

The Marc Smith Educational Charity



ANNUAL REPORT FOR MARC SMITH CHARITY 2024

The Charity was established in 1814 to promote education in the villages of Claybrooke Magna, Parva, Ullesthorpe and Wibtoft. Marc Smith left the income from his property in Coventry to establish a small school. Local landowners gave land on which the school was built in 1840. The Old Schoolhouse has been rented out to provide an income for the Marc Smith Charity for many years.

The Charity funds clothing grants for children from the area moving up to senior school and larger grants to students from our area going on to further education.

The Trustees met in January, April and December

Trustee Marion Coombes moved away from the area so the position is now vacant. Trustee Jan Butcher resigned to concentrate on other projects.

The main project for this year has been the renovation of the Old Schoolhouse after the tenant moved out. This was always going to be an extensive project and ended up taking 10 months to complete, costing over a staggering £97,000.

Initially £15,000 was used from reserves, followed by several grants from Lutterworth Area Community Fund (£22,500 received in May 25 followed by a further £10,000 – not received until Jan 2025), and Harborough district Council (proposed by Claybrooke Parva Parish Council) - (£5,000 – although this was not received until January 2025).

Most of the income has come from loans provided by the Chairman (Trevor Dawes) and £3,500 from Zoe and Neil Ridley.

Zoe & Neil Ridley made a donation of £1500 and Trevor Dawes made a donation of £7150 from the Performance Partnership.

The Chairman has also funded loans from his business assets totalling £47,000. The Chairman also set up a JustGiving site which raised £1240.16.

As a result of receiving no rental income over the 12 months, no clothing or further education grants were able to be made this year.

List of Trustees

Trevor Dawes (Chairman) Permanent Trustee (Claybrooke Magna)

Simon Smith – Rep for Ullesthorpe

Jo-Ann Allcoat – Rep for Claybrooke Magna

Zoe Ridley – Rep for Claybrooke Parva

Julie Lenihan – Clerk to the Trustees

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