

Annual Report for The Mere Lecture Hall Trust  
For the Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
(Charity Registration Number 202620)

## 1 Administrative Details

### Registered Office:

Newport House  
Salisbury Street  
Mere  
Wiltshire  
BA12 6HE

### Correspondence Address:

Chris Wood (Treasurer)  
Swainsford Fish Farm  
Woodlands Road  
Mere  
Warminster  
Wiltshire  
BA12 6BY

### Trustees as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019:

Mr A Bristow	Mr S Burroughs	Rev M Laurie
Rev E Kemp	Mrs D Potter	Mr P Platt-Higgins
Mr A Rees	Mr C Rutter (chairman)	Mrs H Watts
Rev M Shallcross	Mr B Watts	Mrs J Morgan
Mrs M White	Mrs Audrey Hart-Roy	Mr S Rutter
Mr C Wood (treasurer)		

Number of Active Trustees at Year End: 16

### Custodian Trustee:

Legal Trustee Limited  
Company registration number 00195819  
C/O Rutters Solicitors  
2 Bimport  
Shaftesbury  
Dorset  
SP7 8AY

### Trust Document:

The Trust was created by Deed dated November 22, 1924

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## 2 Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is governed by up to 25 Administrative Trustees, with the backing of a Custodian Trustee. Six Trustees are especially representative of the Christian presence in the town and are elected by their own churches each for a period of three years. The rest are self-perpetuating, elected by the remaining trustees for an indefinite term, being gathered from the local community resident within 13 miles' radius.

"The Administrative Trustees shall manage or superintend the management of the trust properties with power to deal therewith as if they were absolute owners thereof." They thus have wide powers.

The Trustees currently meet once or twice a year. They annually elect a management committee to manage the day to day business of the trust, consisting of a chairman, secretary, treasurer and four others, who include a hall manager, and clerk of works. They also appoint a Grants' sub-committee of up to 5 trustees. The management committee meets as required, but usually 4 – 6 times a year. The Trustees approve the annual accounts, set the level of grants for the year, receive and discuss the management committee's report and decide items of policy.

The Trustees employ the services of a Caretaker/Cleaner for the Lecture Hall building. Although they are at liberty to employ any other servant if they wish, all the office holders are also trustees and act in a voluntary capacity. From time to time they employ professional help as required.

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### 3 Public Benefit Statement

The Primary Objective of the Trust is to provide a meeting place for the community of Mere and surrounding area for non-commercial use. This enables the various groups that make up the community to meet and develop spiritually, physically and socially.

The Hall is available to all sections and groups within the community although there are restrictions on use based on the requirements as set out by the original Trust Deed and the limitations of the building.

The Grants provided to the local community require the benefit to be used within an 8 mile radius of Mere and the purposes of the grant must be consistent with the objectives of the Trust as set out in the original Trust Deed.

None of the Trustees receive any benefit, direct or indirectly from the Trust.

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#### 4 Objectives and Activities

"The objects of the Trust are the promotion of the spiritual, moral, intellectual or social welfare of the inhabitants of Mere in the County of Wiltshire and elsewhere, along lines not inconsistent with non-conforming Christianity, or the promotion of temperance, or the promotion of similar charitable objects elsewhere."

To this end the "Lecture Hall" building, a main 100-seater hall and stage, two smaller halls and various ancillary spaces, was given to the Trust in 1924. In many ways it serves as a community hall. At the same time various properties were also given to the trust as endowment for the Hall to ensure its spiritual freedom and financial independence.

The Trustees maintain the Hall as an attractive and suitable venue for many local activities as a benefit to the community. One of the halls is now a coffee bar and there are modern toilets and disabled facilities. The rooms are offered for rent at a subsidised rate to the community and at a commercial rate for commercial purposes.

The trustees endeavor to make small grants each year to community organisations and continue to explore opportunities to promote the objects of the Trust.

To maintain a viable level of income, the trustees maintain, manage and let a number of properties, both residential and commercial.

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## 5 Achievements and Financial Review

The Mere Lecture Hall continued to be well used until the Covid lockdown in March 2020 and remained closed to the end of the financial year. The Trust was able to meet the primary objective of providing a suitable venue for the people of Mere and district up to that time. The Trust continued to do various works to maintain the properties the Trust owns and manages. The Trust endeavors to keep abreast of current legislation to ensure all the properties are within the Health and Safety and building regulations. As of 30th June 2019 all the trust properties were let. Grants totalling £4,000 have been paid to local applicants as approved by the grants committee in July 2019. The Hall Manager and Minutes Secretary were awarded Honoraria by the Trustees at the AGM in respect of their efforts in the previous year.

**Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th June 2020**

**for**

**Mere Lecture Hall Trust**

# **Mere Lecture Hall Trust**

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**Mere Lecture Hall Trust**  
**General Information**  
**for the Year Ended 30th June 2020**

**TREASURER:** C R C Wood

**ADDRESS:** Newport House  
Salisbury Street  
Mere  
Warminster  
Wiltshire  
BA12 6HE

**ACCOUNTANT:** Gordon Chubb  
542 Bishops Caundle  
Sherborne  
Dorset  
DT9 5ND



**Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 30th June 2020**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 30th June 2020.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners**

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) 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 procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act)
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given in the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements have not been met:-

- 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.

Gordon Chubb  
542 Bishops Caundle  
Sherborne  
Dorset  
DT9 5ND

Date: .....

**Mere Lecture Hall Trust**  
**Trading and Profit and Loss Account**  
**for the Year Ended 30th June 2020**

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Donations received	10		-	
The Gables - ground floor (Old Coffee Tavern)	6,500		6,500	
The Gables - Drama Room	400		-	
The Gables - Top floor flat	3,045		2,305	
Hartfield	600		5,200	
Courtfield	4,813		4,800	
Newport House - Maisonette 1	5,700		5,700	
Newport House - Maisonette 2	4,557		6,255	
Newport House - Office	1,560		1,470	
Town & Country House - office	5,000		5,000	
Town & Country House - snooker room	605		1,060	
Homelea	6,900		6,900	
Truscott	7,968		7,500	
Lecture hall	3,168		6,683	
Garage	<u>480</u>		<u>480</u>	
		51,306		59,853
<b>Property direct costs</b>				
Repairs to property - Gables	295		798	
Repairs to property-Courtfield	630		568	
Repairs to property - Newport House	6,649		9,322	
Repairs to property - Truscott	85		524	
Repairs to property - Homelea	680		415	
Repairs to property - Lecture Hall	1,300		19,944	
Repairs to property - Town & Country House	19,500		-	
Repairs to property-Hartfield	<u>85</u>		<u>2,128</u>	
		<u>29,224</u>		<u>33,699</u>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>		22,082		26,154
<b>Establishment costs</b>				
Security	822		387	
Management fees	5,124		5,834	
Rates, water, licences & insurance	5,214		5,497	
Cleaning	1,622		2,199	
Heating & lighting	<u>2,786</u>		<u>2,039</u>	
		<u>15,568</u>		<u>15,956</u>
		6,514		10,198
<b>Administrative expenses</b>				
Secretary's expenses	-		56	
Telephone	297		271	
Post and stationery	17		-	
Advertising	110		160	
Sundry expenses	(1)		1	
Accountancy	600		600	
Donations & grants	<u>4,000</u>		<u>12,000</u>	
		<u>5,023</u>		<u>13,088</u>
Carried forward		1,491		(2,890)

**Mere Lecture Hall Trust**

**Trading and Profit and Loss Account  
for the Year Ended 30th June 2020**

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward		1,491		(2,890)
<b>Depreciation</b>				
Improvements to property	696		-	
Plant and machinery	<u>275</u>		<u>211</u>	
		<u>971</u>		<u>211</u>
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>		<u><u>520</u></u>		<u><u>(3,101)</u></u>

# Mere Lecture Hall Trust

## Balance Sheet 30th June 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Freehold property	159,462		159,462	
Improvements to property	31,627		32,323	
Plant and machinery	<u>1,670</u>		<u>1,944</u>	
		192,759		193,729
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Trade debtors	299		1,273	
Deposits held by Gilyard Scarth	5,258		6,758	
Bank current account	24,470		22,013	
Cash in hand	<u>142</u>		<u>(11)</u>	
	<u>30,169</u>		<u>30,033</u>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Trade creditors	1,239		1,033	
Deposits received from tenants	5,258		6,758	
Accrued expenses	<u>600</u>		<u>600</u>	
	<u>7,097</u>		<u>8,391</u>	
		<u>23,072</u>		<u>21,642</u>
		215,831		215,371
<b>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</b>				
Other creditors		<u>-</u>		<u>60</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>215,831</u>		<u>215,311</u>
<b>FINANCED BY</b>				
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>				
Brought forward	215,311		218,412	
Add				
Net profit	<u>520</u>		<u>-</u>	
	215,831		218,412	
Less				
Net loss	<u>-</u>		<u>3,101</u>	
		<u>215,831</u>		<u>215,311</u>
		<u>215,831</u>		<u>215,311</u>

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Treasurer

Date: .....

**Mere Lecture Hall Trust**

**Tangible Fixed Assets Schedule  
30th June 2020**

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>					
At 1st July 2019 and 30th June 2020	<u>159,462</u>	<u>34,803</u>	<u>2,391</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>198,835</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
At 1st July 2019	-	2,480	447	2,179	5,106
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>970</u>
At 30th June 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>3,176</u>	<u>721</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>6,076</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
At 30th June 2020	<u>159,462</u>	<u>31,627</u>	<u>1,670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192,759</u>
At 30th June 2019	<u>159,462</u>	<u>32,323</u>	<u>1,944</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>193,729</u>

**Mere Lecture Hall Trust**

**Financial Statements**

**for the Year Ended 30th June 2020**

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**Gordon Chubb**

**542 Bishops Caundle Sherborne**

**Dorset DT9 5ND**

**Date: .....**