Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Charity Number 221896

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2026

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

Reference and administrative details

Trustees	Mrs Audrey Pate Mr Peter Christopher Pate Mrs Sheila Wicks Mr Roger Whittaker Ms Jennifer Braddock Mrs Beverly Fort
Secretary	Mr Mark Procter
Treasurer	Mr Peter Christopher Pate
Chairman	Mrs Audrey Pate
Principal Office	93 Blacker Street Burnley Lancashire BB10 2AF
Operational address	Vanguard Community Centre 65 Bevington Close Burnley BB11 4SD
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
Registered Charity Number	221896
Independent Examiner	M B Procter 40 Springfield Bank Burnley BB11 3AU
Solicitors	Smith Sutcliffe 50 Manchester Road Burnley BB11 1HJ

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their annual report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The society's objects are:-

1) To visit the blind and visually impaired at their homes for the purpose of general help.

2) By means of practical encouragement and assistance to enable the blind and visually impaired to learn to read and write Braille and Moon and other pastime occupations.

3) To enable suitable and eligible blind persons and the visually impaired by monetary and other assistance to commence trading on their own account.

4) To relieve the aged and infirm by grants and provisions and other necessities.

5) To provide a library of suitable literature in raised type for free circulation amongst the blind and visually impaired.

6) To provide social and welfare centres.

7) To assist in the prevention of blindness

This it does primarily through the provision of a centre in Burnley where a club is held for various activities. Outings are arranged and Christmas functions are held. The club is organised with voluntary helpers through a committee, which, from time to time, responds to individual requests for grants and aids. The Society leases a house from the Bradford and Accent Foundation Limited, which it lets out.

In planning the activities for the year, the managing trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at their meetings.

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

Message from the Chair

The financial year 2025-2026 has seen another increase in membership though we have lost some dear friends along the way. Our sympathies go out to the families of Stephen Holden, Paul Watson, Jean Whalley, Bill Blevins and Wendy Stuttard.

Our cash funds have grown steadily although our investments have lost due to the ongoing world financial problems, fuel costs and market instability. I still feel we are on a sound financial footing and this should be the case for the foreseeable future.

The Blind Club trustees are still heavily involved in the management of the Vanguard Centre since the previous mismanagement up to September 2024 almost resulted in the closure of the centre. The centre has cost the Blind Society more money this year and any further financial help has been stopped.

We are still looking for help to run the centre and its activities though volunteers are hard to find. If you would like to volunteer for the Blind Society or the Vanguard Centre, please get in touch. Thank you.

Audrey Pate (Chair)

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW
Financial position

Receipts for the year were **£26,762 (2025 - £21,228)**, compared with payments of **£18,887 (2025 - £21,417)** resulting in a **increase** in cash balances of **£7,875 (2025 –** a **decrease** in cash balances of **£189)**. Regular income is mainly through investment dividends and rent. Due to the nature of the Charity and its beneficiaries, the income generated from its activities is not sufficient to cover the costs and the investment income is used to bridge the gap. This year the Charity received a donation from a will amounting to **£12,634.**

Investment policy
The Charity has Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) investments totalling **£238,758 (2025 - £261,010)** at the year-end which are invested to provide income of **£7,670 (2025 – £8,909)** in the year. A property is also leased to provide income.

Reserves policy
The managing trustees consider it prudent to maintain reserves of two years' expenditure (approximately £40,000) that will allow the Charity to function for the foreseeable future. The reserves over and above are invested to provide income for the Charity and to enable activities to be provided at low or no cost.

Cash reserves at the year-end were **£51,548 (2025 - £43,673)**.

With this policy the managing trustees believe that they have taken all due care in reducing any foreseeable risk and with monthly monitoring of all aspects of the Charity, have eliminated such risks.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
Governing document

The Charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, constitution August 1951: scheme of 27 November 1972 and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Meetings are held regularly.

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees.
Holding Trustees are appointed by the Managing Trustees. The Managing Trustees are responsible for the management and administration of the Society and the function of the Holding Trustees is restricted to holding property.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Continued)

Risk management
The Managing Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Approved by the order of the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 27 May 2026 by:

Peter Christopher Pate	Audrey Pate
Treasurer	Chair

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP))

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, The Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

Independent Examiner's Report

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 statement

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 the 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.

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

Independent Examiner's Report (Continued)

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 Charities Act, and
    - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Mr M B Procter

MBProcter Bookkeeping Services
40 Springfield Bank
Burnley
BB11 3AU

Date 25 May 2026

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31 March 2026 Total Funds	31 March 2025 Total Funds	31 March 2024 Total Funds	31 March 2023 Total Funds	31 March 2022 Total Funds
Receipts	**£**	**£**		**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Donations	12,751		12,751	2,197	961	9,889	469
Interest from investments	7,669		7,669	8,909	8,737	7,313	7,156
Deposit account interest	1,206		1,206	0	0	518	13
Rent received	5,136		5,136	4,708	5,136	5136	5,564
Other income including fund raising	0		0	5,414	7,327	6,009	3,178
Total receipts	**26,762**		**26,762**	**21,228**	**22,161**	**28,865**	**16,380**
Payments							
Charitable activities	12,037		12,037	16,267	20,650	23,771	8,057
Governance			1000				
Treasurer's Honorarium	600		600	600	500	600	750
Secretary's salary	5,250		5,250	4,550	4,550	4,550	4,200
Total payments	**18,887**		**18,887**	**21,417**	**25,700**	**28,921**	**13,007**
Net of Receipts/ Payments	7,875		7875	(189)	(3539)	(56)	3,373
Cash funds last year end	43,673		43,673	43,862	47,401	46,120	42,747
Cash funds this year end	51,548		51,548	43,673	43,862	47,401	46,120

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31 March 2026	31 March 2025	31 March	31 March 2023	31 March 2022 Total

			Total Funds	Total Funds	2024 Total Funds	Total Funds	Funds
Cash funds	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Bank Current Account	20,328		20,328	12,488	12,989	16,631	15,891
COIF Charities Deposit Fund Account	30,210		30,210	30,210	30,210	30,210	30,210
Cash in Hand	1009		1009	975	663	560	938
Totals	**51,548**		**51,548**	**43,673**	**43,862**	**47,401**	**47,039**
INVESTMENT ASSETS							
COIF Charities Investment Fund, at valuation	238,758		238,758	261,010	273,765	251,042	260,915
ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHARITY'S OWN USE							
Office furniture & Computer equipment	4,186		4,186	4,186	4,186	4,186	2,988
Leasehold property	17,750		17,750	17,750	17,750	17,750	17,750
Totals	**21,936**		**21,936**	**21,936**	**21,936**	**21,936**	**20,738**
OTHER ASSETS							
LIABILITIES							
Governance fees	0		1000	0	0	0	0

These accounts on pages 10 and 11 were approved by the Managing Trustees on the date below And signed on their behalf by:

P C Pate (Trustee, Treasurer) 27 May 2026

Burnley and District Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Year ended 31st March 2026

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of accounting

   These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Fund accounting

   Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity. All the funds are unrestricted.

3. Transactions with Trustees

   An honorarium was paid to the Treasurer Mr P C Pate (£600)

4. Charitable Activities (payments)

	31-03-26	**31-03-25**	**31-03-24**	**31-03-23**
Rent – Vanguard Centre	1,300	2,137	2,525	2,400
Gifts and Grants	0	95	1,110	1,592
Transport	343	345	2,987	3,031
Outings	930	1,298	1,013	1,186
Other expenditure	16314	17,542	18,066	20,712
Totals	**18,887**	**21,417**	**25,701**	**28,921**

5. Other expenditure includes for example: Salaries £5250, Cleaning £400, Burnley Play Association £4036, Burglary £1000.

6. The Vanguard Centre was burgled on 15th January 2026 resulting in a cash loss of an estimated £1000.