Charity Number - 1148972

Company Number- 7992376

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE GLIDING HERITAGE CENTRE FOR 2025/26

1 REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This is the report of the trustees of the Gliding Heritage Centre (GHC) covering the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The reference and administration information is given below.

Name	The Gliding Heritage Centre	
Charity Registration Number	1148972	
Company Registration Number	7992376	
Principal Office	C/O Lasham Gliding Society	
	Lasham Aerodrome	
	Alton, Hampshire	
	GU34 5SS	
The Charity's Trustees	Dr A Newbery	Chairman
	Mr F G Bradney	Secretary
	Mr J Ben-David	Treasurer
	Mr G Garnett	Membership Secretary
	Mr G Pullen	Aircraft and Hangar Manager

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The GHC is a private company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. There are no shareholders, and any profit cannot be distributed to members. The governing documents are the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association. The directors of the company also act as the trustees of the charity, and they form the Management Committee of the GHC. New directors/trustees can be appointed in two ways:

a. *By ordinary resolution at a general meeting*. One third of the directors must retire in rotation each year and can offer themselves for re-election. New directors can be proposed for election by any member of the company.
b. *By a resolution of the current directors*. New directors appointed in this way must retire at the next annual general meeting.

The company has only one class of member. Membership is open to all, with no restrictions. The primary benefits of membership are being able to participate in the activities of the GHC and support its objectives. There are no employees; all the tasks involved in running and developing the centre are carried out by unpaid volunteer members.

3 OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

The object of the GHC as stated in the Articles of Association is:

"To advance the education of the public in the history of gliding, in particular but not exclusively, by the provision of a heritage centre and the preservation of historical gliders, artefacts and records which can be displayed."

In more detail, the key aims are:

- To educate the public, and in particular young people, about gliding and its history.
- To raise the awareness and improve the understanding of gliding as a sport, and to attract new people so that they can benefit from participating.
- To preserve vintage gliders together with the associated knowledge and skills.
- To maintain an archive of related documents and artifacts.

Although they are not primary aims the GHC also:

- Provides support and advice to other people who own, operate and restore vintage gliders. This helps to preserve the heritage.
- Forms an educational and recreational facility for aviation enthusiasts.
- Provides a focus for the vintage gliding movement in the UK.

The trustees of the GHC pay due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising their powers and duties to which the guidance is relevant. The charity complies with the Fundraising Regulator's voluntary regulation scheme. No professional fund-raisers or commercial organisations are involved. Visitors to the centre and to the internet site are invited to make donations but there is no obligation to do so.

The GHC was formed in 2012 and is located on Lasham Airfield in Hampshire. The airfield is owned by the Lasham Gliding Society (LGS) which granted a 25-year rent-free lease running from February 2013. Many of the members of the GHC are also members of the LGS but this is not mandatory. At the end of this reporting year the total membership numbered 430, an increase of 41 compared to the previous year. A small number of members (34 in 14 different countries) live outside the UK but are enthusiastic supporters of the centre and its objectives. The main facilities of the GHC consists of two hangars and a workshop where vintage gliders and other displays can be seen by visitors. The original hangar was completed in August 2013 and a second hangar was opened in the summer of 2018. The workshop was completed in January 2021.

The GHC is a working museum where vintage gliders can be seen both on the ground and in the air. GHC members, who are suitably qualified, can fly some of the gliders and thus keep alive the knowledge of how to operate historical aircraft of this kind. Members of the public can have guided tours of the centre on Sunday afternoons and at other times by arrangement. Flying days are held on the first Sunday of each month (subject to the weather) when visitors can see some of the vintage gliders in the air. A flying week is held each May. To make the GHC as accessible as possible to members of the public there is no charge for entry although most visitors make voluntary donations

The running costs of the centre are covered mainly by membership fees, donations from visitors and contributions from members who enjoy an incidental benefit by keeping their privately owned vintage gliders in a hangar or using the workshop. The major building projects were largely funded by donations from current members and legacies from previous members and supporters.

4 ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE AND PLANS

The GHC continued to have a steady stream of visitors during 2025/26, both in organised groups and on a casual basis on Sunday afternoons. One of the main aims of the centre is to introduce young people to gliding and aviation in general. Last year we addressed this objective in three ways:

- We continued a collaboration with a company (InvestIN) that organises training for potential engineering students. Over 400 students visited in the summer of 2025. They took part in practical demonstrations of glider maintenance and were introduced to different aspects of glider technology.

- We provided an opportunity for 5 young people with an interest in aviation to participate in the workshop activities at weekends under the supervision of experienced and qualified GHC members. This gave them experience that is relevant to broader areas of aviation and could help to form a foundation for their future careers



One of the "apprentices" gaining experience in the workshop

- The relatively high cost of gliding compared to other sports can make it difficult for young people to participate. To help overcome this barrier, we made one of our gliders available to the Lasham Gliding Society Youth Flying Group. Members of the group were able to fly the glider without paying flying fees and this has proved to be very popular



A historic Ka8 glider about to be flown by a member of the LGS Youth Flying Group.

For several years we have been planning to extend the second hangar to house the expanding collection of gliders. Five "new" gliders were donated in 2025/26 bring the total to 53. This is believed to be the largest collection in the world. At present, some of the gliders are stored in old trailers so there is an urgent need for more dry storage space. In the previous year, 2024/25, we started work on the extension by clearing the area between Hangar 2 and the workshop, but we could not go further until we were certain that we had the funds to complete the construction.



An aerial image of the GHC looking west. The new extension is on the rear face of the second hangar.

In 2025/26 we were fortunate in being left a legacy of £100k by a previous member and this enabled us to press ahead. As with our earlier building projects, the basic shell of the extension is being constructed by a contractor but the rest of the work, including the remaining groundwork and laying the concrete floor, will be carried out by members. In April 2026, at the end of this reporting period, work had just been started on the building frame as shown in the picture below.



The start of construction of the extension

The main activity next year will be to complete the project. The estimated extra cost for completion in FY 2026/27 is £154k which is well within the current net assets of £271k shown in the balance sheet. The extension will be used to store dismantled gliders before they are restored or exhibited in one of the main hangars. It will also allow us to free up space in the hangars so visitors can have a better view of the exhibits.

Looking further into the future, a long-term vision is to build a visitors' centre with physical and electronic displays that would complement the guided tours. The building would also provide space to store the collection of historic document and artefacts.

In summary, we are continuing to develop and expand the Gliding Heritage Centre. It is now widely recognised within the UK and internationally for its important role in preserving the

heritage and the history of gliding. It is popular with visitors, and it provides a way of introducing young people to the sport of gliding and aviation in general. The success of the GHC is due largely to the enthusiasm, dedication and generosity of the members. The challenge for the coming years is to increase the involvement of the next generation of active members so that the objectives of the GHC can be carried forward.

By order of the trustees

		Signature	Date
Dr A Newbery	Chairman		
Mr G Bradney	Secretary		
Mr J Ben-David	Treasurer		

5 FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE GLIDING HERITAGE CENTRE FOR 2025/26

5.1 Funds

The GHC has two funds:

a. The Unrestricted Fund

This is a general unrestricted fund that covers the running costs of the centre. It is used to pay for the following items:

- Insurance cover for the GHC gliders, the buildings, directors' protection and public liability
- Materials used for the routine maintenance of the gliders and the site. (The majority of the work is carried out by members.)
- The facility fees that are payable to the Lasham Gliding Society for airworthy gliders operated at Lasham.
- Fees payable to the British Gliding Association and the Civil Aviation Authority.
- General administrative costs
- The cost of electricity, water, gas for heating and fuel for the ground vehicles.
- Business rates (if these are payable)

The income for the fund comes from the following sources:

- Membership fees which are paid as regular donations to the charity.
- Donations made by visitors.
- Donations from members who enjoy the incidental benefit of flying the GHC gliders or keeping their private vintage gliders in the hangars so that they can be displayed to visitors.
- Donations from members who use spare capacity in the workshop to maintain private gliders.

During 2025/26 the net income for the fund was £21407.

b. The Restricted Fund.

The restricted fund is used primarily to develop the GHC facilities and extend the collection of vintage gliders. During 2025/26 the main sources of income were donations from members, visitors and supporters, and bank interest.

5.2 Reserves and Risk Policy

The running costs of the GHC are relatively low. There are no paid employees, the lease is rent-free, and most of the work is carried out by volunteer members. The running costs are paid from the unrestricted fund, and they are covered by the membership fees and the other contribution from members. The current policy of the trustees is to maintain the unrestricted fund at greater than £50,000 to allow for unplanned items. This ensures that the financial risks to the charity are relatively low.

5.3 Independent Examination of Accounts

The income and assets of the GHC mean that it is a small company below the threshold and so the accounts are not subject to a statutory audit. The accounts have been independently examined as required by the Charity Commission regulations.

5.4. Accounting Standard

The accounts follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS 102 effective from January 2019.

5.5 Acceptance of the Accounts.

The accounts were accepted by the members at the annual general meeting held on 11 Oct 2026.

5.5 Statement of Financial Activities

Note Ref		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
	Income and Endowments From:				
1,2	Donations and Legacies	39464	125668	165132	39834
	Total	39464	125668	165132	39834
	Investment Income				
	Interest	0	3250	3250	1273
	Total	0	3250	3250	1273
	Total Income	39464	128918	168382	41107
	Expenditure On:				
3	Charitable Activities	-18057	-22957	-41014	-41656
	Total	-18057	-22957	-41014	-41656
	Net Income/expenditure	21407	105961	127368	-549
	Transfer Between Funds	0	0	0	0
	Other Recognised Gains/Losses				
	Gains on Revaluation of Fixed Assets for Charity's Own Use	0	3000	3000	750
	Net Movement in Funds	21407	108961	130368	201
	Reconciliation of Funds				
	Total Funds Brought Forward	116434	482964	599398	599198
	Total Funds Carried Forward	137841	591925	729766	599398

5.6 Balance Sheet

		Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		£	£
	Fixed Assets		
4	Tangible Assets	325860	286743
5	Heritage Assets	133030	110030
	Total Fixed Assets	458890	396773
	Current Assets		
	Cash in Bank and in Hand	322662	201298
	Debtors	1491	1417
	Total Current Assets	324153	202715
	Liabilities		
6	Creditors:Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	53277	90
	Net Current Assets or Liabilities	270876	202625
	Total Assets Less Current Liablities	729766	599398
	Net Assets or Liabilities Excluding Pension Assets or Liabilities	729766	599398
	Total Net Assets or Liabilities	729766	599398
	The Funds of the Charity		
	Restricted Income Funds	579175	473214
	Unrestricted Funds	137841	116434
	Revaluation Reserve	12750	9750
	Total Unrestricted Funds	137841	116434
	Total Charity Funds	729766	599398

For the year ending 31 March 2026 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of the financial statement.

		Signature	Date
Dr A Newbery	Chairman		
Mr G Bradney	Secretary		
Mr J Ben-David	Treasurer		

5.7 Notes

Note 1

The charity is run by volunteers who:

- Restore and maintain the gliders
- Maintain and develop the buildings and the grounds
- Act as guides for visitors
- Carry out all the management and administrative tasks.

The financial value of these contributions is not included these accounts.

Note 2

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
Donations and Legacies	**£**	**£**	**£**	
Membership Subscriptions	10400		10400	9508
Donations Towards General Running Costs	29064		29064	27543
Donations to Develop the Centre		105668	105668	2783
Donations in Kind (Gliders)		20000	20000	0
Donations in Kind (Other)			0	0
Total	**39464**	**125668**	**165132**	**39834**
Investment Income				
Interest		**3250**	**3250**	**1274**
Total Income	**39464**	**128918**	**168382**	**39833**

Note 3

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
Charitable Activities	**£**	**£**	**£**	
Insurance	4743			4338
Glider Maintenance	2383			2878
Fees to LGS , BGA and CAA	3079			2070
Glider Restoration		320		969
Equipment	55			2455
Internet, Marketing and General Expences	3540			3087
Building and Site Maintenance	667			776
Governance	343			69
Electricity, Gas and Diesel	3247			1870
Depreciation of Tangible Assets		22637		23143
Total	**18057**	**22957**	**41014**	**41656**

Note 4

The major tangible assets are the two hangars and the workshop. The policy is to depreciate the value of the buildings linearly over the 25-year period of the current lease which ends in 2038. Some lower value tangible assets are depreciated linearly over their estimated remaining lives.

Hangars	
At begining of year	166968
Additions	8619
Under construction	53136
At End of Year	228723
Depreciation	12844
Net book value at end	215879
Equipment	
At begining of year	1103
Additions	0
At end of Year	0
Depreciation	664
Net book value at end	439
Workshop	
At begining of year	118671
Additions	0
At End of Year	0
Depreciation	9129
Net book value at end	109542

Cost or valuation of all Tangible Assets	
At the beginning of the year	286742
Additions and under construction	61755
At the end of the year	348497
Depreciation and impairment	
Depreciation	22637
At the end of the year	22637
Net Book Values	
Net book value at the beginning of the year	286742
Net book value at the end of the year	325860

Note 5

The current heritage assets shown in the report consist of the 53 vintage gliders which have been donated to the GHC together with their trailers and other equipment. Five "new" gliders were donated in in 2025/26. The valuation of the gliders over the last 7 years is shown in the table below. A summary of acquisitions, revaluations and disposals is shown in the second table. It illustrates how the collection has grown during this period.

The value of vintage gliders is difficult to estimate as the potential market is small, and they only change hands infrequently. The figures in the table have been based on recent sales of similar gliders. It is expected that the values the GHC gliders will be static or will possibly increase over time. If appropriate they are revalued following restoration.

The GHC also has an archive of documents, plans and artefacts related to gliding. Although these items are important from a historical point of view, they have little or no market value and so the archive is not included in the financial report at present.

Glider Type	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Abbott-Baynes Scud 2	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
Abbott-Baynes Scud 3	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
BG135							500
Bolkow Phoebus 17****			2500	2500	2500	2500	5000
Colditz Cock	450	450	450	450	450	450	450
Diamant 18							2500
Eon Baby	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Eon Eton	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
EoN Olympia 2b	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250
EoN Olympia 460		2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
EoN Olympia 463	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250
Grunau Baby	750	750	750	750	750	750	750
Hutter H17							7500
Jacobs Schweyer Weihe	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
JSH Scorpion	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Kaiser Ka3	750	750	750	750	750	750	750
Leister-Kaufmann TG4*****	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2500
Lo 100	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Manuel Crested Wren	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Manuel Hawk	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Oberlerchner Steinadler MG19	7500	7500	7500	7500	7500	7500	7500
PZL Pirat			2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
Scheibe Bergfalke 55-11	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500
Scheibe Flugzeubau Mu13-d	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Scheibe Zugvogel 3b	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
Scheibe Zugvogel 3b	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Schleicher K8b							3500
Schleicher K8b							3500
Schleicher K8b *	500	500	0	0	0	0	0
Schweizer TG3a **				3500	10500	10500	10500
Scott Viking	5830	5830	5830	5830	5830	5830	5830
Slingsby Dart 15	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Slingsby Dart 17R			3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Slingsby Falke T61					1500	1500	1500
Slingsby Grasshopper	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Slingsby Grasshopper *	1000	1000	0	0	0	0	0
Slingsby Prefect	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Slingsby Prefect	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500
Slingsby Sky			4500	4500	4500	4500	4500
Slingsby Skylark 2		2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
Slingsby Skylark 3b	1750	1750	1750	1750	1750	1750	1750
Slingsby Skylark 3f	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Slingsby Skylark 4***					1750	2500	2500
Slingsby Swallow	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800
Slingsby Tutor	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Spalinger S21H **	1500	1500	1500	1500	3500	3500	3500
Swales 15 SDT							2000
SZD Bocian			2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
SZD Foka 4	4050	4050	4050	4050	4050	4050	4050
Torva Sprite 15T							500
Yorkshire Sailplanes YS53	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Zlin Z24	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Total Value	75530	80530	93530	97030	109280	110030	133030
* Disposals in 2021/22							
** Revaluations in 2023/24							
*** Revaluation in 2024/25							
****Revaluation in 2025/26							

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Acquisitions	14000	5000	14500	3500	3250		20000
Revaluations					9000	750	3000
Disposals			-1500				
Total Change in Year	14000	5000	13000	3500	12250	750	23000
Cumulative Value	**75530**	**80530**	**93530**	**97030**	**109280**	**110030**	**133030**
Proceeds from Disposals			360				

Note 6

Creditors:Amounts Falling Due Within One Year			
	Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Total Funds**
	£	**£**	**£**
Accounts Payable	141	0	141
Accrual for Initial Construction of Hangar Extension	0	53,136	53136
Total Creditors:Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	141	53,136	53277

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of:

The Gliding Heritage Centre

My report covers the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out in section 5 of the annual report of the trustees of The Gliding Heritage Centre.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for the this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is acceptable as the charity's gross income does not exceed £250,000.

The company is also exempt from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The examiner's responsibilities are therefore to:

1. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
3. To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the requirements:
   a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006: and
   b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirement of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

   Have not been met; or

2. To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

Name:	Susan Brooke
Date:	10 September 2026
Address:	1 Maplehurst Chase Hatch Warren Basingstoke Hants RG22 4XQ
Professional Qualification:	FMAAT Number: 0241673