Chairman's Report: April 2025 – March 2026

It is a pleasure to present my report on another busy and very positive year for the Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre.

Over the past year, the Centre has continued to provide a broad range of services, activities and facilities for people across Hemyock and the wider Blackdown area. At the same time, the Trustees and Centre Manager have begun an important piece of work looking ahead to the next five years, considering how we can ensure that the Centre continues to respond to the changing needs of our community while remaining financially sustainable.

Our activities and services

Riverside, our day service for older people, has remained a major focus. During 2025 we saw a significant fall in attendance, reflecting a combination of people passing away, moving into residential care and the continuing challenge of attracting new members. The Trustees and staff responded with a targeted plan to increase awareness of the service, including new promotional material, local advertising, engagement with GPs and other organisations, and wider promotion beyond Hemyock.

It is encouraging that this work is already having an impact. By March, attendance had risen, exceeding initial targets, taking Riverside back above its break-even point. The next challenge is ensuring that we have sufficient volunteers to support this growth and that Riverside retains its important social focus while responding appropriately to the increasingly complex needs of some older people.

Stay & Play has also had a strong recovery following the impact of increased funded childcare for two-year-olds. Attendance is once again consistently around ten or more families each week, demonstrating that there remains a real need for an informal, welcoming place for parents, carers and young children to meet.

The Blackdown Community Shed continues to provide opportunities for people to meet, make and learn together. We have strengthened its volunteer team and are continuing to look at opportunities for grants and other funding to support its future, new members are always welcome, no skills are needed just the ability to chat and relax over a cuppa!

The Community Fridge has now celebrated its second anniversary and continues to be extraordinarily well used. During 2025 almost 20 tonnes of surplus food was redistributed, an increase of 28% on the previous year, with an estimated value of more than £62,000. In addition to reducing food waste, the Fridge has become an important point of contact between the Centre and the wider community.

The Centre has also continued to develop as a hub for people living with Parkinson's and other neurological conditions. Alongside the Parkinson's Café, activities now include Tai Chi and Dance for Parkinson's, helping people to access specialist activities locally and at little or no cost.

Our programme of classes, therapies and room hire remains an important part of both our community offer and our income. When three Monday classes were lost during the year, all were successfully replaced, continuing to support our community, without a loss of rental income. We are also welcoming new therapists, including massage, reiki, acupuncture and reflexology practitioners, while actively seeking additional services such as physiotherapy or podiatry.

Fundraising

A particular highlight of the year was our first Curry & Comedy Night. The event sold out and generated a surplus of just under £3,000, substantially exceeding our expectations. More importantly, it brought together a wide range of people from the community and demonstrated the potential of larger fundraising events. We are delighted that another evening is already planned.

Financial position

The Trustees continue to monitor the charity's finances closely.

Although income during the first half of the year was lower than the exceptional previous year and expenditure had increased, the position improved as the year progressed. **The final accounts for the year ending 31 March 2026 show total income of £106,141 and total expenditure of £100,337, resulting in a surplus of £5,804 for the year. This represents another positive year for the charity and leaves the Centre in a sound financial position.**

The charity also continues to hold substantial cash reserves and investments. Trustees have actively reviewed where these funds are held to ensure that we achieve a reasonable return while maintaining appropriate security and liquidity.

We remain conscious of increasing costs, particularly salaries, energy and building maintenance. We are actively looking at ways to reduce our energy costs and improve the habitability of the centre in both Summer and Winter. Charges for room hire and some other services have also been reviewed, while the Riverside daily fee has deliberately been maintained at £40 to encourage attendance and reflect the service's community purpose rather than seeking to generate a profit.

Overall, the Centre remains in a healthy financial position, but we cannot afford to be complacent. Minimizing our costs and maintaining a diverse range of income from room hire, services, fundraising, grants and donations will continue to be important.

Looking ahead

Perhaps the most significant piece of work now underway is the development of our new five-year strategy.

Rather than deciding the future of the Centre from the boardroom, we want that strategy to be informed by the people and communities we serve. We are therefore undertaking wider

community conversations, listening to local residents and engaging with parish councils, GPs, community organisations and other partners across the Blackdown area.

We want to understand not only what people value about the Centre today, but what challenges people are facing and where there may be gaps in local provision. Transport, mental health support, access to health and wellbeing services, rural isolation and youth provision are among the issues already emerging.

Part of our work will be deciding what we do particularly well, what is financially sustainable and where consolidating and strengthening existing services may have greater impact than simply doing more.

The Trustees have also strengthened governance during the year, including the introduction of a Trustee Induction Pack and clearer areas of responsibility covering finance and audit, governance and compliance, fundraising and income generation, and facilities and operations. We have also been pleased to welcome additional trustee expertise to support the next stage of the charity's development.

Finally, none of what happens at the Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre would be possible without the extraordinary contribution of our staff, volunteers, trustees, tutors, therapists, hirers, funders, donors and community partners. A specific acknowledgement must be made to our outstanding Centre Manager, Mrs Peta Dayus-Jones, without whom the centre would simply not function.

Our strength continues to lie in being a genuinely local organisation: one that can listen, adapt and respond to the needs of the community around us.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Centre during the past year and everyone who continues to use, support and champion your healthy living and activity centre.

Tim Lowe
Chairman
Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre

THE BLACKDOWN HEALTHY LIVING AND ACTIVITY CENTRE

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Registered Charity No. 1154693

The Blackdown Healthy Living and Activity Centre
Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
Income		
Donations	460	3,254
Investment Income	3,816	579
Income from Charitable Activities - Riverside	33,032	43,859
Income from Charitable Activities - Community Shed	1,597	1,815
Income from Therapy Room	12,053	12,203
Income from Room Hire	25,523	25,675
Income from Stay & Play	1,005	760
Rent received from AONB	5,103	4,400
Fundraising & Exhibitions	4,114	385
Other Grants	2,542	5,926
Grant received from Devon County Council (LEVC Taxi)	12,392	-
Other Income	4,504	2,918
Total Income	106,141	101,774
Expenditure		
Fundraising & Miscellaneous Purchases	815	-
Charitable Activities Expenditure	2,772	3,954
Community Shed Expenses	1,185	1,231
Stay & Play Expenses	110	1,090
Wages & Salaries - Regular	43,245	40,623
Staff Pensions	2,103	1,912
Staff Training	-	656
Accountancy & Book-keeping	1,297	1,224
Light & Heat	9,647	5,156
Business Rates	733	288
Water Rates	1,444	1,233
Telephone & Internet	1,919	1,770
Computer & Software Expenses	625	105
Advertising & PR Expenses	891	2,785
Website expenses	417	115
Printing & Stationery	402	354
Insurance	1,452	1,545
Equipment Repairs	400	3,437
Repairs & Maintenance	3,299	5,230
Vehicle Expenses	2,534	2,319
Cleaning & Waste Disposal	6,467	6,063
Premises Licence & subscriptions	1,076	526
Legal & Professional Fees	173	417
Sundries & First Aid	288	757
Bad Debt	78	-
Bank Charges	60	79
Depreciation of Equipment	1,415	1,471
Depreciation of Vehicle	15,490	-
Total Expenditure	100,337	84,340
Net Surplus for the Year	£ 5,804	£ 17,434

The Blackdown Healthy Living and Activity Centre

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	52,131	5,882
Total Fixed Assets	52,131	5,882
Current Assets		
Short Term Investments and Deposits	101,140	68,122
Debtors	7,881	9,467
Cash at bank and in hand	18,034	38,968
Prepayments	455	-
Total Current Assets	127,510	116,557
Short Term Creditors	3,309	1,478
Net Current Assets	124,201	115,079
Other Liabilities		
Loan from Devon County Council (LEVC TX Taxi)	49,567	-
Total Assets Less Liabilities	126,765	120,961
Represented by :-		
Designated Reserve	41,250	41,250
General Funds	85,515	79,711
Accumulated Funds at 31st March	126,765	120,961

Approved by the Trustees

Trustee MG DAVIS Dated 9th July 2026

Trustee TM Howse Dated 9 July 2026

The Blackdown Healthy Living and Activity Centre

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31st March 2026

Accounting Policies

a. Basis of Accounting
These accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRSSE and the Charities SORP.

b. Change in basis
There has been no change in the valuation rules and methods of accounting since last year.

c. Changes to previous accounts
There have been no changes to previous accounts.

Grants to Institutions
There were no grants to institutions.

Tangible Fixed assets

	Vehicle	Equipment	Total
Cost			
As at 1 April 2025	-	42,304	42,304
Additions - LEVC TX Taxi	61,959	1,195	63,154
As at 31 March 2026	61,959	43,499	105,458
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2025	-	36,422	36,422
Charge for the year	15,490	1,415	16,905
As at 31 March 2026	15,490	37,837	53,327
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2026	46,469	5,662	52,131

Depreciation of the Tangible Fixed Assets is done on the reducing balance basis:-

Motor vehicles	at 25%
Equipment	at 20%

The Blackdown Healthy Living and Activity Centre

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 31st March 2026

Creditors
(Amounts falling due within one year)

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade Creditors	3,309	1,478
	3,309	1,478

Designated Reserve

The reserved fund represents six months operating costs which the trustees consider to be a prudent time scale for the charity to cope with disaster recovery in the event of unforeseen circumstances and to continue to deliver its core activities.
The appropriate level of the reserve is reviewed on an annual basis.

Future Commitments

The charity has no future commitments not provided for in the accounts.

Guarantees

The charity has given no guarantees.

Secured Loans

The charity has received a loan from Devon County Council for the purchase of an electric LEVC TX Taxi. This loan will be written down over a six year period by grants received from Devon County Council.

Contingent Liabilities

The charity has no contingent liabilities.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
The Blackdown Healthy Living and Activity Centre

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026, charity number 278819, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.
The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- 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
- 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 respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

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

MJohns

Marie Johns FCCA
Batchelor and Company Accountants Limited
Charlton House, 32 High Street,
Cullompton,
Devon
EX15 1AE

Batchelor + Company

29th May 2026

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29th May 2026