BARTON ST DAVID VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELD CHARITY

Registered Charity No 304475

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended

31st MARCH 2023

The Village Hall, Barton St David

BARTON ST DAVID VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELD CHARITY
Registered Charity No 304475
ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

The Barton St David Village Hall and Playing Field Charity manages the Village Hall, Playing Field and Diamond Jubilee Wood. The Village Hall and the land on which it is situated was purchased in 1953. The Playing Field was purchased by the Parish Council from Somerset County Council in 1977 to provide community facilities for the village. The three-acre field on which the Diamond Jubilee Wood is situated was donated to the village in 2013.

Management of the Barton St David Village Hall and Playing Field Charity is provided by a committee made up of Trustees.

Names of Trustees for the year 2022/2023

Chair - Sam Landrigan
Vice Chair - Peter Farrant
Treasurer - Claire Gosden
Secretary - Sue Forbes
Bookings Secretary - Nicky Wheeler
Representing the Parish Council - Dave Rowley
Representing the Parochial Church Council - Val Southwell-Sander
Representing the Tennis Club - Nicky Wheeler
Representing the Carnival Committee - Sam Landrigan
Representing the Scouts - Vacancy
Representing the Pre-School - Chris Calcutt
Elected - Lena Oliver
Elected – Barry Hooks
Co-opted February 2023 - Elaine Balcombe

In October 2022, the Village Hall Committee lost one of its most active and committed Trustees. The death of Penny Robinson leaves the village without one of its strongest advocates.

The Village Hall, originally the village school built in 1864, provides a single large room with a food preparation area, equipment storage rooms and toilets.

A separate building at the rear provides extra storage and changing rooms with showers and toilets for use in conjunction with the playing field. Within the field is an all-weather tennis court, a children's playground and some adult exercise equipment. The field can be set up for cricket, football and croquet.

The Village Hall and Playing Field are available for hire - bsdvh.bookings@gmail.com

The Diamond Jubilee Wood is reached via a path that runs up the side of the Churchyard.

The Committee is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the Village Hall, Playing Field and Diamond Jubilee Wood. The costs are met from the proceeds of the Carnival, hall and playing field hire charges, tennis club membership fees and social events. Expenses incurred by the Diamond Jubilee Wood are covered by a generous annual donation.

There are several ways communication is encouraged within the village:

Village Website – www.bartonstdavid.org.uk

A Newsletter is published six times a year.
The Editor can be contacted on - bartonstdavid.newsletter@gmail.com

An email distribution list gets information around the village quickly.
Email Nicky to be put on the list - nicky.wheeler21@yahoo.co.uk.

We are also on Facebook - www.facebook.com/BSDVH.

This past year has very much been focused on prioritising the upgrades that we feel the village hall and playing field need to be an attractive venue to hire and a safe outdoor space to hold community events.

The hall is currently being redecorated throughout and the wooden floor being renovated.

The ageing wooden walkway in the playground is being replaced with a new version to be fitted shortly.

New fencing has been installed down the western boundary of the playing field to stop dogs getting onto the playing field.

There is wifi coverage available over the whole of the playing field area now.

A new container for storage, which will be shared by the Carnival and the Scouts, is being positioned behind the village hall.

With all the above expense in mind, our Treasurer applied for and obtained several grants. We are in receipt of £5,000 from a Local Charitable Trust, £300 from Higos Insurance Services Ltd and £9,000 from the Lottery Fund. The Parish Council has generously donated a further £3,000. The Scouts have also raised £1,000 to go towards the cost of purchasing the storage container.

With the rise in the cost of living, we have been carefully monitoring the village hall gas and electricity costs. We have had to slightly increase the charges to our hirers but still subsidise them.

The **Carnival** is our biggest and most significant fund raising event of the year. A dedicated committee meets every month through the year to plan the event. Individual members take responsibility for particular aspects and draw on the expertise of other villagers to ensure each year's event retains important traditions but also introduces fresh new initiatives. The 2022 Carnival celebrated the emergence from the dark days of the pandemic by providing an occasion for all to enjoy.

Our tree warden reports that the **Diamond Jubilee Wood** was planted nearly ten years ago (Nov 2013) with eight hundred native trees and shrubs provided by the Woodland Trust; it continues to flourish. It was decided earlier in the year to upgrade the top hedge, which was mainly bramble, so eighty metres of native hedge were planted with spiral guards and mulched to

suppress weed growth. We had an expert from Reimagining the Levels (Somerset Tree Planting Group) to have a look and make suggestions. He suggested, to encourage more biodiversity in the main body of woodland, we needed to plant a range of different native shrubs. Previously planted shrubs included hawthorn, hazel, dogwood and dogrose. To broaden the range of species, eighty shrubs have now been planted either side of the main tree plantings including spindle, wayfaring, alder buckthorn, common buckthorn, guelder rose, honeysuckle, holly and elder. With the recent rains, we are hoping these will establish well and encourage further biodiversity. A big 'thank you' must go to the Reimagining the Levels team and a group of volunteers from the village who planted the shrubs earlier in March.

The village turned out in numbers for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee Barton Picnic on the 5th June 2022. After the Loyal Toast we were entertained by the Benefice Choir and there were races and crafts to keep the children busy. Barton St David Platinum Jubilee mugs were available to purchase and a poster with the signatures of all the villagers who came to the picnic is now displayed in the village hall.

We also planted a Tulip tree on the playing field as part of the late Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

The following are short reports from the organisations that regularly use the village hall and playing field.

Barton St David Pre-School. We very much appreciate the support and commitment of Barton St. David Village Hall Committee over the years, which has provided the Pre-School with the opportunity to assist children and families across the local area.
This year we have enjoyed another exciting and successful year with the village hall hosting our activities in a safe, clean and well organised manner. The additional maintenance, deep cleaning and decoration of the hall have been especially welcome.

It has been a good year for the **Barton St David Scout Group**. We meet on Monday and Tuesday evenings at Barton St David Hall. There are three sections: Beavers (6-8 years); Cubs (8 - 10.5 years) and Scouts (10.5 - 14 years old). In partnership with the East Somerset Scout District, we run an Explorer Unit (14-18 years).
This year we owe a special vote of thanks to the Hall and its committee. I attended a committee meeting in the spring of 2022 almost in despair about the parlous state of our tents and the lack of suitable storage to keep tents in top class condition. That meeting was so supportive in an immediate promise to help with container storage that it provided the morale boost and impetus for a major fundraising campaign for new tents, camping equipment and a contribution towards the shared container.
All manner of activities take place in the hall including science workshops, navigation skills, beaver sleepovers, first aid, pioneering, crafts, money skills, leadership activities and more.
So, in summary, we are forging forwards and truly looking forward to a positive future.

Six **Pilates** classes on a Monday afternoon, a Wednesday evening and a Friday morning cater for over sixty local adult members of the community. Participants includes people from the surrounding local villages as well as Street, Somerton and Lydford. The introduction of a seated class for people with mobility issues or underlying health conditions has been a great addition to the programme, allowing Lena to cater to a wider group and offer options for people who may

have injuries, be recovering from surgery or looking for a gentler class and encourages people to continue to exercise.

2022 to 2023 has been a year of consolidation for the **History Club**. Thanks to the efforts of our Members and Steering Group, the support of the Village Hall Committee and Booking Secretary, we have managed to hold meetings every month throughout the year with the exception of the high summer months (which themselves featured the Carnival and a guided tour of Wells Cathedral). Our speakers have covered a really diverse range of topics, one highlight being our first Robinson Memorial Lecture delivered in October by the well-known Historian and writer Ian Mortimer with an attendance of over 60 people. (Reports of all our meetings are posted on the Village Website). Our membership has since grown to over 40, a sign, we believe, of the value to the community of this opportunity for a chance to learn and socialise in a friendly relaxed environment.

Village Hall **Table Tennis** sessions began after the summer holidays on September 2nd 2022 and ran until March 31st 2023 when we stopped for the Easter break. There was no play during the week 13th-17th February as the hall was being redecorated. During our 27 week period we had several new players join us and at one stage another table would have been useful. However, not all the 20 players we have listed come at once! We have a number of competitive players but we all laugh a lot, allowing us to have plenty of fun whilst exercising.

This has been a good year for **Keinton Mandeville and District WI** which has members in Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville, West Pennard, Lottisham and Baltonsborough. We have used several venues in recent years but I am delighted to report that members say that they 'feel at home' in Barton's village hall and it is always warm and comfortable. Other users of the hall keep it clean and welcoming. The ease of parking is welcomed as are all the extra facilities that the hall offers such as disabled access, good external lighting, wifi and audio visual provision. Some may take these things for granted but our WI knows that it is not the case elsewhere where dark exteriors, cold and damp interiors and difficult kitchen facilities are more the norm.
This year in the hall, our meetings have included Deaf Awareness, Service Dogs UK, Zorba dancing, crafts, parties, photo treasure hunt, settling in the Wild West as well as debate on national issues in helping set the National WI Resolution for 2023-24. (Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife was the winner).
We would dearly like more new members but although we are active, lively and innovative we struggle with a perception of the normal WI member being rather sedentary and into jam, baking and knitting!

The Barton St David **Tennis Club** (chaired by Duncan Forbes) is run by Nicky Wheeler (Bookings) and Rosalie Odgers (Treasurer and Membership). The membership numbers of the Club have remained steady this year with 25 subscriptions in total: 18 family (residing in Barton), 6 family (residing outside the village), and 1 individual member.
Family membership costs £45.00 pa for residents of the village, and £50.00 pa for families living outside the village. Individual membership is £30.00 pa for members within the village. Junior members are charged at £12.00 pa (within the village) and £15.00pa (outside the village). The court is available to non members at an hourly charge.
During the past financial year membership fees amounted to £1140.00 of which £450.00 was paid to the Village Hall.

Cary Valley Croquet Club play at Barton every Wednesday and Saturday during the season. When they host a visiting team, they hire the hall for the afternoon as well and their activity justifies the effort of maintaining two courts.

Village Croquet games are played every Tuesday weather permitting. We have six regular village players but there are often eight or more on a fine afternoon.

In finishing, the Village Hall Committee would like to thank all those who support us in our efforts to provide an attractive village facility for the benefit of the Barton community.

Susan Forbes
Secretary
On behalf of Barton St David Village Hall and Playing Field Committee

Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Assets (As Insured)

Village Hall Buildings	1,199,544
Contents	38,680
Playground Equipment	54,750
Mowers	16,600
Marquees	7,590
Carnival Storage Container	4,162
Playing Field and Jubilee Wood	-
Outdoor Gym Equipment	5,826

	March 2023		March 2022	
Receipts:	£	£	£	£
Private Hall Hire	1,387.00		600.00	
Tennis Club	450.00		850.00	
Pre-School	1,603.00		-	
Scouts, Beavers & Cubs	752.00		-	
Table Tennis	360.00		190.00	
History Club	105.00		60.00	
Pilates/Silvercise	1,704.00		336.00	
Croquet Club	1,187.00		1,529.20	
Total Hall Hire Receipts		7,548.00		3,565.20
Carnival	9,334.81		6,810.52	
Village Croquet (Wine Tasting)	417.00		253.00	
Total Fundraising Receipts		9,751.81		7,063.52
Donations - General		2,133.82		1,011.00
Barton St David PC Donation - Playgound equipment		3,000.00		3,765.00
Utility Meters		1,034.50		811.00
EDF PV Feed		2,039.18		2,068.10
Sundry		272.00		21.02
Deposit Interest		362.75		8.70
Total General Fund Receipts		**26,142.06**		**18,313.54**

	March 2023		March 2022	
Payments:	£	£	£	£
Gas	722.04		559.10	
Electricity	114.70		510.00	
Hall Water	432.57		400.58	
Waste & Recycling Collection	702.26		673.37	
Broadband	373.92		557.84	
Maintenance	1,661.26		484.10	
Cleaning	2,025.50		1,462.85	
Total Hall Costs		6,032.25		4,647.84
Field Maintenance		2,860.21		1,149.77
Insurance, Memb & Subs		2,484.32		2,323.20
Sundry		764.98		462.37
Newsletter Printing		400.00		301.00
Carnival	4,984.50		4,243.55	
Total Fundraising Costs		4,984.50		4,243.55
Play Equipment	9,609.78		557.28	
Total Exceptional Items		9,609.78		557.28
Total General Fund Payments		**27,136.04**		**13,685.01**

General (Unrestricted) Fund Balance:

General Fund Balance b/f 1st April		27,025.42		22,396.89
Excess of Receipts over Payments		- 993.98		4,628.53
Less Transferred to Restricted Fund		- 5,000.00		-
General Fund at 31st March		**21,031.44**		**27,025.42**

	March 2023		March 2022	
Jubilee Wood (Restricted) Fund				
Restricted Fund Balance b/f 1st April		859.02		802.02
Total Receipts	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Total Payments	807.18		943.00	
		192.82		57.00
Restricted Fund at 31st March		**1,051.84**		**859.02**

New Playground Maintenance (Restricted) Fund				
Restricted Fund Balance b/f 1st April		2,284.72		2,449.12
Less Payments		-		164.40
Restricted Fund at 31st March		**2,284.72**		**2,284.72**

Total Charity Funds at 31st March 2023				
Unrestricted: General Funds		21,031.44		27,025.42
Restricted: Jubilee Wood Fund		1,051.84		859.02
Restricted: Playground Maintenance		2,284.72		2,284.72
Exceptional Reserves Fund		10,000.00		5,000.00
		34,368.00		**35,169.16**

Total Charity Funds Represented by				
Cash Balance		177.50		189.00
Main Bank Account		11,867.12		13,019.53
Deposit Account		20,823.38		20,460.63
Carnival Committee Account		1,500.00		1,500.00
		34,368.00		**35,169.16**

Mrs E C Gosden (Treasurer)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Barton St David Village Hall and Playing Field Charity

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on the pages 1 to 3 of the Financial Statements.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act: and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to me attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met.

or

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

Helen Hashmi FCA 9/5/23

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