

Company Registration Number: 06959661
Charity Registration Number: 1146726

The Witham Hall Ltd
(Incorporating the Annual Report of the Barnard Castle
Mechanics' Institute)

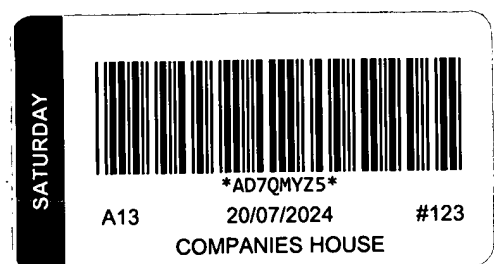
Financial Statements

For the Year Ending

31 December 2023

JANE ASCROFT ACCOUNTANCY LIMITED

Chartered accountants
Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XT



The Witham Hall Ltd

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2023

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The Witham Hall Ltd

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of The Witham Hall Limited are:

To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinctions of sex, political, religious or other opinions, by associating with local authorities, voluntary organizations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, promote science, art, literature and the spread of knowledge and to provide facilities for meetings, lecture and classes and other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.

In setting the objects and planning the activities of the Trust, the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Trustees' interpretation of the objects is to provide "something for everyone".

The above charitable Objects are identical to those of the Barnard Castle Mechanic's Institute and Witham Hall Community Association which owns the land and the buildings occupied by the Witham Hall Ltd.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Achievements and Performance

The challenge of 2023 was to carry on striving to build a sustainable platform on which to offer a programme of relevant events for residents and visitors and to ensure that the charity's Objects were reflected in the public offer. The theme of "something for everyone" continued to drive decisions which resulted in a very varied programme.

As in previous years, the small staff team demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm for ensuring everyone received a warm welcome. Trustees successfully recruited Amy Hughes as the Centre Director. Amy has provided leadership for her team and for volunteers. She is also the primary focus for artists and guests.

The programme could not have been delivered without the indispensable support of our team of volunteers. As with the staff team, each made their unique contribution. Everyone supported the efforts of their colleagues, and all were instrumental in the charity's achievements.

The year began with the re-opening of the remodelled café/bar in the space at the heart of the building. The day-time café is a social centre and was used as a warm space within the local authority's initiative to support hardship. In the latter part of the year the Witham Room - the principal first-floor room - was adapted to be a small performance space, including by adding sound, lighting and flexible staging. The front of the building was also transformed each evening by the addition of theatre-style lighting which shows off the fine neo-classical design. More and more people recognized the building as a community arts centre.

There was no technology to count footfall for the whole premises which include a shop, gallery, meeting rooms, and music hall in addition to the café/bar space. However, data from the ticketing systems and estimates of participants indicate over 25,000 attendances, an increase of 4,000 on last year. Of these, 17,500 came to live performances, screenings and films with a further 8,000 attendances at classes and community activities. We also sold over 30,000 cups of tea and coffee which was an indicator of the number of our customers. The participants in events sponsored by private hirers not counted in The Witham's own sales would further inflate the number of participants using the building.

Trustees were able to use a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to commission a strategic review of the business model and operation. The independent consultant's report included 26 recommendations, of which only a few could not be considered as viable informants of decisions. Several recommendations achieved early-adopter status. Others will inform decisions and actions to be taken from 2024 onwards. These included the need to increase earned income through developing and implementing strategies for fundraising, marketing and audience development; skill development for staff and volunteers; improving data for better decision making; creating a route to sustainability by gaining National Portfolio Organization (NPO) status with Arts Council England (ACE).

The cultural programme included live theatre performances by Barnard Castle's Castle Players, theatre screenings from the National Theatre, opera and ballet screened from the Royal Opera House, all genres of music, dance, spoken-word lectures, as well as the pantomime delivered by our partner Tom Rolfe.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Achievements and Performance *(continued)*

Highlights of the year were:

- The Jive Aces - music to make everyone dance
- Mrs Churchill - live theatre from Liz Grand who returned later in the year with Mrs Roosevelt
- Top Secret - the Magic of Science family show
- Steve Richards - the well-known political commentator with interesting views on the political future of the UK
- The Royal Ballet screening of Cinderella - a feast of music and spectacular dance
- The Aquarius String Quartet on a Sunday afternoon - were able to play in the Witham Room for the first time
- Kathryn Tickell and the Darkening as well as the father and daughter duo: Martin and Eliza Carthy pleased our regular folk audience
- Tribute bands: The Jerseys Live, Abba, Simon & Garfunkel and Queen proved ever popular
- The 90s Disco Night - ran by request from those that attended an 80s night disco earlier in the year
- China Crisis, Doctor Feelgood, Kiki Dee and the Blow Monkeys were all big successes.
- The Castle Players production: Our Town was their second show in The Witham during the year
- Carols by Candlelight - returned by request from audience members
- Barnard Castle Brass Band - who continued - very generously - to be willing to forego part of their fee to help with fundraising for The Witham
- The Wizard of Oz - the hugely popular pantomime, which was in fact so popular that 'we'll have to do it again then, wont we?'

The Witham Hall Ltd

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Achievements and Performance *(continued)*

Turrets: The Witham's Youth Theatre was professionalized through the engagement of Christina Castling as leader. Christina was supported by Laura Shaw. Their efforts created a stable organization that continued to grow numbers with young people on a waiting list. The pièce-de-resistance of the year was the sell-out Murder Mystery, an evening of memorable entertainment and a lovely supper, served throughout the performance by the café/bar staff and a huge team of volunteers. There was creativity in the performance space and in the tiny kitchen area.

The Summer Festival, in its third year, was a great success. The weather was not as kind as in previous years, so several sets had to be moved indoors into the various performance spaces inside the Witham. The 30 groups or solo artists all pulled together over the ten weeks and were very much supported by locals and day visitors alike. The artists loved being part of the festival, and many were keen to return in 2024 if they can. They all made a great contribution to our summer activities with special thanks to local musician Malcolm Elsbury and Ken Tonge from Hop Skiffle Jump as well as the ever-popular D'Ukes of Scarth.

Funny Way To Be Comedy, our stand-up comedy partners for the last 14 years, presented 25 shows to 4,500 audience members in the year. Half of the shows fully sold out. Nearly one third of those tickets were sold by The Witham. Highlights in the year included the Parenting Hell Live Podcast Show which went on to tour the major arenas in the UK with the hosts, Josh Widdicombe and Rob Beckett, referencing their time in Barnard Castle every subsequent tour show. It was also lovely to have TV favourite Gyles Brandreth make Barnard Castle his base for the week as he presented several shows in the Northeast preparing for his UK tour. Other favourites - many known from national TV and radio - returning to our venue were Seann Walsh, Andy Parsons and Alfie Moore.

Community activities included yoga, Tai Chi, dance for over 60s living independently, oil painting and water colour classes, Man Health, Women's Well Being, and cookery demonstrations. Private hires brought both weddings and wakes into the building.

The picture gallery at the front of the building is a showcase for local talent. Outstanding exhibitions were mounted by Tonya Mitchell and Artways North, a Darlington-based group. There were joint activities with local schools including Barnard Castle School's A-level student art exhibition and Montalbo School's end of summer term performance.

Our partnership with the local branch of the U3A (University of the 3rd Age) continued to thrive. Their membership has grown significantly because of their ability to hold their monthly meetings in accessible premises in the town-centre. They often attract more than 150 participants to these meetings. In addition, regular meetings of the geography, science, geology and photography groups are held within the building. U3A members also attend other community-focused events, and when they come for U3A purposes, they often buy tickets and make very good use of the café/bar.

The Influence Church continued to meet every Sunday evening. In addition, to this regular weekly hire, they frequently hire rooms for their Mini Hero's group, for play and stay and community support activities including their storehouse.

The Women's Institute are regular users of The Witham's meeting rooms. As are Dig-Ventures, the archaeology company which leases a Hall Street Studio space. Our studios are also home to Northern Heartlands and Durham Audiology. These 3 organizations provide employment opportunities for around 10 people.

A collaboration with the TCR Hub and the Town Council enabled the Christmas parade for the switch on of the town lights to start from The Witham's garden at the rear of the building.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Achievements and Performance *(continued)*

Grants and Foundations

Fundraising is a key activity for the Centre Director. During the year, contributions were received from Durham County Council (DCC), National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF), Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP), the Marwood Trust and Blenkiron. All contributions were vital support for our ongoing operation. Trustees recognize that fundraising continues to be a priority.

Donations

All donations are appreciated. These include contributions made in donation boxes, rounding up ticket purchases, funds from book sales and the contributions made by individuals through Just Giving. Regular contributions such as standing orders have been especially helpful because they are predictable and can help us to show funding bodies that we have local support. No contribution is too small but of course, larger amounts were greatly appreciated.

Financial Review

The financial statements show what the Trustees consider to be a satisfactory performance for the year

The total income generated was £430k and the expenditure for the year was £454k, a net deficit on all funds of £23.9k. This figure includes restricted and unrestricted funds. The net increase in unrestricted funds was £33.3k, the same level as last year, so that unrestricted funds total £251.6k at year end. However, the restricted funds balance decreased to £32k and it is a continuing challenge to identify grants towards capital, projects and core spend.

During the year our spend on fixed assets increased to include investment on upgrading the kitchen, acoustic curtains in the Witham room and County room, the exterior floodlighting scheme and cyclical replacement of equipment. We are grateful for the support of the Teesdale Action Partnership to fund a number of these items. All these investments form part of our plan to improve the customer experience and to increase revenue.

Our establishment achieved the planned level with appointment of our Director at the end of March.

Reserves Policy

The company has a formal reserves policy which required the company to hold reserves equivalent to three months operating costs excluding depreciation. This is currently estimated at approximately £65,000 based on an assessment by trustees. The trustees have decided to hold designated funds of £106,761 as detailed in note 21. Therefore, excluding these designated funds, the company had free reserves amounting to £105,731 as at 31 December 2023.

Plans for Future Periods

In May 2024 we were delighted to receive confirmation of a £140k grant towards £155k capital spend to improve the environmental footprint and customer welcome. Spend on these projects will commence in summer 2024

We would like to thank Durham County Council for their continuing support with a grant offer of £30,000 for 2024, reducing by £10,000 a year over the next two years. The focus and energy of the Director and her team, supported by the Board, is to meet the tough challenge of increasing self generated income and support from trusts and foundations in order to continue to offer great experiences for the people of Barnard Castle and the surrounding area.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

The Witham Hall Limited is an incorporated charity, registered with Companies' House on 11 July 2009 and as a charity with the Charity Commission on 30 March 2012.

The Articles of Association of WHL require a minimum of three Directors with no maximum number specified. New Directors may be appointed by the existing Directors at any General Meeting, or may be proposed to the Directors by any Member. The Membership of WHL comprises all of the Directors and all those whose former membership of the Barnard Castle Mechanics' Institute and Witham Hall Community Association was transferred to WHL at 1 January 2013. In March 2022 the widening of the membership scheme was approved to include membership through payment of subscription, and by invitation through contribution of expertise or donations, including donating time as volunteers.

The Management Committee of WHL comprises of all Directors and the Executive Director of the organisation.

Organisation and governance

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a fixed period of three years by nomination by a voting member or recommendation by the existing Trustees, followed by a vote of agreement by a majority. Trustees may serve a further term, if duly appointed at the AGM.

During the year Gordon Duffy-McGhie, Ian Smith and Josephine Turnbull were appointed and Ada Burns resigned. Sadly, in September we learned that Ian Brown who retired as a Trustee in 2023 had died unexpectedly. Our sympathies were offered to his widow.

Our long serving Chair Shelagh Avery will be stepping down at the AGM and the Trustees would like to record their enormous appreciation for her passion, hard work and commitment which have made such a difference to the Witham since she first became involved at a time of crisis in 2018.

We are pleased to welcome Liz Bromley as a new Trustee and chair designate.

Barnard Castle Mechanics' Institute (BCMI)

In April 2022, under a scheme approved by the Charity Commission, the Witham Hall Ltd was appointed a sole trustee of the Barnard Castle Mechanics Institute (BCMI). The BCMI is now a special trust of the registered charity the Witham Hall Ltd (1146726). For all purposes WHL is the trustee of BCMI. WHL will manage and administer BCMI as a separate charity with its objects and assets, and report on it separately within the WHL accounts and formal reports. All the land and buildings form the permanent endowment for the BCMI, managed by the Witham Hall Ltd as the sole trustee.

The BCMI had no financial transactions during the year. The Witham Hall Ltd, as sole trustee, managed the land and buildings which form the permanent endowment of the BCMI. All costs associated with the land and buildings are included in the accounts of the Witham Hall Ltd.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name The Witham Hall Ltd
Charity registration number 1146726
Company registration number 06959661
Principal office and registered office 3 Horsemarket
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8LY

The Trustees

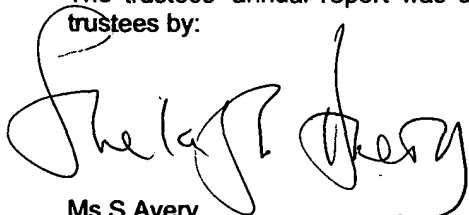
Mrs N M Grace
Ms H E Spencer
Ms A S Burns (Resigned 21 August 2023)
Ms S Avery
Mr N P Hodges
Mr I Brown (Resigned 8 April 2023)
Mr G A Duffy-McGhie (Appointed 27 February 2023)
Mr I W Smith (Appointed 9 October 2023)
Mrs J M Turnbull (Appointed 4 September 2023)

Independent Examiner Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab)
Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XT

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 20 May 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Ms S Avery
Trustee

The Witham Hall Ltd

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Witham Hall Ltd

Year Ended 31 December 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Witham Hall Ltd ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Witham Hall Ltd

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Witham Hall Ltd *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jane Ascroft

Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab)
Independent Examiner

Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XT

20 May 2024

The Witham Hall Ltd

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
	Note				
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	50,442	48,864	99,306	41,881
Charitable activities	6	329,776	-	329,776	310,406
Investment income	7	1,171	-	1,171	282
Total income		<u>381,389</u>	<u>48,864</u>	<u>430,253</u>	<u>352,569</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8,9	437,234	16,881	454,115	359,423
Total expenditure		<u>437,234</u>	<u>16,881</u>	<u>454,115</u>	<u>359,423</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(55,845)</u>	<u>31,983</u>	<u>(23,862)</u>	<u>(6,854)</u>
Transfers between funds		89,118	(89,118)	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>33,273</u>	<u>(57,135)</u>	<u>(23,862)</u>	<u>(6,854)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		218,319	89,254	307,573	314,427
Total funds carried forward		<u>251,592</u>	<u>32,119</u>	<u>283,711</u>	<u>307,573</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 12 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 (restated) £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	16	39,100	9,062
Current Assets			
Stocks	17	6,622	3,966
Debtors	18	12,725	35,967
Cash at bank and in hand		352,161	328,428
		<u>371,508</u>	<u>368,361</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>126,897</u>	<u>69,850</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>244,611</u>	<u>298,511</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>283,711</u>	<u>307,573</u>
Net Assets		<u>283,711</u>	<u>307,573</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds		32,119	89,254
Unrestricted funds		251,592	218,319
Total charity funds	21	<u>283,711</u>	<u>307,573</u>

For the year ending 31 December 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 20 May 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Mrs N M Grace
Trustee

The notes on pages 12 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 3 Horsemarket, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8LY.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The trustees consider that there are no significant estimates or judgements affecting these financial statements.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity, being the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.

Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, as set out in the notes to the accounts.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Website	-	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% reducing balance
Floodlights	-	20% reducing balance
Equipment	-	25% reducing balance & 33% straight line
Kitchen and catering equipment	-	20% reducing balance

Historical Interest Assets are not depreciated as their value is not considered to be impaired with the passing of time.

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Defined Contribution Plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

Cash at Bank and in Hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

4. Limited by Guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee. At 31 December 2023 there were seven (2022 - six) directors, each of whom had undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

5. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Donations			
Donations	11,123	1,364	12,487
Grants			
Teesdale Action Partnership	–	36,000	36,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund	–	10,000	10,000
Durham County Council	30,000	–	30,000
Other grants	520	1,500	2,020
Subscriptions			
Turret Subscriptions	8,799	–	8,799
	<u>50,442</u>	<u>48,864</u>	<u>99,306</u>
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	(restated) £
Donations			
Donations	14,387	–	14,387
Grants			
Covid Recovery Sustainability	4,000	–	4,000
Durham County Council	–	10,260	10,260
County Durham Community Foundation	–	1,000	1,000
Arts Council	–	6,146	6,146
Other grants	300	–	300
Subscriptions			
Turret Subscriptions	5,788	–	5,788
	<u>24,475</u>	<u>17,406</u>	<u>41,881</u>

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

6. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022 (restated)
	£	£	£	£
Events income	54,309	54,309	51,958	51,958
Income from gallery and artists	837	837	2,351	2,351
Cafe and bar sales	196,228	196,228	175,491	175,491
Room hire and studio rental	55,579	55,579	58,411	58,411
Visitor information and shop income	13,595	13,595	17,400	17,400
Other charitable income	9,228	9,228	4,795	4,795
	<u>329,776</u>	<u>329,776</u>	<u>310,406</u>	<u>310,406</u>

7. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022 (restated)
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	<u>1,171</u>	<u>1,171</u>	<u>282</u>	<u>282</u>

8. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Educational, Cultural & Entertainment Activities	192,708	4,172	196,880
Support costs	<u>244,526</u>	<u>12,709</u>	<u>257,235</u>
	<u>437,234</u>	<u>16,881</u>	<u>454,115</u>
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022 (restated)
	£	£	£
Educational, Cultural & Entertainment Activities	169,145	2,510	171,655
Support costs	<u>177,474</u>	<u>10,294</u>	<u>187,768</u>
	<u>346,619</u>	<u>12,804</u>	<u>359,423</u>

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 December 2023

9. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2023	Total fund 2022
	£	£	£	£
Educational, Cultural & Entertainment Activities	196,880	256,035	452,915	358,223
Governance costs	–	1,200	1,200	1,200
	<u>196,880</u>	<u>257,235</u>	<u>454,115</u>	<u>359,423</u>

10. Analysis of Support Costs

	Analysis of support costs activity 1	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Staff costs	116,751	116,751	78,973
Premises	50,857	50,857	52,894
General office	10,260	10,260	8,607
Governance costs	1,200	1,200	1,200
Other costs	63,003	63,003	37,643
Depreciation	13,964	13,964	8,451
	<u>256,035</u>	<u>256,035</u>	<u>187,768</u>

11. Net Expenditure

Net expenditure is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022 <i>(restated)</i>
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	13,964	8,451
Loss on disposal of heritage assets	<u>602</u>	<u>–</u>

12. Independent Examination Fees

	2023	2022 <i>(restated)</i>
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

13. Staff Costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022 (restated)
	£	£
Wages and salaries	183,917	144,570
Social security costs	6,391	3,783
Employer contributions to pension plans	2,461	1,703
	<u>192,769</u>	<u>150,056</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 20 (2022: 14). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Leadership team	2	1
Events, business support & cafe	6	5
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

14. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

The trustees received neither remuneration nor expenses during the current or previous year.

15. Transfers Between Funds

During the year £89,118 was transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds. This comprised:

	2023 £
Restricted grants used to fund capital costs	43,599
DCC Revenue Support	37,500
Community Activities fund released in year	4,485
Other transfers	3,534
	<u>89,118</u>

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

16. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Website £	Fixtures and fittings £	Floodlights £	Equipment £	New kitchen and catering equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 Jan 2023 (as restated)	10,060	8,397	–	40,341	–	58,798
Additions	–	12,428	17,320	1,633	13,223	44,604
Disposals	–	(3,988)	–	–	–	(3,988)
At 31 Dec 2023	<u>10,060</u>	<u>16,837</u>	<u>17,320</u>	<u>41,974</u>	<u>13,223</u>	<u>99,414</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 Jan 2023	6,874	6,756	–	36,106	–	49,736
Charge for the year	2,012	2,814	3,464	3,029	2,645	13,964
Disposals	–	(3,386)	–	–	–	(3,386)
At 31 Dec 2023	<u>8,886</u>	<u>6,184</u>	<u>3,464</u>	<u>39,135</u>	<u>2,645</u>	<u>60,314</u>
Carrying amount						
At 31 Dec 2023	<u>1,174</u>	<u>10,653</u>	<u>13,856</u>	<u>2,839</u>	<u>10,578</u>	<u>39,100</u>
At 31 Dec 2022	<u>3,186</u>	<u>1,641</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>4,235</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>9,062</u>

17. Stocks

	2023 £	2022 (restated) £
Café, bar and shop stock	<u>6,622</u>	<u>3,966</u>

18. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 (restated) £
Trade debtors	7,877	19,078
Prepayments	–	7,529
Accrued income	2,886	9,360
Other debtors	1,962	–
	<u>12,725</u>	<u>35,967</u>

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022 (restated)
	£	£
Trade creditors	33,761	17,077
Accruals	12,919	4,402
Social security and other taxes	14,248	10,297
Deferred income	64,016	38,074
Credit card creditor	1,953	-
	<u>126,897</u>	<u>69,850</u>

20. Pensions and Other Post Retirement Benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £2,461 (2022: £1,703).

21. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 January 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2023 £
General funds	97,443	381,389	(423,270)	50,169	105,731
Cyclical Building Works	44,000	-	-	-	44,000
Stainthorpe Fund	14,814	-	-	(2,553)	12,261
Cultural Programme	8,000	-	-	(2,500)	5,500
Capital Funds	9,062	-	(13,964)	44,002	39,100
Centre Manager fund	45,000	-	-	-	45,000
	<u>218,319</u>	<u>381,389</u>	<u>(437,234)</u>	<u>89,118</u>	<u>251,592</u>

	At 1 January 2022	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2022 £
General funds	112,473	335,163	(338,168)	(12,025)	97,443
Cyclical Building Works	32,000	-	-	12,000	44,000
Stainthorpe Fund	14,814	-	-	-	14,814
Cultural Programme	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Capital Funds	17,513	-	(8,451)	-	9,062
Centre Manager fund	-	-	-	45,000	45,000
	<u>184,800</u>	<u>335,163</u>	<u>(346,619)</u>	<u>44,975</u>	<u>218,319</u>

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

21. Analysis of Charitable Funds (continued)

Purpose of designated funds

Cyclical Building Works - To cover the future required expenditure for cyclical building works;
 Stainthorpe Fund - To support live theatre and drama;
 Cultural Programme - To support emerging artists in the local area.

Restricted funds

	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2023 £
DCC Witham Capital Funding	1,363	-	(700)	-	663
Other	500	970	-	(1,470)	-
Arts Council MOVE	900	1,894	(3,700)	906	-
DCC Capital Works	441	-	-	-	441
DCC Resilience	37,500	-	-	(37,500)	-
Community Activities Fund	7,600	-	-	(4,485)	3,115
DCC Community Building Sustainability Covid Recovery	5,000	-	-	(5,000)	-
Sustainability	30,950	-	-	(12,750)	18,200
Cultural Programme	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
TAP Turrets	-	6,000	-	(2,000)	4,000
TAP Capital improvements	-	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
TAP Enhance the Appeal	-	20,000	(3,181)	(16,819)	-
NHLF Project	-	10,000	(9,300)	-	700
	<u>89,254</u>	<u>48,864</u>	<u>(16,881)</u>	<u>(89,118)</u>	<u>32,119</u>

	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2022 £
DCC Witham Capital Funding	1,363	-	-	-	1,363
Arts Council Rebuilding Turrets	-	1,500	(60)	(1,440)	-
Other	1,139	-	(639)	-	500
Arts Council MOVE	10,939	5,546	(2,450)	(13,135)	900
DCC Capital Works	736	9,360	(9,655)	-	441

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

21. Analysis of Charitable Funds (continued)

DCC Resilience	67,500	–	–	(30,000)	37,500
Community Activities Fund	7,000	1,000	–	(400)	7,600
DCC Community Building Sustainability Covid Recovery Sustainability	5,000	–	–	–	5,000
Cultural Programme	30,950	–	–	–	30,950
	5,000	–	–	–	5,000
	<u>129,627</u>	<u>17,406</u>	<u>(12,804)</u>	<u>(44,975)</u>	<u>89,254</u>

Details of restricted funds

DCC Witham Capital Funding - To fund remedial and maintenance work;
Arts Council Rebuilding Turrets - To support the redevelopment of a youth theatre;
Arts Council - To fund Arts events held at The Witham;
Arts Council MOVE - To fund a project for the development of audiences and participants for dance;
DCC Capital Works - To fund remedial and maintenance work 2019-2021;
DCC Resilience - To support cultural and wellbeing activities;
Community Activities Fund - To support community engagement;
Covid Recovery Sustainability- to support sustainability post Covid 19;
Cultural programme - to support the delivery of the programme;
Other - To fund other smaller projects.
DCC Community Building Sustainability - To fund building improvements;
TAP Turrets - To support Turrets' workshops;
TAP Capital Improvements - To fund kitchen improvements and acoustic curtains;
TAP Enhance the Appeal - To fund floodlighting and Witham room improvements;
NHLF Project - To fund business consultancy on future sustainability.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

22. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	39,100	–	39,100
Current assets	339,389	32,119	371,508
Creditors less than 1 year	(126,897)	–	(126,897)
Net assets	<u>251,592</u>	<u>32,119</u>	<u>283,711</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	9,062	–	9,062
Current assets	279,107	89,254	368,361
Creditors less than 1 year	(69,850)	–	(69,850)
Net assets	<u>218,319</u>	<u>89,254</u>	<u>307,573</u>

23. Barnard Castle Mechanics' Institute (Bcmi)

The BCMI had no financial transactions during the year. The Witham Hall Ltd, as sole trustee, managed the land and buildings which form the permanent endowment of the BCMI. All costs associated with the land and buildings are included in the accounts of the Witham Hall Ltd.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Management Information

Year Ended 31 December 2023

The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Financial Statements.

The Witham Hall Ltd

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	12,487	14,387
Covid Recovery Sustainability	–	4,000
Teesdale Action Partnership	36,000	–
National Lottery Heritage Fund	10,000	–
Durham County Council	30,000	10,260
County Durham Community Foundation	–	1,000
Arts Council	–	6,146
Other grants	2,020	300
Turret Subscriptions	8,799	5,788
	<u>99,306</u>	<u>41,881</u>
Charitable activities		
Events income	54,309	51,958
Income from gallery and artists	837	2,351
Cafe and bar sales	196,228	175,491
Room hire and studio rental	55,579	58,411
Visitor information and shop income	13,595	17,400
Other charitable income	9,228	4,795
	<u>329,776</u>	<u>310,406</u>
Investment income		
Bank interest receivable	1,171	282
	<u>1,171</u>	<u>282</u>
Total income	<u>430,253</u>	<u>352,569</u>

The Witham Hall Ltd

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Expenditure		
Activities undertaken directly		
Cafe, bar and shop stock	73,316	62,170
Wages and salaries	76,018	71,083
Card fees	6,881	6,191
Freelance Tech Costs	6,783	3,705
PRS/PPL & recorded music costs	5,272	482
Workshops and Turrets costs	22,447	18,981
Other costs	363	470
Cost of events	5,800	8,573
	<u>196,880</u>	<u>171,655</u>
Support costs		
Wages and salaries	107,899	73,487
Employer's NIC	6,391	3,783
Pension costs	2,461	1,703
Rates & water	1,638	1,809
Light & heat	18,917	19,161
Repairs & maintenance	19,316	22,380
Insurance	6,269	5,681
Other premises costs	4,717	3,863
Legal and professional fees	15,873	3,686
Bookkeeping costs	14,682	13,385
Office costs	10,260	8,607
Depreciation	13,964	8,451
Loss on disposal of assets	602	-
Other costs	3,895	2,394
Equipment purchase and leasing	6,417	9,947
Staff recruitment, training and expenses	1,413	1,059
Advertising	9,778	6,706
Irrecoverable VAT	11,198	466
Bad debts	345	-
	<u>256,035</u>	<u>186,568</u>
Governance costs		
Governance costs - accountancy fees	1,200	1,200
	<u>454,115</u>	<u>359,423</u>
Total expenditure		
	<u>454,115</u>	<u>359,423</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(23,862)</u>	<u>(6,854)</u>