

# STORTH HERON HALL & FIELD

ANNUAL REPORT FY2023



## A SUCCESSFUL AND SPECIAL YEAR- A WORD FROM THE CHAIR - MARIE LEADBETTER

We started FY23 with our ever popular Wreath-Making event and headed into a quiet winter period to reflect on how we continue to ensure the financial security of the Hall and Field, and how to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Storth Playing Field. Obviously our committee came through and we have run some fantastic & successful events:

The Quiz - run by Michael Collins, the aim for this was to generate funds for new equipment for the kitchen. It was a fun night and a great way for us to kick off our activities in 2024.

The Storth Stampede - this popular event meets our charitable aims completely, and really showcases our region to those who visit from out of the area,

The Fete - the 50th Anniversary - was a busy day and a lovely event to commemorate and celebrate the hard work of the original playing field committee.

The Beer Festival - this event gets bigger every year and was an absolute smash. It was hard work but worth it for what it brings us - as the committee but also the community.

Other successes this year

- Launch of our new booking website and electronic invoicing - saving time and making booking our space easier. We have seen an increase in bookings due to this change
- Our Incredible Crowdfunder - a pop-up bar was funded in under a week - will enable us to run more, smaller events throughout the year

We start FY24 with Two Wreath Making events and a Thank You party as a reward for the Crowdfunder Backers.

It will be important that we enjoy continued success with our events next year. In 2025 we also need to focus on a major fundraising effort to replace our playground equipment and make some improvements to accessibility on the field. This will take effort, resources and skills! We would really value help from individuals with experience in major fundraising efforts to develop our plans!

Committee members and volunteers - from casual to committed and shades inbetween - are crucial to our success. Could 2025 be the year you join us?

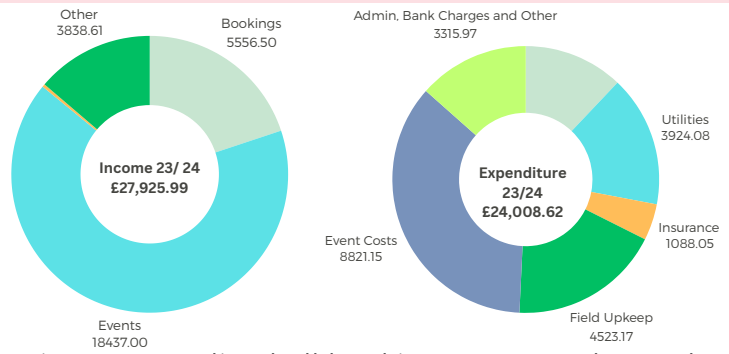




# TREASURER'S REPORT

## ANNUAL REPORT FY2023 - GRANT RITCHIE

*This year has seen us make good progress on ensuring we have a robust financial position to protect the charity. We finished our financial year with assets of £18,159. This represents an increase of £3,917 from last year and this has been done while we continued to invest in improvements and maintenance of the hall and field.*



These included improved lighting in the main hall, wall repairs, a new online hall booking system, enhanced website with booking capabilities, replacement of some failing parts of playground equipment and the building of our own mobile bar.

The improvement in financial position was also achieved against a backdrop of significant cost increases due to the high inflation the country experienced. For example this year we had to absorb major uplifts in our power and water bills as our previous fixed term contracts ended and new ones negotiated. Similarly our insurance premiums increased as we continue to ensure that we have the appropriate cover in place for now and the future.

In a first for our charity we reached out to the community to 'Crowdfund' a mobile bar for the hall. This raised nearly £2000 and we anticipate that when we get our Gift Aid status in place we will be able to claim back another 20% from HMRC. A big success for us and an important investment as we look to hold more events that will engage local people on an ongoing basis.

On the income side Hall Hire revenues more than doubled to £5556 – a great achievement and we are optimistic that there is still opportunity to grow further. An area that we need to stay focussed on. We were also extremely grateful to receive another grant of £1200 from the Storth Post Office and Village Shop. Again, many thanks to them.

We held 5 major events in the financial year Wreath Making, Storth Stampede, a Quiz night, the village fete. All were successful with the Fete and Beer festival generating significant net income. Overall, these five events generated over £18,000 in revenues and delivered a net income of £9,616.

It is all down to the dedication and tireless efforts of the committee members and the support of volunteers from across the village that we have achieved this. Our thanks to all. Looking forward - in the next year we will continue to invest in a considered way to ensure that the Heron Hall and Playing Fields remains a key asset for the whole community.

# THANK YOU

To All Committee Members & Trustees Past and Present including Eddie Bingley, Peter Thompson; Dallam Estate; All of our Crowdfunder Backers. Anyone who stood in the woods to guide runners at the Stampede, made cakes for the tearoom, sold beer and wine at the Beer Festival and washed and collected glasses. Bonus thank you if you got covered in beer! Peter Griefenberg for marshalling the marquees, and everyone who helped put them up and away again. Michael Collins our quizmaster, those generous businesses from Storth, Milnthorpe and Arnside who donated gifts for the fete and sponsored or donated a barrel at the beer festival.. All of the musicians who have played at our events, including particularly The Storth Dimension, Tethera Taiko Drummers, & Andy Porter for donating their time to play for no cost, Storth WI for coordinating their help for the fete, Storth School & PTA, Storth Post Office & Aireys Dairy for their support. Our fabulous food vendors who kept people fed through our events! We could spend all day listing names of all our wonderful friends and supporters - which just demonstrates how important your support is!

**We hope to see you all again throughout our next year - let's make it the best yet!**