



Ruspidge Memorial Hall Annual Report 2023-24

1. Reference and administrative details

- Charity name: Ruspidge Memorial Hall and Charity Registration Number: 1050287
- Charity Address (secretary): 48 Buckshaft Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford GL14 3DU
- Names of Trustees before 28th March 2024:

Lesley Dunckley

Jenny East

Jennie Radford

Priya Shukla

Nicky Packer

William Acland

- Names of management committee members who are not also trustees before 28th March 2024:

Linda Greene

Wendy Beal

Stan Bosher

Angela Dale

Sally Graham

2. Structure, governance and management

- The charity is administered and managed in accordance with the provisions of the conveyance and trust deed, dated 5th December 1921, as varied by the scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners on 7th April 1995.
- The trustees are the members of the management committee.
- The management committee comprises 11 elected members, including 7 representative members. Two additional elected members, Carole & Gwyn Roberts, resigned in February 2024.
- Members hold office from the time that they join the committee until the subsequent AGM.

- The charity holds its Annual General Meeting in March and elected trustees/committee members are chosen at that meeting.
- User groups can appoint representative members or elected members can represent groups by agreement.
- The management committee holds monthly meetings.
- The Treasurer prepares year- end accounts, and these undergo an independent examination i.e. an external review is carried out by an independent person with the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination.
- The charity is in receipt of a conditional offer for a grant of £46,000 from Biffa Awards. One of the conditions in the offer is to change the charity's constitution. This was agreed at the February committee meeting. The secretary therefore requested the Charity Commission change the constitution to make it compliant with receiving the grant. These changes are still being considered by the Charity Commission. The changes comprise:

The following additional statement is to be added to the Constitution by the Charity Commission (request reference number 6006815):

Dissolution Clause Change: in the event of RMH dissolving, any remaining grant fund money will be transferred to another enrolled Environmental Body.

The following additional statement is to be added to the Constitution by the Charity Commission (request reference number 6006813):

Object Clause Change: The work of the organisation is not to benefit landfill site operators who may contribute to it nor for the benefit of your Contributing Third Parties (CTPs).

- RMH has registered with Entrust, being one of the conditions of the Biffa Awards conditional grant offer.
- Thanks to committee members who have carried out defined roles and to all the committee who have assisted in fundraising and in other ways during the year.

3. Financial review

No reserves policy is in place and no funds are in deficit.

4. Public benefit statement

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

5. Objectives and activities

- The objectives of the charity are "the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Ruspidge without distinction of political, religious, or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of

recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants".

- The charity undertakes the following regular activities which further its charitable purposes for the public benefit:
 - Operates a booking system for the hall.
 - Manages rental income from use of the hall.
 - Deals with utility companies
 - Complies with relevant safety legislation.
 - Ensures that assets are properly insured.
 - Ensures that Financial Governance measures are in place.
 - Maintains the fabric of the building and organises cleaning of the property.
 - Raises additional funds.

- Fund-raising
 - The 200 Club continued to be generously supported by residents, raising £2,432 with prizes of £1200 paid out of this.
 - Several fund-raising events were held during the year; a Coronation Celebration with refreshments sold; a Curry Night with live band Wye 5 with tickets sold and a raffle held, a History Day when refreshments were sold, a Christmas Showcase with tickets sold and a raffle held; a live music event with Hayley-Jo Whitney when tickets were sold and a raffle held. Thanks to the Parish Council for funding the bouncy castle at the Coronation Event and to Wye5, Forest of Dean Mummers, the Ruspidge Guides and Brownies, Wild Oats Morris, the Coleford Community Choir and Hayley-Jo Whitney – all of whom gave their services for free.
 - The Ruspidge Mend & Repair Café contributed £50 to RMH.
 - RMH has joined the Forest Lottery.
 - A collections box in the form of a model of the hall is available at functions to collect donations when appropriate.

- Other funding:
 - RMH received a grant from FoDDC of £500 towards the Ruspidge Community Hub and a grant of £291 towards the Ruspidge Mend & Repair Café. RMH is grateful for their support.
 - The Parish Council, MSB Construction, Gavin Evans and another local resident have all made donations, which have provided the 'third party contributions' that have enabled the Biffa Awards grant. RMH is grateful for their support.

- Other events:
 - An Open Evening held on 15th September 2023 was attended by over 40 members of the public. 6 large display boards gave information about the activities already on offer and proposed ideas for new events and activities. Forms encouraged people to give their views. Hall user groups were invited to attend with more information about their own activities. Only Mark Venus attended, and he played guitar during the event.
 - 3 courses were provided by Gloucestershire Adult education – a 4-week Christmas crafts course; a 4 week cookery course; and a one-off first aid course.
 - A Volunteers Evening to be held on 26th March 2024 to allow anyone who is interested in getting involved with the hall to call by.

- Regular user groups

Weekly user groups:

- Shaolin Kung Fu
- Yan Shou Gong – this is a new group which started in 2024.
- Ruspidge Community Hub – this is a new activity for the hall which started in 2023.
- Fitness for Health (run by FoDDC)
- Wild Oats Morris dance practice – this is a new group which started in 2023.
- Yoga with Angela Dale
- Busy Rascals (term time only) – this is a new group which started in 2023.
- Fun Fitness with Hayley Jo - this is a new group which started in 2023.
- Pilates with Simone
- Tuesday Art Club - this is a new group which started in 2023.
- Line Dancing - this is a new group which started in 2024.
- Cinderford Brownies – started in 2023
- Junior Guitar Club
- Ballroom & Latin dancing
- K9 Puppy training & Adolescent dog training – 4 week courses
- Ruspidge Brownies & Guides

- Monthly user groups:

- Craft Club
- Book Club
- Ladies Club
- Parish Council (alternate months)

- Gardening Club
- Thursday Art Club - this is a new group which started in 2023.
- Ruspidge Board Games Club - this is a new group which started in 2023
- Ruspidge Mend & Repair Cafe

6. Hall Maintenance

- Our thanks to Mr. Hedges for cutting the grass around the hall.
- Our thanks to Gwyn Roberts, Stan Boshier & Tim Dunckley, who all carried out maintenance on a voluntary basis.
- Our thanks to Veronica Ford and Rosie Merrell for putting the bins and recycling out for collection, thus enabling more recycling to be offered to users.
- Increased hall cleaning has been necessary due to increased hall use.

7. Achievements and performance

- Introduction of the Ruspidge Community Hub – thanks to Nicky Herbert and all who help her in providing this weekly event and the cakes.
- Introduction of the Ruspidge Mend & Repair Café supported by Vision 21, Forest of Dean District Council and the Forest Community Shed.
- 1,000 leaflets containing a resident survey were delivered to households in Ruspidge. Responses were analysed and formed into a report to the August committee meeting.
- More events and fund raising have taken place in the last year than have in recent years. It is hoped to build on this.
- A grant of £4,960 has been obtained from Thinktravel, Gloucestershire County Council for a new bike rack and shelter to be constructed at the hall before February 2025
- A conditional offer of a grant for £46,000 has been received from Biffa Awards but this has not yet been converted into a formal offer.
- The management committee met monthly throughout 2023-24.
- A condition report on the building has been commissioned and the draft copy received. This will inform future maintenance.
- New contracts have been negotiated for utilities that are more competitive than previous contracts.
- RMH has joined Go Volunteer Gloucestershire and VCS Alliance to take advantage of their promotion of volunteering opportunities.
- A newsletter was produced every 2 months. New to the newsletter is the inclusion of news from Soudley Village Hall.

- The hall website has been kept up-to-date with events and activities.
- A logo was designed for the hall.

Signature of Trustee and Date

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