



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

West Stow Anglo Saxon Village Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2017

Charity no
(if any)

272897

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

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 Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

31/05/17

Name:

Lorna Jenkins

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

MAAT

Address:	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
	West Suffolk House, Western Way
	Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3YU

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

West Stow Anglo Saxon Village Trust

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01.04.16

To

31.03.17

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Interest	2	19	-	21	34
Grants - Suffolk County Council	-	-	-	-	-
Royalties	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	1,030	-	-	1,030	458
Visitor Charges	51,184	-	-	51,184	42,522
School Parties	74,437	-	-	74,437	61,785
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	126,653	19	-	126,672	104,799
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	126,653	19	-	126,672	104,799
A3 Payments					
Archaeological Consultant	1,667	-	-	1,667	1,667
Other Expenses (Insurance - Premises)	-	-	-	-	458
Service Charge	125,621	-	-	125,621	104,307
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	127,288	-	-	127,288	106,432
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	127,288	-	-	127,288	106,432
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 635	19	-	- 616	- 1,633
A5 Transfers between funds	637	- 637	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	283	2,504	-	2,787	4,420
Cash funds this year end	285	1,886	-	2,171	2,787

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Accumulated fund	285	-	-
	Match funding account	-	1,886	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	285	1,886	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

West Stow Anglo Saxon Trust
Annual Report
April 2016 - March 17

The Trust met in March 2016 and approved the year's calendar of events and activities. The primary aim of the events was to continue to build the resilience of the venue by increasing footfall and repeat visits.

The Dragon Festival event, in June 2016, attracted 2,300 visitors. This represented an increase of 1,200 visitors (109% increase) on last year's attendance.

The table below shows the year on year upturn in visitor numbers - this is due to the quality of the events and the improvements made to the marketing of key activities through Facebook campaigns, website updates and the booking systems set up.

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Group visits	15,284	12,291	11,606	8,807	9,098
General Admissions	25,192	20,942	17,244	17,800	15,983
Total visitors to Village (Pay Zone)	40,476	33,233	28,850	26,607	25,081
Visitor Centres (Non-Pay Zone)	152,394	131,653	120,760	109,616	108,886

Admissions to the sites pay zone are up for both general admissions (20%) and group visits (24%). There has been an increased focus on marketing the venue to schools (classified as group visits).

In addition to the success of the Dragon Festival both the Ring Quest event and Enchanted Heath event proved very successful again in 2016.

The Village Assistant (Dougal Meredith) is now trained to provide additional support to the school visits, this includes tool demonstrations and informative tours of both the reconstructed buildings and museum on site.

The Friends of West Stow continue to support the village with practical mend and make days plus re-enactments as part of the Yule celebrations and Ring Quest.

In August 2016 St Edmundsbury Borough Council's, Heritage Service was successful in obtaining an Arts Council, Museums Resilience grant of £108,000. The grant funding is for specific activities across the two museum sites the Heritage Service operates (West Stow and Moyse's Hall) to help make them more resilient and sustainable. The grant will, alongside the support of external professionals, enable the staff and volunteers at West Stow to re-theme and display the finds in the West Stow museum. This reorganisation of the museum will make it more flexible and enable it to accommodate temporary loans and exhibits more

easily. It will also strengthen the wider interpretations of the early Anglo-Saxons. The work will be completed in March 2018.

As West Stow is located in the Brecks (see link about the Brecks: <http://www.brecks.org/about/>) the Trusts venue has benefited from the Heritage Lottery grant awarded to the Brecks Partnership. These benefits have included raising the profile of the Trust's venue, hosting of certain events at the venue (e.g. the Brecks Festival and Enchanted Heath event) and investment in a Beowulf and Grendel trail. The trail, a 1km trail in the neighbouring country Park, winds through key Breckland features in the park and entwines the rich storytelling narrative of the early Anglo-Saxons and the unique landscape, part of which is a Site of Special Scientific interest including the SSSI. The trail, which includes some impressive sculptures, links the themes of the Anglo-Saxon Village with that of the surrounding landscape.

The trail received the backing of the Trustees at their meeting in June 2016 and a launch event took place on October 22nd 2016 - with over 2,300 visitors walking the trail. The Friends of West Stow have also pledged to support the trail by sponsoring a carved sculpture of Beowulf.

The next phase of the trail will be to install interpretation panels and it's hoped that these will be installed next summer (2017).

The sites consultant archaeologist Dr Richard Hoggett resigned from his position with Suffolk County Council in December 2016 to become an independent consultant. The Trust felt it was important to continue links with the county council and appointed Faye Minter from the portable antiquity scheme/ local archaeologist unit. Faye has been involved at West Stow in various ways since 2000.