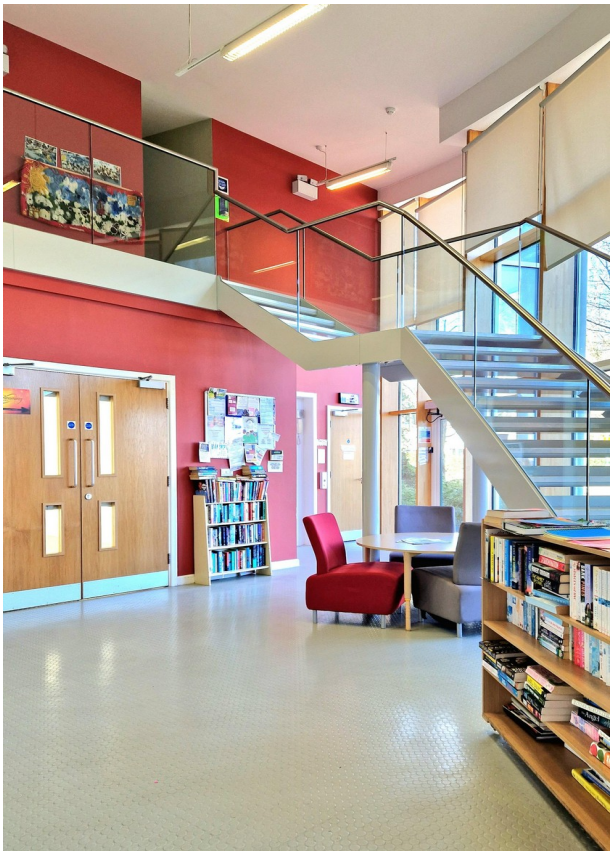
Arkell Community Centre Charitable Trust

"The Heart of Forest Green"

Arkell Community Centre

Annual Report 2022-2023



www.arkellcommunitycentre.org.uk

Contact: Katherine Kearns Charity Secretary 01453 833592
Charity number: 1138668

Decision making and Administration

The Charity is run by Nailsworth Town Council as sole trustee and the management committee (Trust Board) is made up of all town councillors. The Secretary role is undertaken by the Town Clerk and the Treasurer role is undertaken by the Deputy Clerk. Facility bookings and day-to-day issues of the building are dealt with by Nailsworth Town Council, supporting the Arkell Community Centre Trust.
The Trust contracts out cleaning and caretaking duties.

Aims of the Trust

The aim of the Trust is to maintain a community centre, to provide a central point for community support, facilities for children, young people and older people, social and leisure activities particularly for the Forest Green area. The Centre is a place where people can make new friends, volunteer, receive advice, learn new skills and get support. The Trust works with partners to meet those needs and respond to the needs of our community, and to use the centre to target support during emergencies such as covid-19 and the cost of living crisis.

Our partners

The Trust works with; Stroud District Council, Home Start, Nailsworth Health Partnership, Nailsworth Youth Club, Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council (GRCC), Community Roots, SDC's Neighbourhood Warden, FGR, the Police, Nailsworth Primary School, PSALMS and The Long Table. Commercial hirers and community groups form a valuable part of our community, and the Trust is open to collaborations with them to support the people of Forest Green.

Report of the year's activities

Hall users

This past year has seen an increase in use of the Centre by community groups. Some groups are regular weekly sessions, whilst others are monthly sessions. These include the FGR community café, youth club café, Lunch Club, Home Start, Nailsworth Film Club, the quilting group, a meditation group and Better Balance (gentle exercise for older people).

There were 15 children's parties at the Arkell Centre, some of which are a direct result of getting to know the Centre through attending session with one of the business hirers.

Currently three businesses regularly hire the Arkell Centre. One of these businesses has moved half of their sessions to the Town Hall and this will result in a drop in income for the Arkell Centre for 2023-2024. There are now more community hirers that business hirers using the Centre each week.

Hire charges

Since April, the flat rate for hirers has been replaced with two rates; one for community use and one for business use. The total income from business users totalled £13,266.50, while income from community users, including occasional hire, totalled £8,837.00.

FGR Community offered a Warm Hub space and a café alongside a Pantry to support the community through the cost of living crisis and beyond. The Pantry was also offered to families with young children at Home Start sessions.

Nailsworth Town Council continued to be a major support to the Arkell Community Centre Trust. In Autumn 2022, the Town Council recalculated the level of administrative support (hours spent on work for the Arkell Centre by all staff members) to the value of £14,000

per year. This sum is paid to the Town Council each year, and the same amount is donated by the Town Council to the Arkell Centre Trust, so that support for the Centre is transparent.

Our building

The Arkell Centre is bright, warm and well-equipped. There are service plans in place for the lift, air conditioning units, intruder and fire alarm.

Safety compliance works were completed (PAT testing and fire extinguisher servicing) and the building had an EICR assessment. All of the work identified in this assessment was carried out. The EICR testing will be required again in 2026. The emergency lighting was inspected and it was replaced in many areas to bring it up to standard. Safety compliance work totalled £2,936.

Other building repairs included repair/replacement of fascia boards; resolving a trip hazard on the paving; replacing the fridge and further dishwasher repairs. These totalled £1,738.

By the time of the AGM racking will be fitted in the loft space to resolve issues with storage.

Upcoming compliance work includes solar panel servicing, lightning rod servicing and legionella testing.

Finance

If the Centre's regular bookings remain the same, there will be a projected shortfall of £2,144 in the coming financial year due to the loss of a key business hirer.

Income from April to September 2023 was £29,985 whilst outgoings were £30,877. These figures include the support from the Town Council of £14,000.

Challenges

The Centre requires more maintenance work as the building and appliances get older, as last year's expenditure shows. The Centre hosts some extremely valuable support for the community, however without an eye to future funding of the building's day-to-day costs the Centre will be at risk.

Work to change the Trust's governance with the help of a firm of specialist charity lawyers needs to be progressed with the input of all Trustees.

Into the future

The Arkell Community Centre continues to show its worth as a strategically placed asset for the town.

The Centre will continue to meet the challenge of supporting the people of Forest Green in these times of financial hardship, and to adapt to whatever use is most needed by the community. Stroud and District Foodbank are planning two sessions a week from the Arkell Centre, where residents, who have a referral, can collect food. The Foodbank currently delivers food for people in need, and the Foodbank is very pleased to have a base in Nailsworth. It is hoped this will be fully up and running within a few weeks, ready for Winter.

Income and Expenditure Account

Unaudited

31/03/22 £		31/03/23 £
	INCOME	
31,523.75	Income	31,620.78
0.00	Interest on Investments	0.00
0.00	Precept	0.00
31,523.75	**INCOME TOTAL**	31,620.78
	EXPENDITURE	
23,347.71	Expenditure	32,621.79
13,479.44	General Administration	15,969.29
0.00	S. 137 Payments	0.00
36,827.15	**EXPENDITURE TOTAL**	48,591.08
14,219.50	Balance as at 01/04/22	13,552.20
31,523.75	Add Total Income	31,620.78
45,743.25		45,172.98
36,827.15	Deduct Total Expenditure	48,591.08
0.00	Stock Adjustment	0.00
4,636.10	Transfer to/ from reserves	0.00
13,552.20	Balance as at 31/03/23	-3,418.10

Signed _____ _____

Chair Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

THE ARKELL COMMUNITY CENTRE

INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2023

I have examined the Community Centre's annual accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 and all the associated documentation. I can confirm that those accounts are a true statement of the Centre's financial activities during the year. The balance sheet is a true representation of the state of its finances at the end of the year.

Comments & Recommendations:

None.

Ian Crowe FFA.

Date. 1st August 2023