

Audlem Public Hall

Registered Charity No. 519458

Trustees' Annual Report

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

Treasurer to the Trustees:

Mr John Tilling

21, Broadways

Audlem, Cheshire

CW3 0EY

Tel: 01270-811990 E-mail: j.tilling@audlem.org

Names of Officers

Mr Stuart Furber

Chairman

Mr Adrian Farrow

Vice-Chairman

Ms Rachel Hodgkins

Secretary

Names of Trustees

Mr John Tilling

Treasurer

Mr Tony Richardson

Mr Richard Furber

Mrs Adriana Roscoe

Mrs Janet Morgan

Sources of advice and support

Bank: Santander
Cheshire East Council
Audlem Parish Council

Governance

Audlem Public Hall was established as a charity by a Trust Deed & Lease dated 14th June 1989.

The hall was built in 1904 as a town hall and has been used for that purpose ever since. The original company became insolvent in 1939 and the Hall was then run by a committee of volunteers until it became a registered Charity in 1989. The Charity is registered with the Charity Commission as number 519458. The Hall and the land on which it stands are held in Trust by the Official Custodian for Charities.

Appointment of Trustees

The Trust Deed governs the appointment of trustees and the management of the charity.

There are five Trustees. The Committee of Management comprises elected and representative members up to a total of fifteen persons. Committee members are elected at the Annual General Meeting held each year.

The Representative members of the Committee are nominated by specific user groups.

Policies and Procedures

To guide the Management Committee in exercising its duty of care to members, employees and users of the hall, the following policy statements have been adopted:

- Health & Safety Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Vulnerable Adults Policy

Copies of these policies are included in the Trustees' Welcome pack and re published on the website as well as being displayed in the premises.

Hiring Agreement

Use of the village hall is subject to a Hiring Agreement which must be signed by the hirer when booking. The hiring agreement sets out the conditions of hire and identifies the respective responsibilities of each party to the agreement.

Licences

The hall has a Premises Licence and an Alcohol Licence and is registered with the local authority for small society lotteries.

It also holds a PPL/PRS licence.

Risk Management

Insurance

Audlem Public Hall is insured with respect to property damage (buildings insurance) through Bluefin Insurance Services (£1,985,500 cover). It is insured

with the same company with respect to contents (up to £85,000) public liability (£5,000,000) employers' liability (£10,000,000) and legal assistance.

The Management Committee recognises that it is under a legal obligation to protect the building, its users and employees through adequate and appropriate insurance.

Building Issues

- A building condition survey is undertaken at 5-year intervals by a qualified surveyor.
- Portable electrical appliances are tested by qualified personnel annually.
- The mains electrical installation is checked by a qualified engineer every 5 years.
- A Fire Safety Risk Assessment is updated annually by the Committee's own Fire Safety Officer as required by law.
- Fire fighting appliances are inspected annually under contract with the supplier.
- Volunteers from the Committee carry out other regular maintenance checks.

Objectives of the Charity

- Provision of a village hall for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parishes of Audlem, Buerton and Hankelow without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinions
- Use of the village hall for meetings, lectures and classes or other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the social conditions of the life of the inhabitants
- The Trustees consider these objectives to be consistent with Charity Commission guidance on providing for the public benefit and these objectives have been pursued in the activities of the charity this year.

Principal Activities in pursuit of Objectives

- The hall is in use most days of the week for a variety of activities including Theatre Group, Table Tennis Club, Badminton Club, various Keep Fit groups, Children's Netball, Senior Citizens Snooker, Bingo sessions, Football changing, Bridge Club and Dancing Classes.
- The hall is the operational base for ADCA (Audlem and District Community Action) a charity which provides services for the elderly and disadvantaged residents and their carers.
- The hall is the home venue for Audlem & District PROBUS Club, a social group for retired professionals and business people.
- The hall is available for hire for private functions including children's parties, wedding receptions, funeral teas, village social functions and occasional fund raising events.
- There is a Community Gym in its own dedicated rooms within the Hall. Induction to the gym facilities is undertaken by a qualified personal trainer.
- The hall is used in a support role for the main village community events held annually such as the Music and Transport Festivals.
- The Hall is registered as an emergency centre if required by the civil authorities.
- A traditional Pantomime is put on each year in the Hall which requires some twenty rehearsal sessions and a full week of performances. The Theatre Group typically puts on two further shows through the year, and has a significant contingent of school age children (ages 7+) amongst its membership.

Funding Strategy

It is the strategy of the Trustees and Management Committee to manage the revenue budget on a self-financing basis. The contributions made by users of the hall are set to achieve this. Additional funding is raised by an annual lottery, which is registered with Cheshire East Council.

Volunteers' Effort

Management costs are kept to a minimum through the use of volunteers for much of the regular management of the hall. Trustees give 30 hours a month for meetings and 200 hours per annum in organising and running fund raising events.

2024 Achievements

Following a successful application for Change of Use, the original caretaker's flat (unoccupied for the past 3 years) has been repurposed for general hall use, providing much needed space for storage for some of our user groups – along with general cleaner and caretaker space for storage of materials and hall consumables.

A new website has been launched for the hall, which gives our community greater visibility of what is on and how to get in touch with our user groups.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees' Reserves Policy is to keep £25,000 unspent and available for unforeseen expenditure in relation to building maintenance or urgent furniture or equipment replacement.

Future Plans

The underlying funding in normal operation remains very healthy. Work on transferring the business and assets of the charity to the CIO (registered number 1159429) is being handled by specialist solicitors has continued throughout 2024, but the necessity to carry out a formal transfer of the ownership of the Hall and land continues to be an expensive and time-consuming exercise. This will hopefully be completed during 2025, following which it is intended that this Charity will be dissolved.

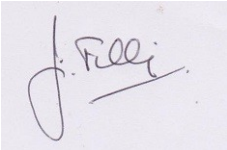
Total funds

Total liquid funds held by the Charity at 31st December 2024 are
Current Account £33,964.23
Deposit Account £52,661.86
Cash in hand £316.59
Total £86,942.68

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

John Tilling

Position

Treasurer

Date

July 2025

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Audlem Public Hall

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31st December 2024

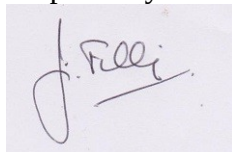
Receipts	This year 2024	Last year 2023
Hire of Hall	£65,308.80	£59,786.91
Fund raising	£3,380.00	£3,670.00
Grants	£2,000.00	
Donations	£20.40	£225.00
Bank interest	£501.09	£329.69
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£71,210.29	£64,011.60

Payments	This year 2024	Last year 2023
Maintenance	£6,197.38	£2,244.98
Running Costs	£31,404.81	£21,206.84
Utility Bills	£20,585.23	£8,408.19
Fund Raising	£1,210.00	£1,170.00
Insurance	£2,964.02	£2,708.99
Capital Spend	£4,573.80	£2,708.81
Furniture & Fittings	£7,778.26	£4,282.33
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£74,713.50	£47,553.09

Current account	This year 2024	Last year 2023
Balance brought forward	£37,700.96	£71,566.87
Cash in hand brought forward	£584.16	£589.43
Balance in hand at year end	£33,964.23	£37,700.96
Cash in hand at year end	£316.59	£584.16

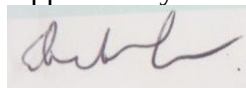
Deposit account	This year 2024	Last year 2023
Balance brought forward	£52,160.77	£1,831.08
Balance in hand at year end	£52,661.86	£52,160.77

Prepared by



John Tilling,
Treasurer

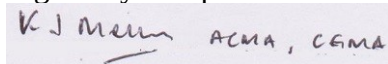
Approved by



Stuart Furber,
Chairman

The attached Receipts and Payments Account (and Statement of Assets and Liabilities) have been examined by myself and are in accordance with the Management's books and vouchers. The receipts and payments as shown are, to the best of my knowledge, authorised transactions.

Signed by Independent Reviewer ,



Kevin Mellor ACMA CGMA

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	Rest'd	2024 Unrestrict ed	Rest'd	2023 Unrestrict ed
Cash Funds					
Current account			33,964		37,856
Deposit	1		52,662		52,161
Cash			317		429
		0	86,943	0	90,446
Other monetary assets					
Debtors			2,107		1,811
Stocks			2,107		1,830
Total current assets			89,050		92,257
Assets retained for the Charities own use					
Freehold building (at Trustees valuation)	2		125,000		125,000
Improvements to building	3		174,024		178,609
Fixtures fittings and equipment	4		33,250		29,166
Annexe	5		150,000		150,000
Total fixed assets			482,274		482,775
Liabilities					
Trade creditors			2,051		4,122
			-		-
Total assets			569,273		570,910

Notes

1. There are no restricted funds currently held by the Charity
2. The major asset of the Charity is the Hall which stands in the village of Audlem in Cheshire. It is 120 years old and requires continuous expenditure to maintain in good repair. No formal valuation has been carried out but the Committee of Management consider that its value is in the region of £125,000.
3. Value of improvements to the building brought forward (£178,609) plus the value of capital improvements this year (£4,574) less 5%.
4. Value of fixtures and fittings brought forward (£29,166) plus new items this year (£7,778) less 10%.
5. The new annexe was opened in November 2017. It was funded by a Big Lottery Fund grant. No formal valuation has been carried out but the Committee of Management consider that its value is in the region of £150,000.