

1. We made a small loss of £972.94. The good news is that this was less than last year. The bad news is that this is largely down to us making a smaller donation to BYM. Also, Ben did not claim gift aid in 2022, so £1,477 of 2023 income is really a legacy from 2022. Taking all this into account, our true loss this year was probably slightly greater than 2022.
2. Contributions from Friends have increased slightly.
3. Income from hirings continued to decline slightly, but there are signs that the publicity which was put out is leading to a slight improvement in the situation. We thank Taylor, Lizzie and Nick for their work in making this happen.
4. We have healthy reserves but almost half of the money in the savings account is from Eileen Ashton's legacy. We agreed that this would be used for improvements to the Meeting House, rather than day-to-day expenses. This year we will be spending approximately £7,000 on new carpets and chairs. This will use up the remainder of Eileen's legacy.
5. Most of the expenditure on repairs and maintenance in 2023 was to the warden's cottage. Nevertheless the cottage is not really up to modern standards in some respects, particularly the single glazing. Some Friends have expressed concern about this. However over the next few years we can expect to have to spend considerable sums on repairs to the Meeting House outlined in the quinquennial review. Premises Committee is currently looking at the replacement of guttering, and we will have to spend larger sums on the windows repair or replacement. Area Meeting have offered some help towards this, but overall I anticipate considerable financial losses at the end of 2024.