

# **THE DAVIS HALL, WEST CAMEL**

Registered Charity No: 1070729

**HOWELL HILL, WEST CAMEL, YEOVIL, SOMERSET BA22 7QX**

Chairman: Lena Morgan, 12 Orchard Park, Plowage, West Camel, Yeovil BA22 7QR  
Treasurer: Kim Bailey, Heather Mead, South Street, West Camel, Yeovil BA22 7QG  
Booking Secretary: Tony Burgess, 39 Orchard Park, West Camel, Yeovil BA22 7QR  
Secretary: Alison Stevens, Triscombe, Fore Street, West Camel, Yeovil BA22 7QW

## **Trustees' Report for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

The Charity's governing document is the Trust Deed, the original copy of which is held by Batten & Co, Solicitors, Mansion House, Yeovil Somerset BA20 1EP.

A Committee of 6 elected members, 12 appointed members and 2 co-opted members will be formed each year. Representatives of User Groups will form the 12 appointed members. Any group with a regular booking over twelve months is entitled to a representative. Co-opted members shall be appointed at a duly constituted meeting.

There are no paid staff. Trustees receive no remuneration. Out of pocket expenses on behalf of the Davis Hall are repaid.

The Charity's Bankers are: Barclay's Bank plc, King George Street, Yeovil, Somerset

Our Insurers are Ansvar Insurance (through Towergate Insurance)  
Policy Number CCP2211976

The object of the Trustees is to provide a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of West Camel in the County of Somerset without distinction of political religious or other opinions, including use for lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

The Trustees are pleased to report that this has been a good year for the use of the hall as restrictions imposed regarding the Covid-19 pandemic were no longer an issue, and people started to feel more confident about socialising in larger groups.

Our regular hirers have all returned to their usual slots, and we are pleased to welcome some new regulars as well. We are delighted to have such a full and active diary, which includes several dancing groups, model railway and truckers' groups, arts and crafts, indoor bowls, a local Headway brain injury charity, and Service Dogs UK.

The successful monthly Film Night began again in May 2021 with much reduced numbers attending, but we are pleased to report that these have slowly increased through the year. We continue to look for ways to try and bring people back to what can be a very enjoyable event, including speaking to Moviola regarding the choice of films available.

This year's accounts show a deficit for the year of £12,855, but this still leaves a credit balance of £26,883 at the year end. We have finally been able to do some of the necessary repairs and maintenance, including the completion of our new sound and lighting system, new outside lighting, new and more substantial front doors, the purchase of new, comfier chairs and a new dishwasher (partially funded by last year's donation from the Lunch Club).

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Other significant expenses were: -

Insurance; Light, heat and fuel, and cleaning costs have increased due to the more regular use of the hall. We are conscious of the increasing fuel costs and will continue to monitor this going forward.

Routine maintenance to the water heater, Boiler, Fire Extinguishers, Fire Alarm and Intruder Alarm are carried out on an annual basis. Routine risk assessments are carried out throughout the premises providing a record of any problems and how and when they have been solved. Repairs and Maintenance are dealt with as they arise by the Trustees.

Portable Appliance Testing is done on an Annual Basis each April, where required.

The annual inventory reveals very few losses or breakages so we can meet our 120 crockery and cutlery places advertised.

Minutes of regular meetings show clearly defined processes for maintaining and running the hall and continuing satisfaction among user groups. Trustees continue to look for opportunities to broaden the user base. The Davis Hall website ([www.davishall.co.uk](http://www.davishall.co.uk)) has earned good feedback and is the main source of new bookings. The Calendar is popular and the 'Cinema' section gets regular 'hits'.

Lisa Sherwood was engaged as the hall cleaner on a self-employed basis and has proved very effective and efficient. The contract was agreed for four hours per week, now on Sunday and Wednesday, but this remains flexible and dependant on hirings. The contracted hourly rate is reviewed annually. Tree Surgeon Chris Lee has carried out hedge cutting. Window Cleaning is done professionally two or three times a year as necessary.

Grass mowing is done by a group of volunteers on a rota basis, using the Parish Mower in return for a contribution towards running costs and fuel. This fee has been waived for seven years and we are very grateful to the West Camel Parish Council.

The 'Lending Library' continues with second-hand books donated by the public. We are indebted to Debbie Pledge, for her support in maintaining the library.

The old Computer Club provided a PC with High-Speed Broadband connection, printer and scanner for the benefit of the Parish, for which we are most grateful. The PC remains in the Committee Room for general use despite the fact the Computer Club are no longer meeting.

Although there are always some unavoidable cancellations regarding bookings, Trustees still visit the hall to ensure the regular weekly maintenance checks are continued and the premises are still maintained to a high standard.

At the time of writing this report the hall is open and back to almost full usage. Our Booking Secretary continues to receive regular enquiries for 'one-off' bookings, such as private parties, Thai Chi or other events, so we are very hopeful for continued successes going forward.

Alison Stevens  
Secretary  
2 June 2023