

Summary of Accounts – as at 31st December 2023

Receipts 2023

Membership Subscriptions	£ 748
Donations	£ 2,693
Fund Raising (net)	£ 2,302
Grants Received	£ 13,066
Bank Interest	£ 351

Total Receipts £ 19,160

Deficit 2023 (£ 1,031)
Surplus Brought Forward £ 31,792

Balance of Funds Carried Forward £ 30,761

Comprised of:

Restricted Funds Grants	£ 1,541
Restricted FOSMS Funds for Link Building	£ 20,000
FOSMS Unrestricted Funds	£ 9,220
	<u>£ 30,761</u>

These figures are still subject to an External Review

We are always very grateful to those members who have been with us for many years. Thank you to those who have already paid or arranged to pay the 2024 subscription. Your funding is very valuable to us and appreciated.

If after reading this you fancy joining our membership that would be great thank you. We look forward to seeing you at our events.

Renewal / joining form is attached with a standing order form and all the relevant details. The funds will benefit greatly if you are eligible for Gift Aid as detailed on the application form.

If you would like to get involved or have suggestions for improvements or initiatives in the Community Hub, please contact us via fosmteam@gmail.com

Support us through
easyfundraising

Link Building Grand Opening - December 2024

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH STEVINGTON

Registered Charity Number: 1139161

Trustees:

Ann Prigmore-Steward	Rev Jacqueline Curtis (ex-Officio)	John Strutt
Fiona Muir-Howie (appointed June 2023)	Jane O'Connor	Robert Eadie
Helen Prentice (Treasurer)	John Duffield (resigned August 2023)	Tricia Lennie (Chair)

Annual review leaflet design, layout and editing by Keith Parkinson

The Friends of ST MARY'S CHURCH STEVINGTON

Annual Review 2023

Link Building Project

This has been a momentous year for The Friends. Our long-awaited link building project broke ground in September 2023 in the capable hands of Rogan Geary, of The Old House Building Company.



John Hirst, treasurer of the PCC, demonstrating the need for a link building for the benefit of grant funders

Without the help of so many supportive village residents and external organisations this project could not have been achieved. Tricia Lennie took on the role of Project Manager for the link building on behalf of the PCC, as well as being

Chair of FOSMS, and has been extremely grateful for the wide support for this complex project. Grant applications are time consuming, and thanks are due to Helen Prentice (FOSMS treasurer)



Rogan starting work on the foundations.

John Duffield (previous Chair FOSMS) and John Hirst (PCC) for their contribution to grant applications. A stakeholder meeting in August invited all residents to be fully involved in the development of their community hub. The aim is to make Stevington Church Room Community Hub a vibrant, publicly accessible, multi-user resource providing for the modern day 'spiritual, moral, social or intellectual wants' of residents and visitors. These words come from the original trust deed of the Mission Room in 1898 and continue to guide the development of the activities

on offer. Visitors to the Hub often marvel at what a vibrant and inclusive community Stevington is and wish that their village had something similar.

Events

The year began with the popular annual Chilli and Quiz Night masterminded by Robert Eadie. The passing seasons were



marked by Pumpkin Farm visits and Christmas Wreath making, both generously supported in time and skill by Ann Prigmore and Penny Hattam. It was lovely to start to include more events for younger residents.

Regular monthly Coffee & Croissants events are popular social occasions as well as an opportunity to provide information about village events. Occasional visits from the North Beds Rural Policing team for 'Coffee with a Cop' help to keep residents informed and safe. We are grateful to all the volunteers who make this event possible.



Wavelength has continued to nurture a peer-led IT support group who are fast becoming experts in all things 'tech'. This group, started by John Duffield and supported by Robert Eadie, Roger Day, Bob Collins and Fiona Muir-Howie in the Hub has enabled facilities that make it better suited to modern day uses. There is a large TV for presentations, a digital display of upcoming events, free Wi-Fi and printing, equipment loan and a developing drop-in café for those who want to work from home.

Introduction to Mindfulness

with Duncan Victorin



Wellbeing talks have continued to be popular, with talks on accidents in the home, dementia and healthy living and the Introduction to Mindfulness session offered by Duncan Victorin immediately generating a six-week long course. The Friends see this as the way forward for the Hub, with courses being user-led and by popular demand. John Strutt has recently researched and purchased a lapel microphone to make sound quality better for those attending, working closely with Jon Sidwick whose technical advice and support has been invaluable.

The toddler area has supported Stevington's baby boom. Hub facilities are now safer and more attractive for young residents and families, providing a place where they can meet. We are grateful to Brigid Matthews and Vivienne Price, qualified play therapists, for their interesting discussions on sleep and other baby related matters during 2023.

The Friends have supported the Stevington Good Neighbours group (launched July 2023) which offers individual support to all residents, integrating the services on offer and making them more accessible.

Stevington Community Choir (launched September 2023 by Marion Hext) has now established a regular meeting on the second Wednesday of every month 3-4pm in conjunction with the (independently run) Community Shop opening hours. A grant raised by John Duffield and Helen Prentice contributed 50% of the shop rent in 2023. Trustees continue to work towards better integration of all the uses of this increasingly well-used community space.

Fundraising

Draft accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 are published and The Friends are grateful to Helen Prentice for her work as Treasurer and to Andrew Young for his role as Independent Scrutineer.

Thank you to all our supporters, whether you have been a member or have donated time, energy, ideas, resources or money to the Hub. The progress made in 2023 would not have been possible without you.

Special thanks to Paul O'Flynn who has organised the Avis Clayton Memorial Rugby Six Nations and World Cup Sweepstakes since the inception of The Friends in 2010, and to all those who support it. This has contributed substantial funds to the cause, and 2023 was an exceptional year for which we are very grateful. Thank you also to all those who supported the Stevington Magazine Christmas Card appeal and to Heather and Keith Parkinson (Editors) for choosing The Friends as the 2023 charity. This donation will appear in the 2024 accounts. Also, thank you to all those who have been supporting Stevington Community Hub via their easyfundraising.com donations.

Thanks also to Cathy Robson of Robson King Ltd, who curated a short promotional film on behalf of the Hub at an 'expenses only' rate. The film has been sent to the grant funders who have believed in this project and supported it financially. Please note that some grant funding for the link building has also been achieved via Stevington PCC and some events such as soup lunches organised by PCC. Thank you also to all those residents who were willing to take part in the film and demonstrate that the world does not have to be 'broken' if we all work together. Stevington is a very special place, and we are lucky to live here. **The film can be viewed on The Friends website www.fosmstevington.uk**



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



THE GALE FAMILY CHARITY TRUST



Bedfordshire & Luton
Community Foundation

Link Building Grand Opening - December 2024

Have you been a Hub supporter or helped in any way?

Make sure your name is in the Commemorative Book for the link building project 2024.

The enclosed feedback form can be returned digitally via fosmteam@gmail.com, by hand to a box in the Community Hub or via any trustee.



All Week Every Week

Community Shop

Mon - Fri: 10am-12 and 3-5pm
Sat: 10am-12.

Tinned, local and fresh goods
at competitive prices.

30th Anniversary Celebrated
25th February 2024

Second Wed of Month Stevington Community Choir



3 - 4pm

Wednesdays
**Together for
Lunch**
12:30 - 2pm
Free but donations
welcome

FOR MANY OF THE TALKS BELOW YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOOK IN ADVANCE.
FOR MORE DETAILS EMAIL FOSMTEAM@GMAIL.COM.

DON'T JUST EAT; JUST COOK.
**Cookery course run by Foodetc
Bedford for young residents.**
Six week course.

Saturday March 16th, 23rd, 30th;
April 13th, 20th, 27th

12 noon to 1.30pm. Booking essential.



NUTRITION TALK CHARLOTTE LUCAS AND JO SHACKLOCK

Eat yourself healthy - Gut Health and Why It Matters - explores what the gut microbiome is, the importance for our health, the science and what researchers know (and don't yet know) and what we can do to help ourselves to better health.

Drop-in. No need to book
4th April. 7pm - 8.30pm

Community Hub

- Drop-in café and Warm Hub
- Information Hub
- Free WiFi
- Audio-visual presentation facilities
- Lending library: borrow donated books, donate books you think others may enjoy
- Community Piano available
- Equipment loans of wheelchairs and mobility aids
- Private hire available (inc. serving kitchen) £12 per hour

Last Thurs of Month

WaveLength

12noon - 1pm

A peer led support group for
IT users.



Fridays

Toddler group

10am - 12

Informal group for
parents and pre-schoolers.

Toys and changing
facilities available.

FOR MANY OF THE TALKS BELOW YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOOK IN ADVANCE.
FOR MORE DETAILS EMAIL FOSMTEAM@GMAIL.COM.

First Sat of Month

Coffee & Croissants

10am - 12 £3



Stevington Good Neighbours

Do you need assistance?

Contact us on

07873 610664

Phone Answered

Mon - Fri, 10am - 4pm

GOOD GRIEF COURSE

See separate flyer
attached.

Dates:

Wed 28 February

Tue 5 March

Wed 13 March

Wed 20 March

7 - 8pm

Drop-in.

No need to book.