

Bearsted and Thurnham

King George V

Memorial Hall

Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st March 2025

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Registered Charity No 302679

1.0 General Information

Trustees:

June Wilkins (Chairman)
Sarah Elvy
John Evans
Ian Gutteridge
Sandra Knatchbull
Michael Stark
Chris Waters

Bookings Secretary:

Carol Phillips

Treasurer:

David Stead

Secretary:

Trudy Berridge

Bank Details:

National Westminster Bank
Maidstone (A) Branch
3 High Street
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1HJ

Independent Examiner:

Encompass Accounting
Kentspace Suite 2026
6-8 Revenge Road
Chatham
Kent
ME5 8UD

Principal Office:

1 The Orchard
Yeoman Lane
Bearsted
Kent
ME14 4QL

2.0 Trustees Report

1. The Trustees are pleased to present their report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. It is compiled under the terms of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

2. The charity was established under a Trust Deed dated 2 March 1937, which created the Council of Management and governs the way it operates. The Trust Deed was amended and was updated in November 2015 and November 2018 to reflect the changes in membership and to give the Trustees the power to invest money.

Organisational Structure

3. The Council of Management currently comprises of seven Trustees, three of whom are co-opted. At the Annual General Meeting the Trustees elect from their number a Chairman and where possible, a Vice Chairman. They also appoint a Bookings Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, each of whom received an honorarium for the exceptional work done.
4. Meetings of the Council of Management are planned to take place every three months. One of these meetings includes the AGM, which is held in July.

Objectives and Activities

5. The purpose of this charity is to provide a welcoming village hall, maintained, equipped, and managed to the highest standard for the purpose of:

Advancing education, religion, health, the arts, culture and heritage, amateur sport and youth activities, and to provide a meeting place for local societies, groups and organisations and a venue for training, recreation and parties for the benefit of the people of Bearsted and Thurnham and neighbouring areas.

6. Included amongst the many wide ranging activities that take place in the hall are: a nursery school, mothers and toddlers' group, church services, youth groups and prayer evenings, dance classes, pilates and other keep fit classes, amateur dramatics, choral singing, WI meetings, History Society meetings, the U3A Camera Club, Badminton Club, meetings of the Bearsted Parish Council, children's parties, christening parties, quiz nights and a number of other activities. The hall has also been used as a polling station and as the surgery for our MP when he or she visits Bearsted.

Achievement and Performance

7. It is the opinion of the Trustees that the hall continues to meet its long-term objectives. Further information is given in the financial review set out below.

Public Benefit Statement

8. The hall is used by nearly twenty different local organisations on a regular basis and by many others taking advantage of one-off bookings. In a normal year, unaffected by government restrictions like the pandemic, the level of bookings from regular users has meant that the Hall is, unfortunately, unable to accommodate all the requests received for one-off bookings.
9. The Trustees believe that in exercising their powers and duties they have complied with their obligation to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission.

Financial Review

10. This year receipts exceeded payments by £16,230, which was generated by an increase in Gross Income of 8.3% and a reduction in Gross payments of 2.4%.
11. Gross Income increased with hirer income seeing an increase of 5.1% against prior year, a new record for Hirer Income in a financial year. A large increase in interest rates was again seen in the year, generating almost £6k against £3.7k in prior year.
12. Expenditure on repair and maintenance programmes led to increases of £2.7k, driven mainly by a refurbishment of the Whitehead room of £3.1k.
13. Expenditure on utilities, particularly Gas and Electric saw a reduction of £3.3k, with this including a rebate from prior year of £1.2k. Energy prices, for both Gas and Electric, have reduced significantly in the year with the reduced prices locked in for a 3-year fixed term to benefit in the coming years. Other costs are generally in line with prior year as prices settled from the increases seen previously.
14. The detailed receipts and payments account and the statement of assets and liabilities for the charity are as attached.

Reserves

15. The Trustees' policy is to hold sufficient monies to meet the Hall operating costs for a period of approximately one year, plus such level of reserves, as they deem necessary, to meet any emergencies and major programmes of the Hall. A major refurbishment programme was undertaken in 2022-23 to improve the basement and remove asbestos and currently an assessment is being evaluated of the roof works deemed necessary going forward.

Trustees at the date of this report

16. The Trustees who served during the financial year 2024-25 are set out on page two of this report.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

17. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statement for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial

activities during the year, and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statement giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting practices and apply them consistently.
 - Make judgements that are reasonable and prudent.
 - State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
 - Prepare the financial statement on a receipts and payments basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.
18. The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position for the charity, and which will enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for the safeguarding of the assets of the charity, along with taking reasonable steps for the detection and prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees


June Wilkins (Chairman)

July 2025

3.0 Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31st March 2025

	31 MARCH 2025	31 MARCH 2024
RECEIPTS		
Hiring Charges	55,831	53,107
Bank Deposit Interest	5,975	3,732
Donations/Grants	0	0
Telephone	0	0
Key Deposits (net of refunds)	94	300
Sundry	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	61,900	57,139
PAYMENTS		
Cleaner's Charges	6,890	8,170
Honoraria to Officers	3,000	2,250
Repairs, maintenance and new works	11,243	8,560
Gas	2,297	4,216
Electricity	3,223	4,628
Water Rates	1,565	1,065
Insurance	3,020	3,272
Telephone & Wi-Fi	1,020	949
Refuse collection	1,841	1,973
Servicing toilets	4,279	3,605
Window cleaning	840	840
Cleaning Materials	439	609
Fire equipment and testing	0	1,036
Testing of heating/electrical systems	1,439	2,255
Gardener	787	610
Administrative expenses	1,342	357
Advertising	416	416
Subscriptions and donations	0	200
Website costs	202	122
Professional Fees	360	360
PRS/PPL licence fees	1,267	1,313
Piano tuning	0	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	45,670	46,806
Net of receipts/(Payments)	16,230	10,333
Cash funds last year end	145,518	135,185
Cash funds this year end	161,748	145,518

4.0 Statement of Assets and Liability's as at 31st March 2025

Unrestricted Funds

Cash Funds

Current Account	£24,607
Reserve Accounts	£37,141
Total Cash Funds	£161,748

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Other Monetary Assets (memo)

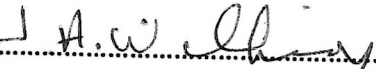
Hirers Unpaid Invoices	£104
Gas/Electric rebates due	£0
Total Assets	£104

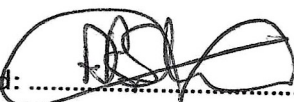
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Liabilities (memo)

Hall Key Deposits	£402
Sundry Creditors	£812
Total Liabilities	£1,214

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Signed:  J. Wilkins (Chairman)

Signed:  D.R Stead (Treasurer)

5.0 Independent Examiner's Report

As Attached



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Bearsted & Thurnham King George V Memorial Hall

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

0302679

Set out on pages

2-7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 25th June 2025

Name:

Lynne Graves

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

A.C.C.A. (Prof), A.A.T.

Address:

Encompass Accounting Limited, Kentspace Suite 2026,

6-8 Revenge Road

Chatham, Kent, ME5 8UD

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.