

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: Angela Suter, Wyvern Cottage, 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 2023 to 31 March 2024

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 until March 2024 when the charity banking was transferred to Unity Trust Bank to facilitate Internet Banking.

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 with events and regular hirings occurring on most days every week.

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 monthly Film Night has continued with numbers attending gradually increasing. There is a bar and tea or coffee available and it's always great to meet other villagers for a natter before the film starts. We continue to look for ways to try and attract people to what can be a very enjoyable event, but we are still reliant on the choice of films available. A small group of local residents, led by Nick Armstrong, check out the films on offer three times a year and select four for the coming season on a democratic basis.

This year's accounts show a profit for the year of £9,595, which leaves a credit balance of £36,478 at the year end. We continue to ensure that the hall is maintained to a high standard with regular maintenance where necessary. During the year we have also replaced three blown double-glazed units and replaced more of our heavier wooden-topped square table with the lighter weight metal tables. We are delighted to say we have also replaced our worn-out range cooker with two brand new built-in ovens and hob, and updated the hand-wash basin, thanks to the sterling work of our Coffee Morning Team. Over the year they have generated income for the hall of over £4,000, for which we are extremely grateful.

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Other significant expenses were: -

Insurance; Light, heat and fuel, and cleaning costs have increased due to the continued 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 and Intruder Alarm are carried out on an annual basis, with the Fire Alarm being checked every six months. 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 by the Trustees as they arise.

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) has earned good feedback and is the main source of new bookings. The Calendar is popular and the 'What's On' - 'Cinema' section gets regular 'hits'. There are also pages for the West Camel Model Railway Club and, recently added, the West Camel Theatre Group, which are managed by the groups themselves. Please do have a look.

Lisa Sherwood is 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, which 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 eight 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. As the club is no longer operating the equipment has been returned to Peter Naylor who now operates a club in Queen Camel where he lives.

Trustees visit the hall on a regular basis to ensure any problems are identified as early as possible and the premises continue to be maintained to a high standard.

At the time of writing this report the hall being well-used by our regular hirers and other ad-hoc bookings throughout the year. Children's parties seem to be particularly popular, but the hall has also been used by a group of young farmers to rehearse for a dance competition. Our Booking Secretary continues to receive regular enquiries for other 'one-off' bookings, such as private parties, Thai Chi or other events, so we are more than hopeful for continued successes going forward.

Alison Stevens
Secretary
7 June 2024