

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 2024 to 31 March 2025

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: 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 again 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. Unfortunately numbers attending the arts and crafts group have dropped and they may have to close.

The monthly Film Night has continued with numbers attending gradually increasing, possibly due to the availability of a better selection of films from Moviola. There is a cash 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. 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. In July 2024 we ran a social event showing an opera DVD we had been given of Goodbye Mr Chips! In January 2025 the local Theatre Group staged their biennial village pantomime, which is very popular and was very well attended.

This year's accounts show a deficit for the year of £20,950, which leaves a credit balance of £15,529 at the year end. We continue to ensure that the hall is maintained to a high standard with regular maintenance where necessary. This year saw the completion of the resurfacing of the car park, which accounts for the deficit for the year. During the year we have also had the main hall floor re-finished, replaced the dripping taps in the boiler room, and new solar lights were fitted to the hanging road sign. The sign also had a make-over and our thanks go to Tony Burgess, and his wife Sue. We were also very grateful to our local roofing contractor, Gavin Ableson, who kindly replaced some tiles that were dislodged during storm 'Bert' last winter.

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Still under review are the CCTV cameras, LED lighting for the toilets, and the replacement of the non-slip flooring for both the toilets and the kitchen.

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. Our regular tree surgeon, Chris Lee, moved on to new employment this year so the services of Adrian Parrott (Parrott Works) were engaged for hedge cutting. They are based locally in Wales and did a very tidy job. 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 nine 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.

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 still seem to be particularly popular, but the hall has also been used by a group of young farmers for fund raising activities, and an adult ballet class has become a regular on a Wednesday evening. 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 success going forward.

Alison Stevens
Secretary
6 June 2025