

Sukambizi Association Trust, Malawi



Sukambizi Association Trust (SAT) is an organisation of small-scale tea producers located in the Mount Mulanje area of southern Malawi.

Introduction

Tea is a major employer and earner of foreign exchange for the Malawian economy, with 99% of production destined for export markets. More than

93% of tea is produced by privately-owned tea estates. The remainder is produced by up to 12,000 small-scale farmers who sell their freshly plucked green leaf to estate factories where it is processed into black tea, ready for blending and packing as loose tea or tea bags. Farmers rarely have the resources to own a tea factory and are therefore unable to benefit from value-added processing activities.

About Sukambizi Association Trust (SAT)

Since the 1960s tea farmers in the area sold their green leaf to a national tea company. Consistently late payments prompted 4,000 farmers to join together **in 2003** to form SAT, which enabled them to negotiate a contract to instead supply their green leaf to nearby Lujeri Tea Estate. As well as making punctual payments, the estate provides training in good farming practices and is developing a nursery to supply good quality tea seedlings.

Tea provides up **to 70% of smallholder incomes** and they also grow maize, cassava, pineapples, bananas and sugar cane for domestic consumption and sale to local markets. The majority of farmers in the region live in houses with thatched roofs rather than iron roof sheets, around **99% have no electricity or running water** and only 20% have bank accounts. More than 90% of their children attend primary school but only **25% continue to secondary education**. Farmers struggle to buy enough food during the dry, off-peak season when little tea is harvested and sold.

Association members have experienced important advances in their standard of living. Most members can now send their children to school and feel more food secure. Around half now have bicycles, mobile phones, radios and iron sheet roofing. Ninety per cent have bank accounts, and this has empowered women in particular to put money aside as savings.

Production and sales

Members have small tea plots of 0.3 hectares on average. They produce around 8 million kilos of green leaf a year which Lujeri Tea Estate processes into 1.7 million kilos (1,700 tonnes) of black tea. SAT negotiates a green leaf price with Lujeri and receives a second or bonus payment calculated on the price achieved at auction or by direct sales. Changing weather patterns and an increase in pests and disease are reducing yields by 15% on average and correspondingly affecting farmers' incomes.

Sukambizi Association Trust, Malawi

Fairtrade

SAT was Fairtrade certified in September 2008. Membership has grown to 8,149 as local farmers have seen the benefits of Fairtrade Premium projects and applied to join the group.

For Fairtrade sales SAT receives the Fairtrade Premium of US\$0.50 per kilo of tea to invest in strengthening their business and community improvements. Fairtrade sales have grown from 750,000 kilos in 2009 to 1.3 million kilos in 2012, representing 73.3% of total sales, and bringing in more than \$650,000 in premiums.

Since Fairtrade certification, SAT members have experienced important advances in their standard of living. Increased access to fertilisers, planting more tea saplings and improved husbandry and harvesting techniques have led to rises in productivity and incomes. But the advances mainly result from access to community services in which SAT has invested the Fairtrade Premium. Most members can now send their children to school and feel more food secure. Around half now have bicycles, mobile phones, radios and iron sheet roofing. Ninety per cent have bank accounts, largely because Lujeri wanted to make payments this way, but which has empowered women in particular to put money aside as savings.

SAT has moved towards autonomy from Lujeri by opening its own office with transport, computer and printer, and recruiting a professional administrator. A development plan with milestones and budgets has been put in place, which includes a project to provide electricity to members' villages via solar panels. Longer-term, SAT wants to increase its share of the value chain by developing its own processing factory, probably as a joint venture with Lujeri.

Fairtrade Premium projects

- Construction of Naphimba maternity wing (joint-funding): estimated 400 deliveries a year, saving expectant mothers a 40km trip or traditional home births with danger of life-threatening complications.
- Solar power and piped water installed at Naphimba maternity wing.
- Purchase of ambulance: saving patients a 40km trip, serving community of 30,000.
- Construction of guardian shelter: building where relatives of patients at medical centre can cook and sleep – previously they cooked under trees and slept in corridors.
- Clean water project to pump ground water via communal taps to seven villages/4,000 families who otherwise collect drinking water from unsafe streams and wells.
- Construction of water tank and 35km pipeline to supply one village and sinking of bore holes to supply safe water to three more villages. Construction of classroom blocks and infrastructure for primary and secondary schools to increase access to education for local children.
- Secondary school bursaries for orphan children.
- Maintenance of local roads.
- Farmer support
- Distribution of higher quality, high yielding and drought resistant tea plants.
- Subsidised fertilizer scheme to improve productivity and reduce farmers' costs.
- Construction of bridges over rivers and streams to connect 4,800 people in 45 inaccessible villages and increase efficiency of green leaf transportation to Lujeri Tea Estate.
- Construction of three leaf sheds where green leaf delivered by farmers is kept dry before collection and transportation to Lujeri.

Bovey Tracey Fairtrade Annual Report 2025



The Fairtrade Foundation in Britain celebrated **30 years campaigning** for fair treatment of farmers and workers in third world countries with fair pricing for products and the development of their communities, in more recent years this has included caring for the environment and tackling the impact of climate change <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>. And members of the group attended a Devon celebration in Exeter with Patrick Muthaura Kenyan Fairtrade tea grower Teignbridge Council Fairtrade representative Cllr Suzanne Sanders .



Bovey Tracey has had an active Fairtrade group for a large part of that time and we should be grateful to those early pioneers for establishing the group and the people and businesses in the town for their support.

Much has changed over those 30 years , but there is still a need to support many farmers who provide us with common everyday commodities.

Fundamental to the group is the support of the town Council, who have consistently supported the group over the years and the group supported the annual town meeting by serving light refreshments



World Fairtrade Day

In May we celebrated World Fairtrade Day in the Riverside centre with Coombira Drum Circle drums , craft activities and Fairtrade refreshments , supported by Devon Libraries.



The group are grateful for the business that support fairtrade in the town and Cllr Lisa Robillard Webb spoke to the group thanking them for their commitment . During Fairtrade Fortnight many displayed fairtrade posters highlighting issues for fair pricing, gender equality and climate change.

Bovey Tracey Fairtrade Annual Report 2025



The group welcomed **The Burrow** for their commitment to stocking Fairtrade in their new shop.

The group also supported the Bovey and Heathfield Climate Action group at their Open Space brain storming seminar again providing and serving Fairtrade refreshments at the Pheonix Centre.

The group also presented to the BTAT at their regular Wednesday coffee morning and spoke the Methodist church community celebration service and attended the Town Council's new resident's morning on June 1st and attended the Heathfield Action Team meeting. With a stall that the summer Great Big Green Week event in Millmarsh park.



We have been sponsoring Fairtrade teas and coffees to organisations in the town, including the Youth Café, community hub, Heathfield Action team and the Bovey and Heathfield children's holiday free activity days. We are also pleased with the continued support from town groups such as Brimley WI and the Methodist church .



Big thank you to Bovey CO-OP After the cancellation of the Christmas Fair due to poor weather the team attended the indoor Christmas Fair at the Riverside , raising money with a hamper supplied by the Bovey CO-OP , with a Fairtrade stall at the PPT carol service.



Bovey Tracey Fairtrade Annual Report 2025

National highlights from 2024:

- Farmers and workers globally earned an estimated **£1.7 billion in Fairtrade Premium payments** since 1994, enabling vital investments in their communities.
- Over **100 MPs signed our pledge** to be the change and champion fairer trade.
- Almost **twice the number of people heard about Fairtrade Fortnight** in 2024 compared to the previous three years and we saw a big boost in Fairtrade sales.
- The UK came together during **Fairtrade Fortnight** to support the **5,000+ Fairtrade products** available.
- We saw many of you learning about and supporting the **Fairtrade movement at Glastonbury**.
- Hundreds of Fairtrade groups and schools have shown their passion for Fairtrade.
- Around **400 UK businesses** partnered with us to amplify Fairtrade's message through inspiring marketing campaigns and local projects.
- We welcomed dozens of **new and returning partners** like Mallow & Marsh, Brewgooder, and the National Trust to our movement

Marisol's Fairtrade Story

"With climate change, our way of life has changed. Through Fairtrade, we've replanted trees, grown diverse crops, and invested in organic farming practices funded by the Fairtrade Premium."

And behind these milestones are stories like that of Marisol Villar, a cocoa farmer in the Dominican Republic and member of the COOPROAGRO co-operative. Farming has been in Marisol's family for generations. For more than a decade, Marisol has been committed to farming cocoa while adopting practices that protect the environment and address climate change. She embraced Fairtrade to tackle the challenges of climate change and protect biodiversity. Through Fairtrade, Marisol has been able to invest in sustainable farming solutions, including a project called **Resilient Cocoa for Climate Change**. This initiative, funded by the Fairtrade Premium, supports the replanting of old trees and the cultivation of diverse crops within cocoa production. Growing a variety of crops not only protects biodiversity but also provides additional income sources for her and her community.



Climate Action: Bovey & Heathfield

2024 - 2025

Climate Action: Bovey & Heathfield (formerly Climate Emergency: B&H) was set up in 2019 following Bovey Tracey Town Council's declaration of a climate emergency.

Our group is made up of residents and town councillors. Our aim is to help provide our community with the knowledge needed to take action on climate change. Our desire to do so is driven by our concern for the future, for a sustainable, safe, diverse and habitable planet.

In addition, we also aim to support the Town Council towards meeting the challenges of the climate emergency.

We're keen to be transparent and inclusive in all that we do, and to this end we held an open meeting in February 2024 to generate ideas and local action in response to the changing climate and its consequences.

The following themes emerged:

- Sustainable Bovey Tracey – looking at developing a vision for the town, linking together voluntary groups and others working on climate issues and sustainability.
- Transport – including lobbying for electric buses and EV charging points, integrated transport and facilities for active travel.
- Reducing energy in houses and other buildings - linked to our Community Outreach programme (see below).
- Communication and links between climate/nature groups
- Reducing litter and waste and increasing recycling,
- Influencing politics – at a local and national level
- Reducing demand on the planet's resources
- Community and locally-produced energy

We won't claim to have addressed and solved all these issues, but we have made some progress and hope to take this further.

Over the past year we developed a few new initiatives:

Our new website and communications:

We're excited to have a new website (cabh.org.uk) which enables us to share information, ideas, news of events, Devon initiatives, published articles and so on. Please do have a look at it.

We'd like to thank Bovey Tracey Town Council for its financial support for our website and the Town Clerk for help and advice.

We still send out a regular newsletter to our subscribers and we write regularly in the Cottage and these articles also appear on the website after publication.

We organise regular events which are advertised widely including, of course, on our website.

Climate Allies

CABH has recently developed our own initiative for encouraging local organisations to think about and do what they can to help in the Climate Action battle.

To receive the award of Climate Ally we ask an organisation to provide us with information on their existing and proposed initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint. Climate Allies receive a certificate to go in their window and a mention on our website. If you are, or know of, an organisation that would like to be involved, please let us know by dropping us a line at cabh@boveytracey.gov.uk.

Community Energy Savers Outreach

This project provides information on reducing your carbon footprint in houses and public buildings in the town, by measuring heating losses, energy usage etc. This a free impartial service tailored to your specific needs and circumstances. If you would like information on this scheme please get in touch.

Active Participation in Great Big Green Week

In 2024 we were active participants locally in this national event, and we'll do the same this year. We hope to see you in the Climate Café and Mill Marsh Park during the week.

We are always keen to welcome new subscribers to our newsletter, new visitors to our website and new members of our core group, so if you would like to come along to one of our events or to hear more about what we do, please do get in touch at cabh@boveytracey.gov.uk.

REPORT BY THE TRACEY ALMSHOUSE TRUST

For those unaware of the Tracey Almshouses, the original property is a listed building in East Street and was gifted to the Town in 1910 by Mrs A M Tracey. In 1999, with the proceeds of a land sale, the five original Almshouses were converted and modernised to two ground floor properties with a flat above and three new Almshouses were built behind the original property. The remainder of the land sale proceeds were invested and income generated is used to maintain the properties with the excess donated to local charities.

The Almshouses are managed by the Tracey Almshouse Trust which currently has seven Trustees and is managed by Woolcombe Beer Watts Solicitors.

In 2024 grants were given to the Bovey Festival, the Heritage Trust, payment for the re-rection of a commonwealth grave headstone, Make SW for new heaters and a pottery kiln and Hello Summer towards free family activities during the summer holidays.

Vanessa Steer
Chair



Devon & Cornwall
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Ashburton & Chudleigh Neighbourhood Police Team

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📞 999 in an emergency

🌐 www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

✉️ 101@dc.police.uk

📘 [DevonAndCornwallPolice](https://www.facebook.com/DevonAndCornwallPolice)

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📷 [dc_police.999](https://www.instagram.com/dc_police.999)

📺 [DCPolice](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDCPolice)

Bovey Tracey Annual Town Meeting

26th March 2025

This report covers the parish of Bovey Tracey and Heathfield including its road network. The Parish has the Police beat code of JA3A.

The Parish is served by the Neighbourhood Police team working out of Ashburton Police Station and Chudleigh Police Office. The Parish forms part of the Teignbridge Coastal & Rural Policing sector.

The team is led by Police Inspector Sean Roper and Sergeant Seth Saunders Neighbourhood Team Leader and PC James Deakin is the Neighbourhood Constable (Neighbourhood Beat Manager) and is supported by PCSO Paul Wilson.

Although every effort has been made to produce an accurate representation of the figures included in the report there may be a slight discrepancy in the totals shown.

For the period 1/1/2024 to 31/12/2024 in the Bovey Tracey and Heathfield beat area there has been a total of 791 Incident Reports of a varying nature logged resulting in the creation of 484 Occurrence Reports being raised that required investigation.

The remaining 307 Incident Reports were non-offence related incidents responded to by the Police which include road traffic incidents, concerns for welfare and non-criminal anti-social behaviour. Non-offence incidents include those reported to the Police via 101, emails and face to face contact and the 999 system.

It has been a challenging year for all Officers. Staff sickness has had a significant impact on the team as a whole which has seen Officers working across all beat areas covered by both Chudleigh and Ashburton stations as we work hard to maintain workloads and meet public expectation. We have seen the usual peaks and troughs with seasonal crime and the figures bear this out. This year has seen PCSO Paul Wilson working successfully locally and engaging with the local schools on a number of projects. As a team we are looking forward to the coming year.



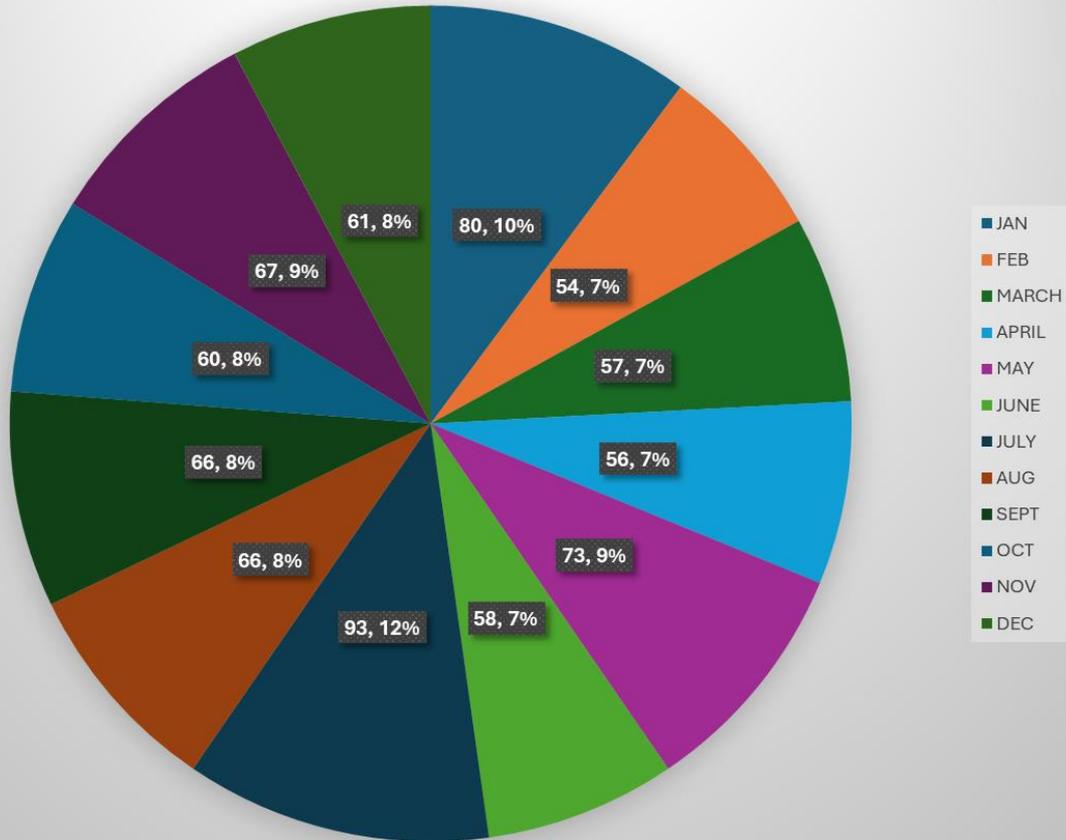
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- 📺 [DCPolice](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Incident Reports (Logs) 1/1/24-31/12/2024





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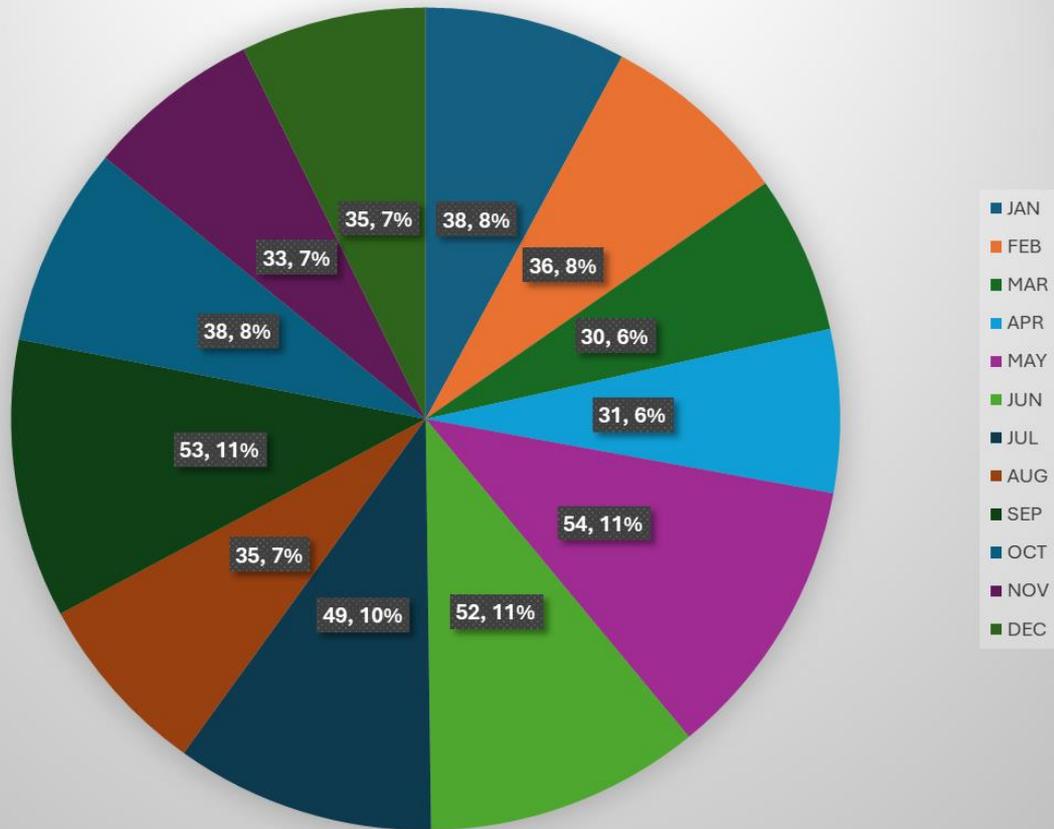
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Occurrence Reports Raised 1/1/24 to 31/12/24



BOVEY PARADISO ARTS

PROGRESS REPORT - SPRING 2025

1. A QUICK REMINDER -

- a) Bovey Paradiso Arts when fully opened will be the community arts and entertainment centre for everyone in Bovey and the surrounding area.
- b) When surveyed the residents of Bovey have repeatedly voiced their support for such a facility in the town. Its potential benefits for the economic development of Bovey are reflected in the Parish Neighbourhood Plan.
- c) It will put on films, plays, comedy, music, exhibitions, both on its premises and in the community - something for everyone. It will host meetings, clubs and societies; it will be a social hub for the community with a lively café/restaurant.
- d) It is owned by its 436 members, the vast majority of whom are local, and operates for the benefit of the whole community. Any surplus it makes is to be applied to the development of the arts in Bovey Tracey and district
- e) It is operated by a team of volunteer directors, responsible to its members and the community, together with a host of volunteers and partner organisations, including importantly the Bovey Players and the Bovey Society of Artists.
- f) It will be one of the larger employers in town as well as providing valuable work space for 4 local artists

2. IN 2024 -

- a) We have built the auditorium, at a total cost so far of just over £200,000 - the walls are up, the roof is on. It will be one of Bovey Tracey's "greenest" buildings - the roof is fully clad with photovoltaic tiles and air-source heat pumps are in place (thanks to a grant from Teignbridge District Council). This will be a state-of-the-art performance space with 85+ seats. We intend to "top out" and name the auditorium at a public event on the 24th April. It remains to complete the internal lining/equipping of the building. The external restoration, decoration and signing of the building will commence as soon as the weather allows.
- b) We have raised a further £158,000 in grants to pay for all of this. This sum includes the £93,000 awarded to us by the Town Council from its Community Infrastructure Levy funds. The CIL grant has been used thus far to help pay for the construction of the auditorium, in particular the solar tiles. The remainder of the grant will be used to pay for the completion of the roof of the auditorium ie soffit boards, guttering, the rendering of the auditorium and the restoration/decorating/signing of the outside of the "old" King of Prussia.
- c) We have shown a dozen or so films at the Wickham Hall; put on a number of music events at the Bovey Distillery, in partnership with Greg and his team; held talks, poetry readings and workshops at Paradiso; mounted 10 public exhibitions in the gallery; run an open art exhibition for pupils/students from local schools and colleges; supported the Heathfield Action Team in reaching out to the community of Heathfield; worked with local businesses; taken part in community events. In these ways, and ahead of

the full opening of Paradiso itself, we have worked hard to bring the arts and entertainment to Bovey, reaching over 1500 people.

- d) We have updated and rewritten our Business Plan and market-tested it through a series of visits to 6 other “small town” community arts centres across Devon, all have slightly different models of operation with one owned and run by its Town Council and two operating in buildings owned by their Town Councils. The majority are run by charitable organisations like Paradiso in buildings developed and owned by the arts centre, working closely with their Town or District Council and with their local communities.

3. IN 2025 -

- a) We will strive to raise the remaining £250k we need to finish off the building work - open up the main entrance, complete the café/restaurant area, line and equip the auditorium.
- b) We will do this by continuing to apply for grants - an application for £240,000 to the National Lottery Heritage Fund is currently being written; by launching a Third Community Share Issue in the Spring, not least in response to demand from existing shareholders and newcomers to our community; and by continuing with discussions with potential, sympathetic lenders.
- c) Meanwhile, we will press on with our growing programme of community arts events and partnerships.
- d) In the Spring we will be launching our exciting new branding.
- e) During this year, as we approach Paradiso’s opening, we will be introducing a Community Consultation group drawing on all groups and organisations in Bovey to ensure that we are in tune with the community’s needs and wants. We will look to the Council for help in setting up this group. We will also be initiating research to measure and enhance the impact we are having in the community.

With the support of our Town Council and the community we are here to serve, we remain confident that Bovey Tracey will soon have its flagship arts and entertainment venue.

David McGahey, Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Bovey Paradiso Arts

March 2025

BOVEY TRACEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Members of our committee attend our Council meetings as often as possible and when necessary raise any comments or questions that have been sent to us by residents or visitors to the Bovey Tracey area. We are very fortunate to have such a well organised Council with an excellent Town Clerk and his staff.

A recent example of an action that some members of the public asked us to refer to the Council was the possible erection of bus shelters in the middle of the town to shelter those waiting for buses in pouring rain. The Town Clerk has referred this matter to the appropriate authority and is awaiting a reply.

Our Council allow a large number of events to take place in the town and parks. There have been many favourable comments relating to the beautiful hanging baskets and other floral arrangements around the town during the summer.

Bovey has an excellent Christmas tree and coloured lights in the high street. A number of visitors to the town at this time are very impressed by the lights and some have said that they would like a similar display in the area where they live.

The children's improved play area in Mill Marsh Park and the open-air swimming pool in the Recreation Ground are extremely well used and are valued amenities. For a relatively small town we also have a large number of excellent clubs and societies for all ages run by volunteers.

All the facilities in Bovey Tracey make it a very attractive place to live in or to visit.

Paul Beecher: Chairman of Bovey Tracey Residents' Association

Bovey Tracey Academy: Providing the gateway to fulfil an ambitious, flourishing future

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to give an update on our Academy.

We officially converted to Bovey Tracey Academy on 1st June 2024 and joined LAPSW (Learning Academy Partnership South West).

The increased support of a collaborative approach has been instrumental in our accelerated progress as a school. As a result, our pupil numbers are looking healthy for September 2025 and we continue to thrive.

What's new?

- We are teaching phonics through a scheme called Read Write Inc. This was a £25,000 investment from LAP to support regular training and the purchase of books. As a result, we now have every Reception child at the level they should be or beyond and also other children making 1 years progress in 3 months. We are extremely excited by this. Our mission to have every child reading confidently and with enthusiasm by the end of year 2 is happening much quicker than we could have imagined.
- We have had a major multi thousand pound investment in our school building, meaning we have replaced flooring, lighting, doors and our fire alarm system.
- We have benefitted from IT upgrades and new computers.
- The next project is to upgrade our Early Years provision, including a new covered area and flooring and toilets.

This initial financial support has made such a big difference for all of our children and staff already.

Teaching and learning

We have an incremental coaching approach for each teacher from myself and the leadership team, which means they have professional development twice a week. This again is of great benefit to all.

Our teachers have had the opportunity to go and look at other schools and collaborate with teachers in the same year group. I have weekly meetings with other heads and we have a very supportive network, inviting other heads in to conduct regular reviews. This works well and ensures we continue to thrive.

We are extremely well supported by FOBS (Friends Of Bovey School) who are instrumental in fund raising for us and supporting our community. They do extra events regularly throughout the year for both children and adults and give up their time voluntarily for which we are extremely grateful. In addition we have volunteer readers

who come in and read alongside the children and also have a gardening club which is run by Ellie from Growing spaces, Jan a grandparent and Sheila our town mayor. Again, we are very grateful for the time they give so freely.

Our Year 6 children continue to take part in the Civic award (pre Duke of Edinburgh) and have raised hundreds of pounds so far for different charities. They have also raised awareness amongst their school friends by running assemblies. These are all skills which are useful for secondary school and indeed life. To be able to see things from another's point of view and show compassion is one of our school values.

We continue to be a flourishing academy in a community in which we are proud to belong and a Trust which has empowered us to realise what is possible.

School Trust Mission

Flourishing Futures

Values

- **Empower**
- **Excel**
- **Together**

Beliefs

We believe that:

- **We are Stronger Together** – we deliver and achieve more than we could ever do individually
- **In a Sense of Belonging** – every member of our School Trust matters and know that they belong
- **In Removing Barriers** – ensuring that where you begin does not limit your horizons
- **In Realising the Possible** – you cannot be what you cannot see

Thank you for your continued support as a community.

Louise Prywata

Headteacher, Bovey Tracey Academy

Report from the Churches, Bovey Tracey.

Sharon Hurlow, minister at the Methodist Church, has asked me to make this report as she is recovering from both a recent knee operation and the loss of her father, who passed away a couple of weeks ago.

The local Methodist Church is very grateful for the grant from the Growing Communities Fund, which the Town Council submitted for us. We have made our church rooms available at no cost on a Tuesday to enable a 'hub' to develop, and the grant will help cover the expense of our contribution to the day. So thank you. The Tuesday hub currently comprises drop-in coffee followed by lunch-time soup, an early afternoon session organised by Moorland Community Caring (alternating between a drop-in coffee/chat and an organised Moor Social session for elderly and/or socially isolated residents), and then finally the weekly social supermarket. Alongside this there are the weekly Citizen's Advice Sessions, the ongoing Community Fridge, and then, on a monthly basis, surgeries with Teign Housing and the PCSO, and a Good Grief Café. The Church is delighted to host all this and to be a stake-holder in a truly collaborative effort, and we should pay tribute to the number of volunteers from across the community who make it happen week by week.

The Methodist Church also hosted services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, and also, by the time you read this, for the World Day of Prayer on 7th March.

I can also report that the chaplaincy provided by the churches at South Dartmoor Community College continues to operate. There are currently two chaplains who take it in turns to be present at the college on a Thursday morning, to offer a listening ear and pastoral support to students who are referred to them – up to 5 on any given morning. This includes, of course, students from around Heathfield and Bovey Tracey, as well as from Ashburton and the wider moorland. It is also hoped to set up a CU (Christian Union) at the college, more specifically to support Christian pupils.

As always. This brief report comes with the Churches' thanks to the Council for its ongoing support and interest, and also for the hard work Councillors do for the wellbeing of our town and its residents.

Rev. Kevin Hooke 3/3/25



The Greater Horseshoe School

Celebrations

Autumn 2024/25

- The school leadership team (Executive Headteacher, two deputy headteachers, two Assistant Headteachers, DSL) each oversee key areas of L+M, QofE, B+A and PD. Heads of faculties lead curriculum areas across the three sites the school works across. There are 57 members of the team, 4 therapists and 55 students. Two New Assistant Headteachers (QofE) and (PD) settled in well.
- Due to the growth of the school (+5 and +6), an Assistant SENCO and a Maths Teacher were appointed internally, but vacancies for Learning Support Assistants remain unfilled. We are exploring the possibility of recruiting a Forest School Lead to further develop our forest school area at the farm, ensuring we provide an enriching and supportive environment for our students to thrive.
- Our pathway model supports students aged 8-18 at the point at which they're at in terms of their developmental and readiness stages. The provision for all students is inclusive to ensure all students have the opportunity to progress as their peers, with learning supported through scaffolding and personalisation to support their needs, interests and aspirations.
- Three sites offer an Ofsted judged (March 2023) Outstanding provision offering a broad and balanced curriculum and provision in different approaches and settings including a therapeutic care farm, Chipley Mill and specialist media and performing arts site, Musers.
- Successful material change inspection complete 8th January to increase student numbers by six, bringing the total capacity of the school to 61. Refurbishment and addition of new classrooms at Musers recently complete, ensuring high-quality provision for both students and staff. Going forwards, we are working with our students to develop the space even more! This will involve decorating the common room, having a dedicated role-playing games area for DND (and more), a podcasting station in our new multimedia space and expanding on our comics and retro games collection.



- 4 day working week in place now for two academic years - phenomenal feedback from staff, reduced absences and employment cost within the budget.
- Well done to Rosie, our Level 3 Supported Employment Practitioner, who won a learner of the year award from the British Association of Supported Employment. This award celebrates the individual who has taken the learning across of all the Supported Employment courses and put it into action within their service. Well done, Rosie.
- Well done to Lisa and Alana. The school took part in the Young Artist Exhibition in Bovey Tracey, where our students' work, along with work of other young people from the local area, was showcased. Some fantastic feedback was received from Jayne at the Gallery about the size of our portfolio but also the quality. Well done again to Lisan and Alana. Some lovely feedback was also received from some of the parents: *Ava was super proud to show her artwork at Bovey Paradiso this week.*





• We had a highly successful team-building session after whole staff team AAD training session at the end of autumn term, with all staff actively participating in activities which was organised by our wellbeing team.

• Jake Snell (PE Tutor) successfully organized exciting match trips to Plymouth Argyle and Exeter City, which were attended by a fantastic



number of enthusiastic students. Building on this success, we are eagerly planning visits to Premier League matches in the near future. Some comments from students:

Olivia said 'It was the best night of my life – I have never been to a live game before and I've had an amazing night' – she was so excited throughout and kept raving about how much she loved it.



• On Thursday, 28th November, a group of staff and KS3/KS4 students from the Greater Horseshoe School attended the matinee of the theatre production of Michael Morpurgo's much-loved War Horse at The Theatre Royal Plymouth. The show was enjoyed by all and a great way to finish this term's Reading Topic



• We now have a polytunnel, thanks to funding from green initiatives, which will provide excellent opportunities for hands-on learning, sustainability projects, and cultivating fresh produce.

- Post-16 Winter Social Event - This term, our Post-16 students enjoyed a fantastic winter social event in Torquay. The evening included a fun-filled game of bowling, followed by a picturesque walk along the Bay of Lights. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to socialize, strengthen friendships, and create lasting memories in a supportive and relaxed environment.
- Congratulations Mandy on Completing her Thrive Practitioner training.
- 100% H&S Audit 12th December.
- Christmas fair: Wide range of activities provided for students and families, reflecting the incredible effort everyone put into making the day a success. The feedback from parents and students has been overwhelmingly positive, not only about the event itself but also about the ongoing impact of the work we do every day. Additionally, we are pleased to share that the event raised over £300, which will support the charity chosen by the Student Council.
- In December, we were thrilled to welcome Aida H Dee, the celebrated "Story Time Drag Queen," for an unforgettable day with our students across all sites.
- A successful inset day (20th Dec) began with breakfast cooked by the SLT for all staff. TIP training was delivered by Hannah (Educational Psychologist) and Amanda (TIP Champion), followed by activities organized by the Wellbeing Team.



Summer 2023/24

- Dream Big application was successful this means one of our students (OH) has been awarded the full £500 in order to fund her tractor driving course at Duchy College.
- Three students passed their driving licence this year.
- Very positive feedback from RSL QA: *“The learner feedback is outstanding, improving quality assurance procedures by breaking down the grade into individual components. The feedback strictly follows the grading criteria, offering a detailed analysis and focusing on the areas relevant to the grade. It also provides suggestions for improvement to enhance the classification through further detailing of specific elements of the criteria.”*
- TC has now passed his RSL level 1 with distinction
- We’ve had 19 students across art, media and music awarded either Explore or Discover level in their Arts Award qualification this year!
- Our Band Club & RSL music students in which they have had an amazing opportunity to perform at a bespoke venue: The Jamming Station in Totnes. These students all prepared incredible sets with repertoire from rock, pop, punk & acoustic music.



- Fantastic Graffiti workshop with majority of students taking part .
- The sports day at The Greater Horseshoe School playing field was a resounding success, with over 20 children participating, including a good mix of boys and girls. It was particularly heartening to see many children from the Chipley Mill site joining in the fun, adding to the community spirit of the event.



- The Year 9s had Vocational Tasters in June. They had a tour of Combe Pafford School where Construction and Mechanics are based, and then took part in taster sessions of Horticulture, Animal Care, Beauty and Design Technology at Chipley Farm. These sessions were to help the Year 9s to make their vocational choices ready for Key Stage 4. Then they took their Options Booklets ready to make their selections. This is a very exciting time for the Year 9s and marks their first steps towards future careers!
- Seven students attended residential trip to Ardèche, France
- Eight students attended residential trip to Krakow, Poland
- Fourteen students attended residential trip to Slapton, South Devon
- Maryanne and Lisa completed their Teachers of Tomorrow course and were promoted to teachers.
- Two Y13 students secured employment
- One of our former students, was successful in achieving a position as Supported Intern at GHS. Aidan has started amazingly well and is already embracing his role supporting in a Learning Support role.
- Devon County Show attended by nearly all GHS students (44) and staff with many prizes won. Lewis Wright took part in radio interview and was amazing.
- Material change inspection complete increasing numbers from 50 to 55



- Kelly Terlikowski has been recognised by Pearson National Teaching Awards as Teaching Assistant of the year

Everyday Hero: Kelly Terlikowski

It's always lovely to see our colleagues being recognised externally for the fantastic work they do.

This week's Everyday Hero is Kelly Terlikowski, who has recently become a Tutor within the Futures Team at [The Greater Horseshoe School](#), who was awarded **Teaching Assistant of the Year Certificate of Excellence** by the Pearson National Teaching Awards for her previous role as a Teaching Assistant.

Lukasz Miecznikowski, Headteacher, said "Kelly has been fantastic in her role, building amazing relationships with the students and consistently delivering high-quality lessons. She is an absolute pleasure to work with."

Well done Kelly!



- We had a highly successful team-building day at the end of summer term, with all staff actively participating in water sports which was organised by our wellbeing team.





Charity No 1078292

Bovey Tracey Youth Café Report to Annual Town Meeting 26.03.2025

Staffing

We have 5 part time staff; plus 2 bank staff to cover absence; 2 volunteers; and the trustees of the Charity to provide our services. 5 staff and 2 volunteers who work face to face with young people and including Jez (operations manager who leads both sessions and is also the designated safeguarding officer); also, part time admin manager Kim, who is also going to support sessions in the near future. We are actively looking to recruit more volunteers, restructure and possibly consider additional staffing to be able to be more flexible and to continue to provide and expand on our high quality and vital service for young people.

Sessions are currently-

- **Tuesday Outreach-** Jez, Angie, (Sarah if Angie unavailable)
- **Wednesday** – Jez (Session leader), Sarah, Karen, (volunteer Kaili)
- **Thursday** – Jez (Session leader) Jez, Sarah, and Hollie (volunteer needed)

Sessions are available to young people from school years 6 onwards (ages approx. 10- until 18th Birthday) on Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 6.30pm-8.30pm. We recently extended our age range to include all school years to provide a service for to include all young people in the town.

Street Outreach

Outreach street-based sessions are staffed by Jez and Angie (and Sarah if Angie is unavailable), targeting the hardest to reach and vulnerable young people regardless of if they attend the café or not. The Tuesday sessions are incredibly important and valuable, we are committed to continuing them for as long as there is a need. These sessions have created foster positive relationships between the Youth Café staff and Young People, and this continues to have an impact on low-medium level antisocial behaviour in the town. There is a very positive relationship between the Youth Café and local Police officers, who are regular visitors to the Café. This has led to meetings periodically between officers and myself to discuss local issues involving young people, share intelligence, and to find ways to work together to support young people and avoid the risk of young people being criminalised. We continue to help young people understand the impact of their behaviour on other members of the community and the possible consequences of this through creating a relationship based on trust by listening to and respecting young people's views and feelings, as well as giving them a forum in which to express them. This has led to a sense of ownership and a sense of belonging in the community. The building of the youth shelter is a good example of this and was inspired by the views of young people.

When it is appropriate, the young people that we have engaged with during the outreach sessions are invited into the Café (regardless of if they normally attend the Wednesday/Thursday sessions) or not, we provide hot drinks, chat, listen to music, and play pool. Most of these young people would not normally attend the Youth Café sessions or any other formal type of youth provision. We discuss issues that arise in conversation, such as employment, further education, sex and relationships, sexual health, and drugs and

alcohol issues, offering advice and guidance and signposting them to other organisations where appropriate.

Café sessions

Sessions are well attended and are lively and fun, with both sessions averaging between approx. 20 and 40 young people per evening. Our numbers are increasing each session with new young people coming every session. We are also seeing increasing amounts of young people coming from Heathfield.

Generally, sessions are very positive; there is occasional episode of challenging behaviour, but this is well managed by staff. The Café House Rules are very clear, fair, and non-negotiable, and young people understand this. When young people attend for the first time, they are given a copy of the rules, which they agree and sign. This gives them agency and ownership - they understand they have a choice - if they want to attend the sessions, they must adhere to the rules, and the natural consequences that will occur for non-adherence. Our increasing numbers are testament to the effectiveness of this simple and effective strategy; and helps young people to feel safe and secure, promoting positive behaviour.

There continues to be a very high percentage of young people that attend the Café with significant additional needs - these range from educational needs such as autistic spectrum conditions and ADHD, to Social, Emotional, and Mental Health needs, as well as young people with social problems such as being young carers. There are also an increasing number of young people in attendance that are not in formal education - this is concerning but sadly seems to reflect national trends. Additionally, most young people are affected by the cost-of-living crisis that we can see is having a huge impact, with some suffering real deprivation and child poverty. We therefore continue to offer free food options to all young people at every session, and there is always fresh fruit that young people can have during the sessions and/or take home at the end. We always attempt to get funding to cover the cost of the free food, but as we feel the need is so great and young people sometimes arrive hungry with no money to pay for food, we will therefore continue to offer this service regardless of whether it is externally funded or not.

Activities

We are constantly looking for activities to add value to the sessions. Young people really enjoy arts and crafts and are currently enjoying crocheting, painting and drawing. Young people also really enjoy Karaoke and dancing, they also like to use the PS4 console for a variety of games, Pool, music, and board games are also popular.

In the summer, we were lucky enough to receive a free session at Bovey swimming pool which was very much enjoyed by the young people. We also hosted a Christmas film night using the facilities in the Riverside Centre, also kindly provided at no cost.

Having volunteers and adequate staffing allows us flexibility to offer additional activities during sessions.

Administration

Kim has worked extremely hard to get the building up to a very high standard in terms of compliance, things are now up to date, but this has been at a considerable financial cost. Our costs in terms of compliance, and utilities continue to rise, although we are doing our best to ensure we are getting the best value for money. We may have an additional cost soon as there is a possibility (TBC) of dry rot in some of the roof timbers.

Summary

Bovey Tracey Youth Café continues to attract a diverse cross section of young people a wide variety of backgrounds, but it is clear we attract many vulnerable and hard to reach young people from families with additional challenges in their lives. I would like to emphasise again that the current cost of living crisis is

impacting young people significantly, and we are continually looking at ways to support them as much as is possible in these difficult times, which I feel is ultimately what the Café is all about.

I have worked professionally supporting young people in several different settings for the past 20 years and this has been without doubt the most challenging time for young people in my opinion, making the need for provisions like the Youth Café vital.

Most importantly, the Youth Café is a safe, fun, space where young people can come where they can be themselves without judgement, in a nurturing environment where they are supported and valued by caring staff and volunteers.

They can get advice, support, and guidance on issues that affect young people - including but not limited to drugs and alcohol, sexual health/relationships, issues with social media, child exploitation and online safety.

As there is currently no other similar completely free of charge service available to young people in Bovey Tracey, I feel it is vital that we can continue our work supporting young people in the town.

On behalf of the young people that I have the privilege of supporting, I would like to thank the Town Council for their financial support and would urge you to consider continuing and increasing this to help cover rising costs in the future, not just this year but for years to come. Young people embody the future, and it is imperative that our local communities invest in them.

The Youth Café and the services we provide are funded entirely by donations by yourselves, other organisations, and the generosity of individuals.

Jeremy Butcher

Operations Manager

Bovey Tracey Youth Café



Charity No 1078292



BOVEY TRACEY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please find as requested a brief report of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) within Bovey Tracey for the Annual Town Meeting on 26/3/25.

Despite all attempts to try and enlist new Co-Ordinators to either take on responsibility for uncovered streets/roads or replace our loyal, more elderly, volunteers some of whom wish to retire from the position, unfortunately, there have been no persons coming forward. However we do have around 20 streets covered in our town which of course are best identified by the NHW signs you view portrayed on lamp-posts.

In order to enhance the need for a neighbourly approach to our lives and the human touch of caring and respecting via the observation and communication that we should have with others, especially perhaps the elderly or lonely, I would like to show my appreciation of The Cottage Magazine. They kindly publish, within the magazine, space for the Residents Association/Neighbourhood Watch articles by Paul Beecher and myself. These do seem to have been appreciated by readers as kind comments have been received on occasions.

Recently, Neighbourhood Watch combined with BT in the presentation of the new home phone service called Digital Voice which replaces the current system and is powered by your broadband connection. In order to raise awareness about the switch, NHW/BT have conducted a region by region invitation to local people to attend a free presentation and this was held in January at the Riverside Community Centre as a drop in session. I found this well conducted and was appreciated by the approx 50 residents who did call in.

Finally, a last request for any potential new Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators to please view the Neighbourhood Watch web page and consider taking a role.

NHW encourages good neighbours who are always appreciated. We must look out for others.

Les Calder (NHW Lead Co-Ordinator for Bovey Tracey)

Heathfield Action Team Report – 2025

With 21 members, the Heathfield Action Team have met a number of times throughout 2024 at the Community Centre to discuss plans for the local Heathfield Community. We have had visits from the local Policing Team and held a tidy-up day at the Community Centre where volunteers worked together to help with gardening and sweeping. Many connections have been made amongst the members so that events and services have worked together as a result of the action team. A Christmas Fayre was held with many local residents visiting the festive event – with a chance for the children to visit Father Christmas. Residents who come to the meetings discuss any concerns with Hannah and Lisa the Heathfield Councillors, this creates an opportunity to resolve any ongoing problems. Thanks to the volunteers who assist with this action team – they are creating support and inspiration for Heathfield.

Cllr Lisa Robillard Webb

Cllr Hannah Mills Brown

Report for Annual Town Meeting March 2025

BOVEY TRACEY INFORMATION CENTRE CIC

Bovey Tracey Information Centre is a Community Interest Company (CIC) sharing space with the library in Riverside Community Centre. The key services we are set up to provide are:

- Responding to visitor and email enquiries about local attractions and accommodation
- Providing directions and information about the town and locality to visitors and residents
- Provision of public transport information and timetables
- Display of posters and website information about local events
- Sale of maps, tourist books on local walks, cycle routes, and places of interest
- Sale of cards, small stationary items and souvenirs
- Supporting local providers through a list of places to stay and places to eat. We also publish a leaflet of exercise classes in the vicinity and a booklet of local walks.

Funds to support our activities are largely raised through sales of goods and donations. Our bestsellers are OS maps, books of walks and cycle routes and greetings cards.

A survey run over consecutive years shows that approximately half of our users come from a TQ13 postcode. This has encouraged us to further build our community role through expanding the provision of relevant leaflets and posters signposting to social care and community support.

In the financial year 2023/24 our income was £1722 and expenditure £2793. The deficit was supported by reserves.



OUR ROLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Riverside Surgery Befrienders has now been serving the local community for over 25 years. We are a registered charity based in Bovey Tracey which provides transport to medical, dental and opticians appointments for patients registered at the Riverside Surgery. Our service is targeted at those who would have difficulty in accessing appointments because they cannot drive, use public transport, or rely on friends or relatives to take them.

HOW WE ARE ORGANISED

Riverside Surgery Befrienders is run entirely by volunteers, using their own cars. Virtually all volunteers are active drivers, and some take on additional roles such as coordinators or committee members. Volunteers do not charge for their time, although mileage costs are reimbursed, funded mainly through patient donations together with a small annual grant from Devon County Council. We work closely in conjunction with the surgery itself. Their reception staff receive the initial request from the patient and then pass it on to the duty coordinator, whose task is to match up the request with a suitable and available driver. We do not just provide a transport service; drivers will frequently offer additional support as some patients may need help in unfamiliar hospital surroundings, others may need access to a wheelchair at hospitals or the surgery.

ACTIVITY LEVELS IN 2024

We undertook over 1400 journeys last year, a further increase compared to the previous year. There was also a greater proportion of hospital runs, which usually require an increased time commitment from our drivers. During the year we have also recruited some new volunteers, and although this has been partially offset by those leaving we have nevertheless had a small net gain over the year. However, given the rise in our activity levels the service is still under pressure at busy times, so we are always on the lookout for more recruits.

Crockers Almshouse Trust and Tracey Almshouse Trust

Bovey Tracey Town Trust chaired by Martin Brealey with five trustees, runs and maintains the Crockers Almshouse Trust.

Four residents occupy our three dwellings and they need constant maintenance and updating.

The Trust also owns a field below the mast where we have planted some old varieties of apple trees.

The funding is provided by rental income

we receive from the communication mast situated off Trough Lane and various investments.

The Trust has this past year given grants to the

Cricket Club,

The Dyrans Journal,

Make SW,

The Heritage Trust,

The council for Mill Marsh park shelter,

Bovey Festival for street entertainment.

Parke W.I.,

The Darby & Joan Club,

The Towns Information Centre,

The Youth Cafe

and bat monitoring equipment for the wildlife group,

The Town Trust meets three times a year and are pleased to receive requests for

grants and funding from organisations and charities

based in the area.

James Mann

Treasurer

BOVEY TRACEY ACTIVITIES TRUST – REPORT TO THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 26TH 2025

1. Background

The Trust is entirely run by volunteers. Like most charities we faced a surge in energy and other costs and needed to find new volunteers to take over roles from others who have retired. We now have a full committee for the first time in 5 years.

The purpose of the charity is to provide a wide range of activities (over 30 in all) geared for the older generation i.e 55 years +, who live within 5 miles of the hall. The activities range from U3a style educational activities plus arts, crafts, cultural, physical (e.g keep fit and sit fit, Table Tennis and a walking group), card and board games as well as social and entertainment events). We have grown our membership from 360 to nearly 400 over the last year (and we still have capacity to take on new members)

2. Modernisation Programme

We have taken action to modernise the hall and contain energy costs to ensure the long run sustainability of the hall.

Since the installation of solar panels in November 2023 we have also replaced the gas cooker with an electric one, installed extra battery capacity (now totals 23Kilowatts), a solar diverter for hot water heating, replaced the gas central heating with an air source heat pump, new hot water tank and radiators which has enabled us to disconnect the gas supply and remove fossil fuels from the hall entirely. This saved £2500 a year in energy costs and has reduced our carbon emissions from the 2023 baseline of 4811Kg of Co2e a year to an estimated 545 Kg Co2e following the Heat Pump installation. We have also upgraded the Broadband to full fibre (900 megabytes) and the Office IT to use the cloud rather than local storage, which also enables volunteers to operate from home as well as in the hall office.

Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust

Report to the Annual Town Meeting - 26 March 2025

Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust is a registered charity (No. 1063070) and its object is:-

To advance the education of the public in the history of Bovey Tracey and the Dartmoor region in particular by the provision of a study/exhibition centre.

I am pleased to begin this report by saying that during the past 12 months the Heritage Trust has continued to prosper through the much-appreciated high level of support received from its membership (marginally higher than the previous year at 135) and elsewhere, in particular the trustees of both the Bovey Tracey Town Trust and the Tracey Almshouse Trust for their financial assistance towards the cost of a new storage shed, renovation work carried out on the brakevan, and quite extensive work carried out to the Heritage Centre; this included repairs to the flat roof sections of the building and fixed appliance/wiring testing which led to upgrades being necessary to the electrics and alarm system.

In 2024 the Heritage Centre reopened for the summer season on 30th March, with the same opening hours of 11am - 4pm, Wednesdays to Sundays, introduced for the previous year, and with a new exhibition focusing on items from our collection of pottery, with emphasis on pieces made in the 1920s. From then on, until the Heritage Centre closed for the winter at the beginning of November, there were just over 1,700 visitors (including over 200 children), a slight increase over the previous year and a most encouraging number when bearing in mind that visitor numbers to the South West were generally down in 2024.

Commencing in February 2024, a programme of three illustrated talks for members, as well as the general public, were organised in the spring, followed by two summertime events and three more illustrated talks in the autumn, the last of which took place during our AGM on 26th November and included film clips from the 1960s. In March we also arranged an afternoon tea to thank our volunteers for their invaluable work, and this was followed shortly afterwards, on 13th April, by a special Open Day to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the old railway station being officially opened as Bovey Tracey's new Heritage Centre on 10th April 2004.

During the year the Heritage Trust also had a stall at the Green Man Festival in April and again at the Sunday Funday in August. In addition, during War Graves Week (11th - 19th May) arrangements were made for one of our members, Mark Bailey, to conduct a tour of the war graves in Bovey Tracey, telling their stories and explaining the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the United Kingdom.

Behind the scenes much work has continued to ensure that the Heritage Trust's archives are well ordered and accessible; numerous research queries that arose were answered by volunteers; and the task of continuing to maintain and develop the use of social media through the Heritage Trust's Facebook page has remained an effective way of reaching out to the community as well as helping to link with other local history groups and heritage sector organisations.

Looking ahead, the Heritage Centre will reopen on Saturday 5th April thanks to the continuing and much-appreciated loyal support of the Trust's volunteer stewards, and with a new exhibition initially placing an emphasis on pottery in the 1920s. In the meantime, we continue to welcome donations of artefacts and documents to our archives, and have already held two of our three scheduled spring illustrated talks.

Mike Lang
(Chairman)