

NORTHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Charity No 269218

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER 2023

**B A Taxation Services
113 Shakespeare Tower
Barbican
London
EC2Y 8DR**

NORTHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Contents of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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NORTHIAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Frewen Close, Main Street, Northiam, East Sussex, TN31 6RA
Registered Charity Number 269218

Report of the Trustees for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The land on which Northiam village hall now stands was purchased by the community in 1971 from two local landowners/farmers. A Trust was established at that time to hold the land, to build the hall, and then to manage the site on behalf of the village. Construction of buildings started in 1975, funded by the sale of the land on which the six Frewen Close bungalows now stand. By 2000, the original building had been extended to provide additional meeting rooms and storage space, and the whole facility is now believed to be one of the largest village halls in East Sussex.

The buildings and surrounding land are now held in trust by the Charity Commission's Official Custodian, on behalf of the local community. A management committee (Northiam Village Hall Trust) has responsibility for the day-to-day running of the hall, governed by the Trust Deed established in 1971. This set the original goal of providing a village hall for use by the community, with the ongoing objective of improving the conditions of life for Northiam residents. The Trust is a registered charity, regulated by the Charities Commission, and answerable to the local community each year at an Annual General Meeting. Trustees are appointed each year at the AGM, either elected by the community or nominated by local groups that use the hall. At the 2023 AGM the following 12 Trustees were appointed: Keith Whiting (Chair); Christine Palmer (Secretary); Sylvia Wickens (Bookings Secretary); Bernie Bone (Treasurer); Margaret Davies; John Fenton; Sarah Giles; John Palmer; Richard and Sandra Robinson; Pete Sargent, and Sue Schlesinger.

The Trust generates its income from rentals paid by hall users, supplemented by donations and fund-raising activities. Day-to-day running costs absorb most of the income but, where there is a surplus, this is used to make improvements to the hall. Where appropriate, grants from other bodies are accessed by the Trust, but all monies raised, whatever the source, are used in maintaining or improving the village hall and its facilities.

For the financial year ended 31 Dec 2023 our income from hiring the halls was £16,695, up from £15,312 in 2022, although still short of our pre-pandemic income in 2019 of £19,914. Other regular income of £2,629 and fund-raising income of £4,325 gave us total "trading" income of £23,649, (£22,230 in 2022). Day to day running costs of £13,174 were an increase over 2022 (£11,844), mostly reflecting higher energy, cleaning and maintenance costs. Our overall "trading surplus" for 2023 was £10,475, very similar to the £10,386 in 2022.

Improvements to the hall and the facilities it provides are funded through a combination of our trading surplus, along with the cash resources built up over previous years. To enhance these funds, where appropriate, we seek grant assistance from third parties.

Using all these sources, we have continued our programme of steady improvement to the hall facilities. During 2023 the following projects have been undertaken, at a cost of £23,109:

A. With financial assistance from third parties:

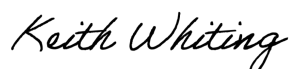
- We have completed the refurbishment of the back-stage committee room. This major project was started in 2022, and involved creation of a new external entrance and accessibility ramp, reinstating a toilet facility, upgrading the electrics and heating, replacing the flooring and providing new table and chairs. This space – now renamed the Paddock Room - is back in use as a meeting room, and is also used for consultations and health treatments. The project was funded by Rother District Council and the National Lottery Community Fund, with assistance from Northiam Parish Council.
- The main hall acoustics had been long recognised as poor, with particular criticism following a concert in February and cinema event in May. After taking expert advice we arranged for ceiling-hung acoustic panels to be installed, and the improvement in sound quality has been significant. The Chalk Cliff Trust provided 50% of the cost.
- Following an energy efficiency survey commissioned by Rother District Council as part of a nationwide programme funded by the UK Government, we had cavity wall insulation installed. The survey estimated that this should cut our energy usage by up to 20%, and should help to defray some of the cost increase we will face when our present fixed-price gas contract finishes in January 2025. The installation costs will be met by the Government programme via Rother DC.
- The village hall trust provided the resources, organised and underwrote the costs of the village Coronation party held in May. After the event the costs were covered by Rother District Council, NISA, and Northiam Parish Council.

B. Funded solely from village hall resources:

- CCTV. To improve the security of the buildings, but also including the village library and the car park, we have upgraded the CCTV cameras to give full coverage over the whole site.
- WiFi. Hall users have commented that the WiFi is not reliable. We are part way through an improvement scheme that is intended to make it more robust.
- To make more efficient use of the car park we have “white lined” the whole area. We are delighted to see that, for the most part, users are parking within the newly designated bays.
- Permanent installation of a digital projector, now ceiling mounted.
- Replacement of time-expired gate and chestnut railing fence in the paddock area.
- Election Hustings, held in April in preparation for the May elections to Northiam Parish Council.

2024 will see further upgrades and improvements throughout the facility. The exterior of the building will need redecorating, and in the medium term we will need to provide resources to replace the gas boilers.

January 2024



Keith Whiting
Chair, Northiam Village Hall Trust



Bernard Bone
Treasurer, Northiam Village Hall Trust

NORTHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Registered Charity No: 269218

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME		
Lettings	16,695	15,312
Donations	40	650
Fund Raising	4,285	3,674
Fund Raising - Special Projects	-	-
Miscellaneous	2,443	2,565
Grants re: Special Projects	16,125	10,000
Government Grants	-	2,667
Bank Interest	186	30
Maintenance Petty Cash not longer required	100	-
	<u>39,874</u>	<u>34,897</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Insurance	1,242	1,146
Repairs, Renewals and Maintenance	3,727	3,036
Cleaning	2,220	1,931
Equipment	3,588	407
Administration	1,181	1,100
Rates	57	-
Heat and Light	2,909	2,212
Water	418	832
Fund raising expenses	942	818
Expenditure on special projects	23,109	20,466
Loan repayment	600	600
Miscellaneous	479	770
	<u>40,471</u>	<u>33,317</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(597)	1,580
Cash funds brought forward 1.1.23	19,833	18,253
Cash funds carried forward 31.12.23	<u>19,236</u>	<u>19,833</u>

NORTHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Registered Charity No: 269218

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
ASSETS		
Cash at bank	19,076	19,773
Cash in hand	160	60
	<u>19,236</u>	<u>19,833</u>
LIABILITIES		
Loan from Don Hanson Charitable Foundation	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,800</u>

The Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities were approved by the Trustees.

Name Keith Whiting

Date 23rd January 2024

NORTHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Registered Charity No: 269218

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDRAISING INCOME 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Jumble Sales	1,411	1,582
Boot Sale	353	467
Coffee Mornings/Other	1,984	842
Cinema	505	750
Amazon Smile	32	33
	<u>4,285</u>	<u>3,674</u>

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS RE: SPECIAL PROJECTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Committee Room reinstatement	10,356	-
Acoustics Installation	3,000	-
Coronation party	1,769	-
Shell Community Kindness Programme	1,000	-
	<u>16,125</u>	<u>-</u>

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE: SPECIAL PROJECTS

	2023	2022
Heating & access system control	1,741	1,398
Paddock Room reinstatement	7,888	-
Coronation Party	1,530	-
Local Election hustings	281	-
Acoustics	6,360	-
Cavity Wall insulation	3,009	-
CCTV enhancement	1,400	-
White lining: car park	900	-
Reinstatement of sound system	-	828
Shed replacement	-	1,158
Jenkins Room floor replacement	-	2,019
Committee Room reinstatement	-	12,708
Rear path reinstatement	-	1,637
Replacement of chestnut fencing	-	718
	<u>23,109</u>	<u>20,466</u>

Independent Examiner's Report on the Unaudited Financial Statements to the Trustees of Northiam Village Hall Trust
Charity No: 269218

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act),
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was conducted 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

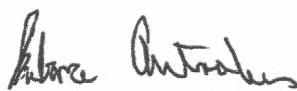
Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


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23.1.2024

B A Antrobus BSc (Open) FCA CTA
113 Shakespeare Tower
Barbican
London EC2Y 8DR