WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE SAID INHABITANTS.

Activities: We are a community facility that provides recreational & training facilities for local inhabitants and for specific groups, club & societies including:- Pilates, Yoga, Tai Chi, Indoor Bowls, Football, Gardening Club, History Group, Parish Council Meetings and also for private parties. As of Jan 2023, we also have a Community Cafe with good parking and high speed broadband/internet access.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** PARISH OF ASHWICK
- Somerset

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £89,578 | £85,310 | - | - |
| 2024-03-31 | £46,135 | £47,328 | - | - |
| 2023-03-31 | £65,239 | £103,905 | - | - |
| 2022-03-31 | £52,232 | £19,015 | - | - |
| 2021-03-31 | £23,722 | £23,271 | - | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|------------------|-------|------------|
| Andrew North | Chair | 2019-07-03 |
| Andrew Scott | | 2021-05-17 |
| Caroline Ambrose | | 2020-09-14 |
| Christine Scott | | 2021-05-17 |
| David Thorley | | 2020-09-14 |
| JACKIE HIGGINS | | 2023-10-09 |
| Kimberley Hare | | 2019-11-08 |
| Martin Rymes | | 2020-09-14 |
| Timothy Ambrose | | 2020-09-14 |

ASHWICK VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND

England & Wales - Charity number 249510

Accounts

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

for

ASHWICK & OAKHILL VILLAGE HALL

&

RECREATIONAL GROUND COMMITTEE

Tues 4th June 2024

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall and Recreational Ground Committee

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2024

The trustees presented their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Charity Registration Number: 249510

Principal Office: The Village Hall, Zion Hill, Oakhill, Radstock BA3 5AN

Board of Trustees:

Andy North (Chair)

Kim hare (Vice-Chair)

Caroline Ambrose (Treasurer)

Chris Scott (Secretary)

Andy Scott (Lettings Secretary)

David Thorley

Martin Rymes

Tim Ambrose

Ian Hopson

Jackie Higgins

Jackie Bally

Committee Member:

Elizabeth Belbin

Auditor: David Hirst

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall Committee is a charitable trust registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 249510.

The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. The trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits. The trust meet as a body every month and are responsible for all decisions in relation to the running of the Village Hall and community facilities and activities provided by the charity.

Our aims and objectives:

To develop and encourage the use of the Village Hall and Recreational Ground by promoting its facilities to the local and wider community. To promote opportunity for all, lifelong learning, family wellbeing, pleasant neighbourhoods by community cohesion and involvement. To regenerate the facilities as required and improve community spirit by doing so.

Chair's Report (Andy North)

As always, in preparation for writing the annual report, I re-read my reports from previous years and, yet again, I am delighted to be giving an extremely positive review! So much has happened. Not only has the Village Hall building infrastructure been hugely improved and the Community Cafe extended its offering due to demand, but the number of parishioners (and many from further afield) using the facilities has increased. At a time when many community buildings are suffering, we are excelling. This has been evidenced by a lot of positive feedback received in-person (directly) and also indirectly via our social media pages.

Of course, to get to this stage takes enormous efforts and sacrifices, not only by those on the committee but also the volunteers that have supported us, particularly within the Cafe since we opened regularly in Jan 2023. Without this dedication, the village hall would not be the successful community hub and asset it is today. This commitment has translated into higher community engagement and has clearly impacted village life/spirit for the better – This has been commented on by CCS themselves! Apart from this more recognition, you only need to see and hear the users and customers inside/outside the Village Hall on a Saturday when there is often a real buzz about the place! As an aside, the increased profits have enabled the committee to make a significant investment into the village hall roofing felt replacement, loft insulation and gutter replacements to the entire building (work starting June 2024). Whilst this is not necessarily an exciting development for the community, it will certainly ensure the longevity of the facilities for the people that use it for many years to come.

The short summary above is a huge generalisation of what has been achieved here and it should not be underestimated, but we must move on!

Another notable achievement in the last 12 months was being awarded the Hallmark Level 2 and Hallmark Level 3 awards from the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) at their annual conference. Again, huge efforts from a number of committee members were made into achieving this national 'accreditation' that sets us apart from just being a normal community building – it confirms we are a well-run facility that operates to benefit the community, follows best practices and importantly shows we are a good investment for potential sponsors or funders (not to mention entitles us to a discount on our buildings & contents insurance!). This has been demonstrated by a recent £20,000 grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to pay for the impending refurbishment of the WC facilities and corridor which are the last visible public areas of the building infrastructure to receive our attention and will bring this up to the same modern standards as the rest of the building.

Whilst there has clearly been a lot of focus on the fabric of the building, there has also been some major improvements on its external appearance. This includes the repainting of the external walls and the community mural on the cafe wall. The mural was made possible thanks to local inhabitant, and regular supporter, Dawn Reader who provided the VHC with the idea and options for a community project. She then pulled together a group of interested volunteers from the community and children from Oakhill School to create and paint a fantastic floral mural that now greets all users, customers and visitors alike. It is much loved. To compliment this, our very own Tim Ambrose (Trustee) has also planted up 5 very large wooden tubs around the building which are now coming into bloom!

In addition, and further to an amazing donation of £18,000 from local quarry Morris & Perry, we were able to source and arrange the installation of a wonderful range of outdoor gym equipment on the recreational field that is well used by people of all ages and abilities. Alongside this, we received £1500 from the Somerset Community Foundation (plus £500 from Lloyds thanks to Kim Hare – Trustee & Lloyds employee) to purchase 2 portable goalposts and nets. I should also mention the fantastic donation of 5 tonnes of chippings from A J Champion & Sons for the pathway leading from

The Pound (laid by a group of local volunteers within 45mins!) and also the 2 new, replacement kissing gates supplied by Somerset County Council.

Thanks also need to be given to the Parish Council for their donations of circa £4800 over the year which has meant we could make significant repairs to the playground equipment (many thanks to Martin Rymes – Trustee) and maintenance of the grass and hedges.

Somehow, we have also managed to host a wide range of events which have benefitted the community and some also rewarded us with good profits! These include:

- Oakhill Festival (Sept 23)
- Christmas Market
- Beer & Carols
- Café Team 1st birthday party (60 attended!)
- Knife Sharpening!
- Quiz Night
- Easter Event
- Murder Mystery WhoDunnit Dinner
- Bingo Night

All these events and other hire bookings need to be managed, coordinated, and analysed, and Andy Scott (Trustee – Bookings Secretary) continues to coordinate these with ease, often meeting with new users, liaising with event organisers, and managing an increasingly busy mailbox not to mention updating booking policies and working in the cafe on a weekly basis!

With the strengthened committee team and skills/knowledge of Jackie Higgins (Trustee), the quality of our events has increased significantly such that we have invested in new tables, table lights, tablecloths, cutlery/crockery, a chair trolley and much more – all of which have improved the look and feel of events to put us in the bracket of being a ‘venue’ rather than just a village hall!

As there is no festival this year, the VHC have decided to put on a one-off ‘Party In The Park’ on Saturday, 13th June which will involve a family picnic, marquee, a band (The Harlem Rhythm Cats) and a DJ until late – I’m certain this will also be an enormous success!

I’m also looking forward to the development and output of the Ashwick Parish Community Review which has been lead by David Thorley (Trustee) with his Parish Council hat on (he has many hats!) as this will set out the long-term focus for the Ashwick Parish as decided by the community. There is no doubt that we will play a significant role in this, and we will need to align some of our future objectives with this.

As I mentioned in my annual report last year, Village Halls and Village Hall Committees have a rather negative stigma attached to them and they are often perceived to either be overly protective and fussy about “their” facilities, or they operate much like that in the Vicar Of Dibley! The Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee have proven again that they are definitely not like this and whilst our monthly meetings have a formal side to them with an agenda and minutes as per Charity requirements (yes, don’t forget we are a registered Charity # 249510), they are deliberately kept open, relaxed, and interactive. Our success and our approach has meant that, despite losing 2 committee members in the last year due to their understandable work/personal commitments we were thrilled to have gained 3 more all of whom have hit the ground running and have become invaluable assets on the team which is now believed to be the largest (11) committee for years (potentially ever?).

To repeat my comments in 2023, “A good committee, meet regularly, follow their governing document and maintain the facilities to which they are accountable for. A great committee are so much more and have a desire to do all the above and more, they want to be innovative and make a

difference. This committee is a great committee and has so much to shout about. It feels like our enthusiasm is starting to transmit into the community and people are now starting to interact, respond and dare I say it, even get involved which is wonderful news.”

This is as true today as it was then. Everyone on the committee has differing levels of availability, some have a full-time job and/or family commitments, others are retired yet have other important commitments, but EVERYONE gives whatever they can.

The trustees of the Committee would like to thank everyone that has supported us either by volunteering on a regular basis in the cafe, as an adhoc helper on the “maintenance crew” or simply as a regular customer – they make the world of difference! Without these people we simply couldn’t do what we do, and to be honest, when we get offers of help it reminds us of what an important role we play in the community and that there are people out there that believe in what we are doing!

The team’s efforts continue to put us in a strong position to deliver our plans for the next 12 months and to develop our facilities for future growth and to become a more widely used resource for the benefit of the community, run by the community.

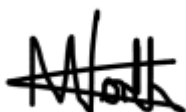
Our immediate focus following the 2024 AGM will be the election of the new committee and the Trustee Roles (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Bookings) followed swiftly by confirming plans for the coming year. This will be captured and recorded by Chris Scott (Trustee – Secretary) who has kept us on track perfectly!

Chair .. Last words

The committee is full of dedicated, generous, and flexible trustees – each has a skill or talent that noone else on the team possesses – this is why we succeed. We don’t always agree, and we do have heated debates because we care, but we communicate and work together, make it happen and even manage to have some fun along the way too!

On this note, I would like to personally recognise the personal support afforded to me by Kim Hare (Vice Chair) and Caroline Ambrose (Treasurer) who are always there for me either in a personal capacity or with their trustee hats on correcting or guiding me – without them I would not still be here as Chair.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all the trustees for their unwavering support and efforts over the last year. I know I haven’t called you all out in this report, and if I have not to the extent that you deserve, but it has been an absolute honour and privilege to “work” with you and I am really looking forward to see what we can achieve together through to 2025!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy North', with a stylized, cursive script.

Andy North

Appendix A – Audit Annual Account

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall and Recreation Field (Charity No 249510)
Year ending March 31st 2024

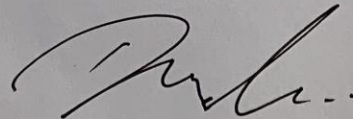
Income & Expenditure Account

| Accounts As At 31/3/2024 | Year To 31/03/2024 | Month Of 01/03/2024 | Year To 31/03/2023 |
|--|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Receipts | | | |
| Receipts from Trading Activities | | | |
| Bowls | 1,250.00 | | 1,020.00 |
| Grants | 6,814.96 | | 43,497.22 |
| Football | 336.00 | | 702.35 |
| East Mendip Gardening Club | 350.00 | | 100.00 |
| History Group | 25.00 | | 110.00 |
| Platinum Jubilee Grants/Donations/Tickets | - | | 5,180.71 |
| Table Tennis | 15.00 | 15.00 | 27.63 |
| Tai Chi | 475.00 | 100.00 | 470.00 |
| Yoga | 162.50 | 50.00 | 745.00 |
| Pilates | 1,300.00 | 150.00 | 697.50 |
| Absolute Pups & Pawsitive Life | - | | 363.93 |
| Other Irregular Hall Hire | 787.50 | 82.50 | 1,830.75 |
| Mendip DC Election Hire | - | | 189.00 |
| Private Functions & Hire Deposits | 2,285.00 | | 2,377.75 |
| Local Giving/Fund Raising/Donations | 5,715.49 | 974.30 | 3,411.02 |
| Clothes Bank | 413.40 | 30.90 | 446.10 |
| Market Stalls | 255.00 | | 256.50 |
| Ashwick Parish Council | 225.00 | 25.00 | 248.75 |
| Amazon Smile | 90.90 | | 138.79 |
| Tim's Plant Sales | 234.72 | | 68.48 |
| Wessex K9 | - | | 420.00 |
| Ringfenced | 1,929.92 | | - |
| Café Takings | 26,839.15 | 3,527.76 | 2,754.14 |
| | <u>49,504.54</u> | <u>4,955.46</u> | <u>65,055.62</u> |
| Receipts Earned from Assets | | | |
| Refunds | 53.10 | | 150.63 |
| SWEB - Wayleave & Compensation | 1,392.67 | - | 32.67 |
| | <u>1,445.77</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>183.30</u> |
| Total Receipts | <u>50,950.31</u> | <u>4,955.46</u> | <u>65,238.92</u> |
| Payments | | | |
| Payments for Support Costs | | | |
| Fire/Rospa/PAT Tests/Service Agreements/Training | 712.84 | | 430.24 |
| Bristol Water | 135.54 | | 67.13 |
| Gas | 1,412.31 | 230.09 | 744.52 |
| Recreation & Playground Maintenance/Repairs | 6,519.51 | 300.00 | 3,412.30 |
| Cleaner & Cleaning Supplies | 2,043.29 | 193.99 | 1,073.00 |
| Tim plant sales not profit (was cleaning supplies) | 168.00 | | 157.45 |
| Electricity | 1,320.78 | 168.61 | 658.72 |
| Fundraising, AGM Ref/Café Party | 3,161.93 | 599.06 | 1,226.60 |
| Discretionary Gifts | 22.70 | | - |
| Insurance | 673.26 | | 586.23 |
| Advertising Costs (was MDC - rates) | 389.94 | | 64.16 |
| Fees, Licences & Subscriptions | 485.21 | | 1,309.17 |
| Refund of Hall Hire/Event/Equipment Deposits | 900.00 | 150.00 | 1,050.00 |
| Café Consumables | 8,446.22 | 1,112.22 | 983.90 |
| Stationary | 91.06 | | 77.96 |
| Improvements/Repairs/Renewals | 11,772.18 | 552.18 | 77,588.32 |
| Discretionary Assets Purchased | 7,378.82 | 3,125.00 | 10,658.55 |
| Non-food Café Costs | 1,694.18 | 21.23 | - |
| Platinum Jubilee Costs | - | | 3,817.11 |
| | <u>47,327.77</u> | <u>6,452.38</u> | <u>103,905.36</u> |
| Total Payments | <u>47,327.77</u> | <u>6,452.38</u> | <u>103,905.36</u> |
| Net Receipts (Payments) | 3,622.54 | (1,496.92) | (38,666.44) |
| Opening Balance - Santander | 18,602.26 | 23,671.72 * | 57,268.70 |
| Opening Balance - Cash | 200.00 | 250.00 * | 200.00 |
| Total | <u>22,424.80</u> | <u>22,424.80</u> | <u>18,802.26</u> |
| Cash in hand | | | |
| Closing Balance - Santander March 2024 | 21,445.80 | 21,445.80 * | 18,602.26 |
| Closing Balance - Cash | 979.00 | 979.00 | 200.00 |
| | <u>22,424.80</u> | <u>22,424.80</u> | <u>18,802.26</u> |
| Difference | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Restricted Reserves held for specific projects: | | Unrestricted Reserves held as agreed: £7500 | |
| Grant-Grass Cutting | 2165.08 | | |
| History Group closing balance | 1929.92 | | |

NAME: DAVID HIRST

PROFESSIONAL BODY: CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION (CIOT - CTA)

DATE: 9 MAY 2024



Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall and Recreation Field (Charity No 249510)

Year ending March 31st 2024

Income & Expenditure Account

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NAME: DAVID HIRST

PROFESSIONAL BODY: CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION (CIOT - CTA)

DATE: 9 MAY 2024





David Hirst 7 May 2024



to me ▾

Hi Caroline,

I hope you had a nice bank holiday weekend.

I have now finalised my review of the year end accounts – all good. I have gone through the folder, Santander bank statements and excel accounts (both the main accounts and café takings). Accounts are attached. As per my review last year, there are a number of cells highlighted in green/yellow – this is just me cross checking that everything is in order.

I have printed a copy of the P&L account page which I will sign and put in the folder (I have removed the green).

I do have a couple of general comments – see below.

General comments:

- Yellow cells: On both payments and receipts worksheets you will see a number of cells in yellow. This is where I couldn't find any MI in the folder. However, I can confirm that all information on the spreadsheet is matched in the bank statements
- Café income spreadsheet – a couple of points that I noticed:
 - 26 June 2023 entry (line 89). The cash/card amounts are the wrong way round, but obviously has no impact on the overall accounts
 - 13 March 2024 entry (line 171). The card takings are marked as £218.50. However, the café takings on the account spreadsheet (line 324) and supported on the Santander account is £591.39. I assume that this amount is correct rather than the £218.50. I assume that the difference may relate to a one off payment on the Izettle on the same day

Regards,

David

From: David Hirst <speaktohurst@yahoo.co.uk>

Date: 3 May 2024 at 11:08:20 BST

To: Caroline Ambrose <aandovhc.treasurer@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: ~~Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall Year End Accounts & Oakleaf Cafe Takings~~

ASHWICK VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND

England & Wales - Charity number 249510

Accounts

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

for

ASHWICK & OAKHILL VILLAGE
HALL

&

RECREATIONAL GROUND
COMMITTEE

Wed 24th May 2023

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall and Recreational Ground Committee

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2022

The trustees presented their annual report and audited financial statements for
the year ended

31 March 2023

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Caroline Ambrose (Treasurer)

Chris Scott (Secretary)

Andy Scott (Lettings Secretary)

David Thorley

Martin Rymes

Tim Ambrose

Laura Rogers

Kate Simons

Auditor: David Hirst

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the Charity

Commission under charity number 249510.

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the

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To develop and encourage the use of the Village Hall and Recreational Ground by promoting its facilities to the local and wider community. To promote opportunity for all, lifelong learning, family wellbeing, pleasant neighbourhoods by community cohesion and involvement. To regenerate the facilities as required and improve community spirit by doing so.

Chair's Report (Andy North)

In preparation for writing this year's Chair Report, I re-read my report for 2022. Last year I said it was a "fantastically successful year - one to be proud of..." and I'm thrilled to be able to say that the last 12 months have been just as successful, if not more so.

But before I go into the reasons why, I'd like to take a moment to recognise the loss of Bryan Wells from the committee due to ill health and his move to a care home in Evercreech. It has been said many times before, but it seems fitting now to say here that the Village Hall as we know it only exists because of Bryan's foresight, dedication and perseverance over many years of hard graft and effort. He was well known to beg, borrow and even steal from skips to make the building a reality against a backdrop of minimal support and funding. Even when it was finally built his determination to develop, improve and make it a valuable community leisure asset for all is something he/we all can be proud of. I'm also particularly happy to say that the many improvements and changes we have made over the last few years as Bryan's health deteriorated since the beginning of the Covid pandemic have all been well received by Bryan and he is happy in the knowledge that his legacy will continue to grow and support the community for many years to come. On behalf of all the Trustees and the charity itself, we thank Bryan and wish him all the very best and a long, happy "retirement".

2022-2023 has seen a huge shift in village hall operations and we have gone from a building footprint of which only 30-40% was being regularly utilised, to now 100% of it being used with intention and purpose. Also, thanks to the new café patio area with serving hatch from the kitchen, we can also consider this area to be an extension to the building facilities - so you could argue we are now using 125% of the footprint! Clearly, this is all down to the huge transformation of what was an abandoned garage, a mis-used storeroom and an under-used 'Home' and 'Referees' changing rooms into a new, modern kitchen alongside a large, attractive internal café seating area, now affectionately known as the 'Oakleaf Community Café' which was officially opened in Dec 2022 by local author Cate Ray.

Little did we know that the hard work was only really beginning to start! Whilst we had a vision of re-purposing the space into a community café, we had not really detailed a plan of how we were actually going to get it up and running and then operating it as a going concern. But with huge efforts, dedication and professionalism it has been achieved - and not by a small margin either. The team have even achieved a maximum Food Hygiene Level 5 award after only 6 weeks after opening!! (The inspector was very impressed!). The Café now opens on Wednesday and Saturdays, 09:30-12:30 serving barista coffee and a wide range of other hot/cold drinks, hot sausage/bacon butties, delicious homemade cakes, packaged cookies, ice creams and much more. This is being operated by a lovely team of volunteers who sign up to shifts via the online Three Rings volunteer website which we have also invested in. The team are also planning to extend the opening hours over the coming months, but this will require additional volunteers - work in progress. To be honest, I am only skimming the surface of what has happened with the cafe and I suspect some trustees reading this will be quick to point out the many other challenges, hard work and achievements that have happened in the last 5 months alone, let alone the project management of the builders etc - to this end, I apologise, there are far too many things to mention here and I must move on! Before I do so, I should

note here that the café is returning a good profit, providing people with new skills; Duke Of Edinburgh experiences for teenagers; a welcoming meeting place and social/community hub for all sorry, couldn't resist squeezing that all in.

It is no secret that I announced in 2022 that I was going to step down as Chair this year due to increasing work and family commitments, but when I witnessed the passion, drive and enthusiasm of the committee, the trustees of the charity, and I saw the physical improvements, teamwork and desire to keep going by others, I changed my mind. What has been achieved over the last 12 months by the team must not be under-estimated by anyone (but probably will be) and I'm genuinely proud to say I'm a part of this team that has made a positive step-change for the future of these facilities, all with the aim of trying to enhance community spirit and improve village life.

Village Halls and Village Hall Committees generally have a rather negative stigma attached to them and they are often perceived to either be overly protective and fussy about "their" facilities, or they operate much like that in the Vicar Of Dibley! The Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee are definitely not like either of these - whilst our monthly meetings have a formal side to them with an agenda and minutes as per Charity requirements (yes, don't forget we are a registered Charity # 249510), they are deliberately kept open, relaxed and interactive. None of us want to use our spare time pushing pens and arguing over things that are unimportant to us or the community .. that is not to say we don't often have healthy, heated debates! Aside from the monthly meetings we are also extremely active via WhatsApp messaging and have multiple chats (different topics) on the go at any one time - this is how we interact and keep the conversations alive - we don't have to wait until the next monthly meeting!

A good committee, meet regularly, follow their governing document and maintain the facilities to which they are accountable for. A great committee are so much more and have a desire to do all the above and more, they want to be innovative and make a difference. This committee is a great committee and has so much to shout about. It feels like our enthusiasm is starting to transmit into the community and people are now starting to interact, respond and dare I say it, even get involved which is wonderful news.

Not only am I witnessing this on a weekly basis in the café via our volunteers, but also in our customers in the way that they are talking about us, commenting about us on social applications, either directly or indirectly. We have a 'Friends Of AOVH' chat group that we can call upon when we need help and a 'Maintenance Crew' chat for the less frequent, but more physical tasks. These were of particular help when it came to Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee party that was put on in a marquee on the Recreational Field June 2022 in collaboration with Binegar. This was a large event which required much funding, support and help from the community - it certainly appeared to be a big success and a memorable tribute to our longest serving and now recently departed monarch.

There is so much more I want to say about the last 12 months, and to repeat, so much has happened. I am lucky to have such a strong committee of 10 Trustees for which I feel incredibly honoured to work with. Their hard work, commitment and prolonged efforts are a credit to them and the community. I'd like to particularly mention the following:

- Kim Hare – As Vice Chair Kim continues to be a massive support to me and the wider team despite her increasing work commitments. If she can help, she will. She is articulate, considerate, responsive and can always be relied upon to find another angle, consideration or line of approach to ensure we are fair and function effectively as Trustees and as a committee. Kim also continued to ensure we had a substantial and valuable monthly update in The Beacon which is incredibly important considering it landed on 800+ doormats every month before it's demise in Dec 2022. Luckily a new parish magazine is due to start later this year – The Phoenix!
- Caroline Ambrose – As Treasurer, Caroline has, and I've used this word previously, been an absolute powerhouse in the setting up and maintaining the running of the enormously successful Oakleaf Community Cafe. She is the reason the café opens every week and why we achieved a Food Hygiene Level 5 – there is no doubt of that. In addition to this Caroline has continued to apply for and achieve many grants and essential funding for so many areas of the facilities. In total she has attained (with much help from Tim) over £85,000 within the last 18 months – incredible.
- Tim Ambrose – Tim has held many unofficial roles over the last year thanks to his keen eye for detail and desire to get the right outcome which has proved so invaluable in so many areas. To list but a few: Project Management of the café building works from start to finish (this took many months and involved meetings with builders, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, suppliers etc); café furniture builder; making money for the charity via his plant sales at events and/or privately; Christmas Market alcohol sales; investigation, purchase and relocation of the hot water tank and boiler; café cook, barista and so much more. Tim is not afraid to challenge and ask the difficult questions which has resulted in some excellent outcomes to benefit all.
- Martin Rymes – As Facilities Lead, Health & Safety Lead and Fire Safety Lead, Martin has donated many hours in all weathers to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the building and its facilities that directly impacts the safety of users. He has also ensured the building and recreational field is maintained, secure, safe, upto date and has maintained the playground equipment (a never ending task) to meet RoSPA guidelines plus so much more.
- Andy Scott – Andy has been very active and further to transforming the booking process and maintaining the Bookings Policy and T&C's to meet with ever-changing requirements, he has also produced much professional quality signage in and around the café and facilities, built much needed bespoke kitchen shelves and assembled café furniture. He is also a regular Lead volunteer and cook in the café. His role often requires him to meet potential hirees at the hall which can be critical to 'winning' a booking! Andy also controls the heating (via Hive) to ensure the building is warm when needed and reducing any wasted energy at other times. He has also supported all of our events in one manner or another.
- Chris Scott – Being secretary is an often mis-understood role in a committee like ours - Chris has been a huge help to me and minutes are always very promptly produced and published – not an easy task. Chris has also helped at multiple events and is a regular in the café kitchen!

- David Thorley – David continues to be a font of knowledge that often provide a strategic steer to challenges facing the committee with well-considered and sound reasoning. His initial drive and persistence in the early days of what was the rejuvenation project (aka café building works) and its architectural and building control requirements is what got us moving in the right direction in the first place. He is a remarkable individual and difficult to believe he is an octogenarian - noone quite knows how he manages to run a sheep farm, Chair the Local History Group, be a Parish Councillor, be on the Patient Participation group and still give us his undivided attention on the VHC!
- Laura Rogers – Laura is our Safeguarding Lead and also looks after the cleanliness of the facilities to ensure it is always clean and welcoming. With her links to the school, Laura is able to assist with getting our news into their parent communications – an important marketing tool for us!
- Kate Simons – Kate is our newest trustee and brings with her a wealth of knowledge from her teaching and deputy-head background which has been very helpful in a number of challenging conversations. Kate has also quickly got involved with supporting the café and at events.

All of the team's incredibly efforts continue to put us in a strong position to deliver our plans for the next 12 months and to develop our recreational facilities for future growth to become a more widely used resource for the benefit of the community, run by the community.

Last 12 months:

Below is a list of some of the key activities (in no particular order):

- Ukranian Drop In Sessions to support the visitors in and around our community.
- BBC News visit and broadcast relating to the above!
- Fundraising (predominantly grant applications and a little event fundraising)
- Completion of all building works and installation of doors, specialist flooring, new kitchen cupboards, purchase of catering equipment, café seating area and new storeroom etc.
- More fundraising ... (think you get the picture now...)
- Resiting of water tank from old garage to changing room.
- Purchase and re-siting of new boiler into the remaining 'changing room', decommission and removal of old boiler from old kitchen)
- New fire safety alarm
- Installation of remote HIVE heating controls and thermostatic zoning to focus when/where heating is needed within the building thereby reducing energy usage by heating everything!
- Creation of operating plans for the Café
- Initiation, engagement and management of a café volunteer team
- Implementation of Three Rings online rota system for café.
- Completion of an environment energy audit to establish potential energy improvements.
- BookCrossing Zone established in café and online.
- Playground equipment maintenance
- Events:
 - o Easter Event
 - o Platinum Jubilee Dance Party
 - o Christmas Market
- ...and many more.

As you will agree, this is a long list of significant achievements considering that most of the committee work full time and/or have other major personal commitments - Unfortunately this is often overlooked and not understood by the wider community. Without these people we would not be able to meet our aims and objectives and the hall and field would fall into disrepair.

The trustees of the Committee would also like to thank the following individuals/companies who have helped and supported us over the last year (apologies to those I have missed, there were so many!):

Ashwick Parish Council

Hancox Aggregates

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Abi Powell | Anna Kinght | Anne Burgess | Antonietta |
| Russo-Walker | | | |
| Cami Todd | Cath Booth | David Hirst | David Schwartz |
| Dawn Davies | Di Marshall | Elaine Green | Elizabeth Devon |
| Fay Clarke | Gary Milton | Gary Pryer | Hannah Noel |
| Ian Hopson | Jackie Bally | James Lewis | Jane Tobiasson |
| Janis Thomson | Joe Harvey | Nimmo Justin | Sargent Katharine |
| North | | | |
| Kirstie Milton | Kingsley Baxendale | Kirsty Baxendale | Lizzie Lewis |

Lynne Parsley Martha Sparkes Nicki Solmon
 Nicola Fitzgerald
Paul Garbit Phil Brown Philp Belben Sally Sargent
Sarah Dalwood Sarah & Rob Westell Steve Parsley
 Sue Moysey
Wayne Nutt
And of course, all our "Friends of AOVH"

Our immediate focus following the 2023 AGM and the election of the new committee and the Trustee Roles (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Bookings) will be to confirm plans for the coming year.

The next 12 months

Below is a list of some of the key activities that need to be undertaken (in no particular order):

- Installation of new outdoor gym equipment.
- Re-paint the external walls of the main village hall building (August)
- Work with local artist to create community project to paint a mural on an external wall
- Achieve Hallmark Level 2 and 3 accreditations
- Community Survey to check we are meeting the needs of local inhabitants.
- Being Phase 2 of rejuvenation plan – Extension for changing rooms.
- Building roof repair and improved loft insulation (circa £13-£15k required)
- Increase hall usage by proactively looking for and attracting new groups, activities, societies etc but at the same time ensuring availability for adhoc requests by local inhabitants.
- Update/replace BMX track
- Investigate options to implement to setup a Youth Group for teenagers
- Investigate options to improve outdoor leisure equipment for juniors

If I am re-elected as Chair, I have a clear vision for the next 12 months.

1. Extend the Community Café opening hours
2. Achieve Hallmark Level 2 and 3 accreditations
3. Increase VH usage and hire potential by 25%
4. Improve/update outdoor leisure equipment
5. Fundraise for Rejuvenation Phase 2

The combined objective of the above is to ensure the longevity of the VH as a going concern and its value to the community thereby improving village life and increasing community spirit via engagement.

Fundraising is always going to be a key activity for the Village Hall and this year will be no different. We need to generate new ideas and opportunities to increase income potential via local activities and in the search for government/parish/corporate funds and grants. We can no longer simply wait for bookings.

Whilst the holding of our regular and popular events (Easter Egg Hunt, Village Festival, Halloween Disco, Beer & Carols, Christmas Market etc) need to continue we also need to be looking at new and exciting opportunities to really make our VH a more appealing facility for all to enjoy for many more years to come.

List of ideas/opportunities in planning:

- Local, small band music venue
- Exhibitions of local talent - eg. Art Gallery, Craft Fayres
- Community Cinema - Moviola

Use of Volunteers

Volunteers are a critical resource in our community work. Volunteers are involved in most of our community activities and we now have 10 trustees regularly giving their time freely. One of our objectives is to increase community engagement and involvement in the Village Hall. Although we have been restricted in our events and activities this year due to the focus on building and operating a Community Cafe, we have increased awareness of the charity and its continuing needs and have a larger group of volunteers on our list!

Community Involvement

Wider participation of the Community and collaboration with other community organisations such as the Church and School are significant ways to improve the community spirit of the village. The Village Hall is committed to continue these relationships and has worked closely with these and other community groups, clubs & societies over the last few years. Whilst the VHC must ensure their events cover running costs and where possible generate a profit for investment in the facilities, the priority is a wider community involvement and engagement rather than to generate a profit.

It is hoped that we can soon encourage members of the community to organise and run events at the VH again with the support of the VHC. We also intend to extend the type of events offered and increase the accessibility of the venue to provide wider interest and benefit. We are actively in discussion with local talents and community groups for new ideas and to identify areas where continued improvements could be made. We are aiming to publish a community survey in 2023.

Communication and Engagement

The Village Hall has tried hard this year to maintain regular communication with the community and has used multiple methods to reach as many as possible. For example, monthly updates in The Beacon Parish magazine; the 'Friends of AOVH' WhatsApp group; VH facebook page; Village Life Facebook page and Instagram. We have also invested time and money in the development and professional printing of flyers on a couple of occasions to improve impact, perception and response from the community. In addition, we maintain our pages on the Ashwick Parish website and use posters on local notice boards and word-of-mouth to advertise events.

Current Clubs/Groups/Activities

Despite the best efforts of the charity and remaining clubs/societies, we are experiencing a serious decline in these and a lack of interest and/or enthusiasm from the community to engage or start new opportunities. We are hearing of similar stories from other community buildings across Somerset and appears to be a growing trend due to a shift in the use of general interest and use of leisure time by the population as a whole. However, as a community charity, and with the opportunities we owe have to engage with the community via our Oakleaf Community Café, we are starting to explore the opportunities to directly influence local inhabitants to progress their ideas and interests via a more generic Community Social Club. We don't currently have a strategy or an approach for this at the time of writing this, but it will likely have sponsorship by an existing club that has registered its interest due to its likely demise and consequent closure. The charity trustees consider the activities they provide a

real and tangible benefit to their immediate users and the wider community. The hall and recreational ground provide a valuable educational and recreational resource to all in our local community. So, in the next 12 months we will be attempting to increase the use of the facility and extend its use to a wider number of the community

Chair .. Last words

As Chair of the AGM I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Village Hall Trustees for their support, effort and time over the last year. It has been an absolute privilege to work with you and to see what we have managed to achieve yet again.

The volunteers who give their time to the community are a phenomenal and committed group, without whom, local community events and activities like we have had this year (and the mountain of other work behind the scenes!) simply would not take place. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy North', with a horizontal line striking through the middle of the letters.

Andy North

Appendix A - Audit Annual Account

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall and Recreation Field (Charity No 249510)
 Year ending March 31st 2023
 Income & Expenditure Account

| Accounts As At 31/3/2023 | Year To 31/03/2023 | Month Of March | Year To 31/03/2022 |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Receipts | | | |
| Receipts from Trading Activities | | | |
| Bowls | 1,020.00 | 100.00 | 1,040.00 |
| Grants | 43,497.22 | | 39,975.42 |
| Five Rivers Child | 702.35 | | 336.00 |
| East Mendip Gardening Club | 100.00 | | 187.00 |
| History Group | 110.00 | 25.00 | 90.00 |
| Platinum Jubilee Grants/Donations/Tickets | 5,180.71 | | 685.00 |
| Table Tennis | 27.63 | | 60.00 |
| Tai Chi | 470.00 | 87.50 | 420.00 |
| Yoga | 745.00 | 187.50 | 540.00 |
| Pilates | 697.50 | 225.00 | 390.00 |
| Absolute Pups & Pawsitive Life | 363.93 | | 240.00 |
| Other Irregular Hall Hire | 1,830.75 | 150.00 | 402.00 |
| Mendip DC Election Hire | 189.00 | | 198.00 |
| Private Functions & Hire Deposits | 2,377.75 | 60.00 | 1,876.00 |
| Local Giving/Fund Raising/Donations | 3,411.02 | 10.00 | 3,906.52 |
| Clothes Bank | 446.10 | 25.50 | 556.50 |
| Market Stalls | 256.50 | | 140.00 |
| Ashwick Parish Council | 248.75 | 25.00 | 120.00 |
| Amazon Smile | 138.79 | | 157.37 |
| Tim's Plant Sales | 68.48 | | 762.00 |
| Wessex K9 | 420.00 | | 27.00 |
| Café Takings | 2,754.14 | 1,061.00 | - |
| | <u>65,055.62</u> | <u>1,956.50</u> | <u>52,108.81</u> |
| Receipts Earned from Assets | | | |
| Refunds | 150.63 | | 123.42 |
| SWEB - Wayleave | 32.67 | | 32.69 |
| | <u>183.30</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>156.11</u> |
| Total Receipts | <u>65,238.92</u> | <u>1,956.50</u> | <u>52,264.92</u> |
| Payments | | | |
| Payments for Support Costs | | | |
| Fire/Rospa/PAT Test/Service Agreements | 430.24 | | 171.60 |
| Bristol Water | 67.13 | | 78.92 |
| British Gas | 744.52 | 134.04 | 566.99 |
| Recreation & Playground Maintenance/Repairs | 3,412.30 | 250.00 | 2,869.56 |
| Cleaner | 1,073.00 | 140.00 | 869.00 |
| Cleaning Supplies | 157.45 | 8.99 | 49.87 |
| Electricity | 658.72 | 80.17 | 419.83 |
| Fundraising Costs & AGM Refreshments | 1,226.60 | 16.14 | 1,372.15 |
| Gifts | - | | - |
| Insurance | 586.23 | | 410.63 |
| MDC - rates | 64.16 | | 143.46 |
| Fees, Licences & Subscriptions | 1,309.17 | | 645.57 |
| Refund of Hall Hire & Equipment Deposits | 1,050.00 | 150.00 | - |
| Café Consumables | 983.90 | 374.11 | 216.00 |
| Stationary | 77.96 | | 32.59 |
| Improvements/Repairs/Renewals | 77,588.32 | 88.56 | 9,306.13 |
| Discretionary Assets Purchased | 10,658.55 | | 1,751.12 |
| Discretionary Gifts | - | | 11.99 |
| Platinum Jubilee Costs | 3,817.11 | | 100.00 |
| | <u>103,905.36</u> | <u>1,242.01</u> | <u>19,015.41</u> |
| Total Payments | <u>103,905.36</u> | <u>1,242.01</u> | <u>19,015.41</u> |
| Net Receipts (Payments) | | | |
| | (38,666.44) | 714.49 | 33,249.51 |
| Opening Balance - Santander | 57,268.70 | 17,887.77 | 22,257.68 |
| Opening Balance - National Savings Account | - | - | 1,761.51 |
| Opening Balance - Cash | 200.00 | 200.00 | 85.58 |
| Total | <u>18,802.26</u> | <u>18,802.26</u> | <u>57,354.28</u> |
| Cash in hand | | | |
| Closing Balance-Santander March 2023 | 18,602.26 | 18,602.26 | 57,268.70 |
| Closing Balance - National Savings Account | - | - | - |
| Closing Balance - Cash | 200.00 | 200.00 | 85.58 |
| | <u>18,802.26</u> | <u>18,802.26</u> | <u>57,354.28</u> |
| Difference (0.00) | | | |

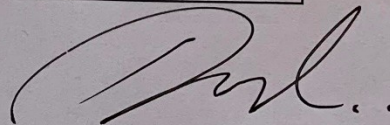
Restricted Reserves held for specific projects:
 Kitchen/Rejuvenation Project £6000
 Includes - Somerset Communities Fund £1000 Bernard Sunley £5000

Unrestricted Reserves held as agreed: £7500

NAME : DAVID WINST

DATE : 16 MAY 2023

MEMBER OF PROFESSIONAL BODY : CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION (CIOT - CTA)



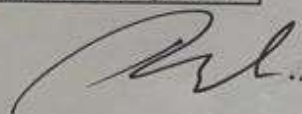
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| Grants | 43,497.22 | | 39,975.42 |
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| Mendip DC Election Hire | 189.00 | | 198.00 |
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| Market Stalls | 256.50 | | 140.00 |
| Ashwick Parish Council | 248.75 | 25.00 | 120.00 |
| Amazon Smile | 138.79 | | 157.37 |
| Tim's Plant Sales | 68.48 | | 762.00 |
| Wessex K9 | 420.00 | | 27.00 |
| Cafe Takings | 2,754.14 | 1,061.00 | - |
| | <u>65,095.62</u> | <u>1,856.50</u> | <u>52,108.81</u> |
| Receipts Earned from Assets | | | |
| Refunds | 150.63 | | 123.42 |
| SWEB - Wayleave | 32.67 | | 32.69 |
| | <u>183.30</u> | | <u>156.11</u> |
| Total Receipts | <u>65,278.92</u> | <u>1,956.50</u> | <u>52,264.92</u> |
| Payments | | | |
| Payments for Support Costs | | | |
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| Bristol Water | 67.13 | | 78.92 |
| British Gas | 744.52 | 134.04 | 566.99 |
| Recreation & Playground Maintenance/Repairs | 3,412.30 | 250.00 | 2,869.36 |
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| Electricity | 668.72 | 80.17 | 419.83 |
| Fundraising Costs & AGM Refreshments | 1,226.60 | 16.14 | 1,372.15 |
| Gifts | - | | - |
| Insurance | 586.23 | | 410.63 |
| MDC - rates | 64.16 | | 143.46 |
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| Refund of Hall Hire & Equipment Deposits | 1,050.00 | 150.00 | - |
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| Stationery | 77.96 | | 32.59 |
| Improvements/Repairs/Renewals | 77,588.32 | 88.56 | 9,306.13 |
| Discretionary Assets Purchased | 10,658.55 | | 1,751.12 |
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| Closing Balance - National Savings Account | - | - | - |
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| | <u>18,802.26</u> | <u>18,802.26</u> | <u>57,354.28</u> |
| Difference | <u>(0.00)</u> | | |

Restricted Reserves held for specific projects:
 Kitchen/PA/Juvenation Project £5000
 includes - Somerset Communities Fund £1000 Bernard Sunley £5000

Unrestricted Reserves held as agreed: £7500

NAME: DAVID HIRST
 DATE : 16 MAY 2023



MEMBER OF PROFESSIONAL BODY: CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION (CIOT-CTA)

NOTE -> SEE COMMENTS IN EMAIL OF 8 MAY - ALL FINALISED.

On Thu, 27 Apr 2023 at 19:11, David Hirst <speaktohurst@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Hi Caroline,

Hope all is well. Pleased to say that I have now finalised my review of the year end accounts.

In summary, it is great that the income for the year is up c.25% (£13k) on the previous year. I note that the payments/expenses are up considerably (£84K), but the vast majority of this is in relation to the range of extensive refurbishments made to the hall.

I have gone through the folder MI, Santander bank statements and excel accounts. Accounts are attached. For your information, there are a number of cells highlighted in green/yellow – this is just me cross checking that everything is in order.

I do have a few comments/questions. Happy to catch up to discuss at some point, but we are away this weekend and I am not going to be available now till early next week.

'Bank Payments' worksheet tab:

- Row 22 (Jubilee leaflets): I note that there was no respective entry in cell Y22 so I have added this in on the attached (Platinum Jubilee costs)
- Row 184 (Top soil) £250: I can see that this is on the spreadsheet and a receipt is on the folder confirming that it was paid on 25-3-23. However, for some reason I can't find this payment on the Santander bank statement

✓ as per meeting 9/5/23

'Bank Receipts' worksheet tab:

- Rows 11 and 12 (Easter event income): I can see that these two amounts are matched as one payment on the Santander bank statement. However, I can't match the income against the receipt in the folder. It is probably just me, but the information in the folder is written on a piece of paper and not clear
- Row 161 (Pawsitive life puppy class): Just a minor comment that I have moved this amount from column I (Table tennis) to column H (Pawsitive Life)

✓ as per meeting 9/5/23

Other comments:

- Yellow cells: On both payments and receipts worksheets you will see a number of cells in yellow. This is where I couldn't find any MI in the folder. However, I can confirm that all information on the spreadsheet is matched in the bank statements
- P&L account tab (row 35) is called 'interest NI account and refunds'. I didn't think that there was an NI account anymore so maybe just change the name of this income to 'Refunds'?
- Café income: I note from the MI in the binder that there was income of £15.30 on 11 May (cash). This is probably just me but I can't see where this has been included either on the accounts or Santander bank statements

✓
AS per
meeting
all resolved
9/5/23

Regards,

David

From: David Hirst <speaktohurst@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: 15 April 2023 21:06
To: David Hirst <david.hirst@uk.zurich.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Year End Accounts