Arkell Community Centre Charitable Trust

"The Heart of Forest Green"

Arkell Community Centre

Annual Report 2025-2026



Contact: The Civic Centre, Old Market, Nailsworth. GL6 0DU.

01453 833592 or email adminassistant@nailsworthtowncouncil.gov.uk
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 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 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), SDC's Neighbourhood Warden, FGR Community, the Police, PCSOs, Nailsworth Primary School and Stroud Food Bank. 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

There is a mix of community and business hirers using the two halls. More community groups use the Centre than businesses. Over the past year or two, there has been a decline in hire for children's parties. The Community Café, overseen by the Community Development Worker, aims to provide a twice weekly offering, one including Stroud Food Bank. These frequently have housing officers, PCSOs, Community officers, IT help and many more. The Rotary run a popular lunch club for older people once a month. The Youth Café runs once a week during term time.

Hire charges

The Arkell has two rates of hire charges, a business rate and a community rate.

Our building

The Arkell Centre is bright, warm and well-equipped, with two halls, a kitchen, a lobby and a small secure outdoor area. There are service plans in place for the lift, air conditioning units, intruder and fire alarm.

The office schedules the maintenance checks required for compliance. Annually these include the lift, air conditioning units, fire alarms, PAT and intruder alarms. The building also has triannual surveys of fire and electrical system.

Finance

Income 25/26

NTC	£14,325.15
Hirers	£14,743.00
Grants	£0.00
Donations	£250.00
Miscellaneous	£544.46
Interest	£8.87

Total Income £29,871.48

The hirer income comes from long term hirers and occasional bookings for parties and events. It has been a poor year for bookings. The hirer income for 2025-2026 is lower than the previous year by £6248.50. This can be accounted for by the cost of living crisis and people prioritising where money is being spent. Additionally, the community café reduced sessions for an extended period of time.

Expenditure 25/26

NTC	£14,000.00
Cleaning	£8,634.90
Intruder alarm	£789.60
Broadband	£466.68
Electricity	£2,496.77
Water	£1,682.13
Professional fees	£600.00
IT Equipment	£448.56
PRS Licence	£399.26
Misc	£55.57
Lift Maintenance	£216.00
Kitchen	£1,095.87
Aircon Repair	£823.32
Fire alarm repair	£381.60
Property Maintenance	£605.28
Waste/recycling	£112.85
Total	**£32,808.39**

Due to rising costs and concerns about the future financial viability of the Arkell Centre, a close examination of cleaning costs was carried out in November 2024. As a result, cleaning hours were reduced, however this has meant that deeper cleans in holiday times were required to keep the building up to standard. This has been looked at again to try to reduce the costs further. The contractor would not be able to keep a cleaner if hours are reduced.

Income	£29,871.48
Expenditure	£32,808.39
Loss	**£3,936.91**

The difference between income and expenditure in the financial year to 30th March 2026 is a loss of **£3936.91**. This is not sustainable without funds from external sources, for example grants and fundraising events.

The Upper Hall is still only used three sessions a week. A publicity campaign is still needed to encourage more hirers for this area. A selling point is that it has separate toilets from the Lower Hall.

Challenges

The Centre continues to be checked by the NTC office staff more regularly to ensure day-to-day requirements are met; however, this takes NTC staff away from other duties and relies on hirers locking the building correctly and switching off lights. Routine tasks such as small repairs, replenishing consumables and supplies.

Into the future

The Arkell Community Centre continues to show its worth as a strategically placed asset for the town. However, as previously flagged, to keep it viable the Trustees need to look at securing its future with grants, fundraising and finding a longer term solution. This could be hiring out the upper hall to the Town Council for officing or getting a sole use hirer. This would generate a steady dependable income. The Council could give an annual grant to the Arkell as part of its town support initiatives. As the building gets older its maintenance costs increase. All the compliance costs have increased as the cost-of-living crisis has forced companies to increase their prices for these services.

The Trust can raise the Centre's profile to maximise hiring of the least used rooms (Upper Hall); regularly review hire charges within reasonable levels and begin regular fund raising. The last of these is the most urgent as the Centre is 2 years from bankruptcy with current income and expenditure levels.

The Trust is urged to look for sustainable local and national funding and to actively engage with fund raising events.

Income and Expenditure Account

Unaudited

31/03/25 £		31/03/26 £
	INCOME	
36,755.33	Income	29,871.48
0.00	Interest on Investments	0.00
0.00	Precept	0.00
36,755.33	**INCOME TOTAL**	29,871.48
	EXPENDITURE	
25,190.37	Expenditure	24,173.49
13,919.65	General Administration	8,634.90
0.00	S. 137 Payments	0.00
39,110.02	**EXPENDITURE TOTAL**	32,808.39
-1,842.75	Balance as at 01/04/25	4,071.30
36,755.33	Add Total Income	29,871.48
34,912.58		33,942.78
39,110.02	Deduct Total Expenditure	32,808.39
0.00	Stock Adjustment	0.00
8,268.74	Transfer to/ from reserves	0.00
4,071.30	Balance as at 31/03/26	1,134.39

Signed _____

Chair

_____

Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

Your Finance Dept.biz

Your Finance Director

Cliff Christe
Town Clerk
Nailsworth Town Council
Civic Centre
Old Market
Nailsworth
GL6 0DU

31st May 2026

Arkell Centre Independent Internal Audit 2025/26

Dear Cliff,

Further to my site visit on 26th May 2026, may I first of all express my thanks to yourself and Sara for the organised provision of the necessary records and documents to assist with the audit of the Arkell Centre 2025-2026.

My review of the accounts and records revealed consistency with prior year's compliance, and I'm satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the transactions for the financial year and the Town Council is meeting its duties as Trustees in this respect.

My only comments are those of an analytical nature in that the deficit for the year has increased from £2,355 to £4,027 due mainly to the decrease in Bookings Income of £6,262 offset by savings of £5,285 on Cleaning and Caretaker costs. Income was also down by £1,600 due to the no-recurrence of a £1,600 Grant in the 2024-25 year.

I suggested to Sara that the Debtor carried forward of £45 in respect of the Better Balance amounts due dating back to July 2024 be written off in the current year as it would appear that by now, this is not likely to be received.

Finally, I will forward my invoice directly via my accounting software Xero which can be downloaded.

If you require any further information, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

S A Tasker FCMA / CGMA

CIMA Practising Certificate Holder

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