PANTRY FOR BLACON CIO
ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 31st December 2025

Blacon Beacon

Food • Advice • Support

PANTRY FOR BLACON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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PANTRY FOR BLACON

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Pantry for Blacon is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales, number 1183763.

Principal address: Trinity Hall, Norris Road, Blacon, Chester CH1 5DZ

Independent Examiner: Mr L M Howson MAAT, Finansure Ltd, 2 Sheppard Street, Brymbo, Wrexham, LL11 5FF

Governance and management

New trustees are appointed in accordance with the governing instrument. The trustees of the charity in 2025 were as follows:

- Rev Christina Upton (Chair)
- Ms Sheila Little
- Mr Edwin Green
- Ms Kerry Cook (resigned May 2025)
- Mrs Julieanne Carine
- Ms Charlotte Houghton (since January 2025; resigned January 2026)
- Ms Clare Roberts (since April 2025; resigned May 2026)
- Mrs Carol Gahan (since July 2025)

We employed a full-time General Manager, and 4 part-time staff: Store Assistant, Computer Mentor, Well-being Mentor and Administrator (who left us in December 2025). Our work has been made possible by generous grants from Steve Morgan Foundation (£30,604), Cheshire Community Foundation (£2,500 small grant and £19,750 Fund it Forward), Westminster Foundation (£9,996), The National Lottery (£19,850), Household Support Fund (£3,000), Asda Foundation (£600), Swettenham Foundation (£2,000), CWAC UKSPF (£16,361), Avenue Services (£1,500), Marjory Boddy (£5,000), Holy Trinity Church and Churton Bequest (£300), Anne Duchess of Westminster Fund (£10,000), SWAP-Community Safety Funding (£1,374), DWF LAW (£3,300) CWAC Members Budget (£759.98), Access Foundation (£10,000), CWAC Youth Opportunities Grant (£5,000) Earl of Chester Fund (£1,955.97), Aviva (£1,209.70) and HAF (£520).

Our work would also not be possible without the great support of over 20 regular enthusiastic volunteers, who are involved with many different roles, including maintaining stock in the store, serving members when they attend, packing fruit and veg into bags ready for collection, sharing cooking skills in our classes, preparing and serving the food for families attending for holiday meals.

Objectives

The charity exists to relieve food poverty in Blacon, Chester, and also to promote health, through the provision of good quality food at an affordable price, and encouraging healthy diet through education on food preparation.

PANTRY FOR BLACON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025



All set to serve food at holiday activities

Activities

It was another bustling year at the Blacon Beacon in 2025. We were proud to continue our Foodbank operations three times a week and welcome 50 Blacon households into our Pantry every week to help ease the pressure on low-income families. It's been wonderful to welcome so many new families for our hot, nutritious holiday meals, paired with the fantastic activities organised by Holy Trinity Church.

Beyond just providing meals, we sharpened our focus on fostering a sense of belonging and education. We were also thrilled to continue to secure funding for "Warm Up Tuesdays," an initiative that has been vital in deepening local friendships and shielding our community members from the weight of loneliness. Furthermore, we've seen wonderful growth in our "Happy and Healthy" sessions—our regular cooking and dining club for the over-60s as well as our increasingly popular Family Cooking workshops. Throughout 2025 Blacon Beacon has continued to successfully bridge the digital divide by offering free IT access, internet connectivity, and educational support to all who need it.

PANTRY FOR BLACON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025



Family cooking class

Building on the success of our recipe bags in previous years, 2025 was about broadening our educational reach and making the recipe bags and instructions appropriate for children and young people. We've loved seeing photos of children and teens getting hands-on in the kitchen; their involvement has been a critical factor in helping households embrace low-cost, nutritious cooking.

A significant milestone in 2025 was the launch of our in-person teen cooking pilot. Following its success, we were delighted to secure a grant that allows us to upscale the program and reach even more young people. These sessions are designed to foster long-term self-sufficiency, giving teens the skills and confidence to maintain a healthy lifestyle as they transition to adulthood.



Slow cooker recipe bags ready for collection



Enjoying the Christmas meal at Happy and Healthy

PANTRY FOR BLACON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Public benefit

The charity trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Financial review

Total income for the year was £179,792 (2024 - £109,859). The main source of income was grants received totalling £151,737 (2024 - £86,542).

Total expenditure was £138,303 (2024 - £157,620), of which 99% (2024 - 99%) were direct costs of providing the activities.

At the end of the year the charity held unrestricted reserves of £48,656 and restricted reserves of £40,685.

As a reserves policy, the charity would like to have enough unrestricted funds to cover three to six months' running costs at any given time, which would equate to approximately £50,000.

Transactions with Trustees

No trustees received or waived remuneration, benefits or expenses of any kind during the year.

PANTRY FOR BLACON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Trustees 'responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

a. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
b. make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
c. state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
d. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustees on 11th September 2026 and is signed on their behalf by:

C Upton

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Christina Upton - Chair

PANTRY FOR BLACON

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report on the receipt and payments accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 7 & 8.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

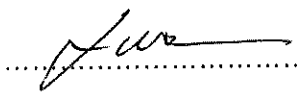
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair 'view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



18th September 2026

L M Howson MAAT
Finansure Ltd, 2 Sheppard Street, Brymbo, Wrexham, LL11 5FF

PANTRY FOR BLACON

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total funds 2024 £
RECEIPTS				
Grants	2,937	148,800	**151,737**	86,542
Donations & Gift Aid	7,940	-	**7,940**	7,900
Members' contributions	14,548	-	**14,548**	11,676
Fundraising activities	2,441	-	**2,441**	711
Other income	2,184	-	**2,184**	1,814
Interest received	942	-	**942**	1,216
TOTAL RECEIPTS	30,992	148,800	**179,792**	109,859
PAYMENTS				
DIRECT COSTS				
Pantry costs	620	36,342	**36,962**	40,918
Special activities	1,626	2,120	**3,746**	3,393
Educational activities	47	8,765	**8,812**	18,373
Staff costs	170	70,908	**71,078**	72,670
Premises costs	7,209	6,591	**13,800**	20,800
Fundraising costs	203	-	**203**	-
Capital purchases	-	2,108	**2,108**	-
SUPPORT COSTS				
Repairs, maintenance & utilities	-	-	-	447
Office & governance costs	1,594	-	**1,594**	1,019
TOTAL PAYMENTS	11,469	126,834	**138,303**	157,620
NET OF RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	19,523	21,966	**41,489**	(47,760)
Cash funds last y/e	29,133	18,719	**47,852**	95,612
Cash funds this y/e	48,656	40,685	**89,341**	47,852

PANTRY FOR BLACON

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
CASH FUNDS		
Current account	**2,054**	3,593
Payments account	**1,586**	-
Savings account	**85,676**	44,234
Cash in hand (unrestricted)	**25**	25
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	**89,341**	47,852

	2025 £
LIABILITIES	
Payroll liabilities	**708**

These receipts and payments accounts were approved by the trustees on 11th September 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:

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Christina Upton - Chair