



NORTH TAUNTON PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT

1st APRIL 2024

to

31st MARCH 2025



Registered Charity no.1078827



Paint and Prosecco Workshop

Summer Activities





Christmas Market

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Charity's objects are to promote charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of North Taunton and in particular, the advancement of education, the promotion of health and the relief of poverty, sickness and distress

It felt like such a wonderful warm setting, I can see a huge amount of effort and time is put into it! Jo, Alzheimer's Society

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

The constitution governs the appointment of Trustees who are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

NAME	POSITION	ELECTED	RESIGNED
Paul Tooze	Trustee Chair	April 2011 September 2017	
Mark Wood	Trustee	February 2019	
Melanie Butt	Trustee	June 2021	
Gill Harrison	Trustee	September 2021	
Verity Underhill	Trustee	July 2022	
Jonathan Barter	Trustee	September 2023	September 2024
Jeanette Keech	Trustee	September 2023	

Paul lives in Taunton and works at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. He represented the area as a district councillor before becoming a trustee and is now a town councillor.

Mark grew up in Priorswood. He works in software engineering and helps with youth and children's work at Wellsprings Community Church.

Gill worked in Education as a teacher, head teacher and SENCo before joining the WATCH project as a wellbeing course facilitator. She worked as part of The Open Mental Health Community Engagement Project and as a cancer Information Officer for the NHS before taking up her current role as Volunteer Coordinator for ARC.

Verity lives locally and trained as a mental health nurse with the NHS, then in the private sector as an area manager with responsibility for staff appointment and retention for 6 nursing homes. She volunteers in the community centre one morning a week on reception.

Mel has lived in North Taunton for over 25 years and has a background in administration. She volunteered in the centre before becoming a trustee.

Jeanette lives locally and had a career in marketing and public relations within the aviation and drinks industries, followed by a term as trustee of Age UK Somerset and director of Crimestoppers West of England. She was a governor of a sixth form college before a 9-year appointment as NonExecutive Director at Musgrove Park Hospital. She is currently chair of the Lyngford Park GP patient group and governor of Somerset NHS Foundation Trust.

STAFF

Lesley Council – Manager

lesleycouncil@priorswoodcommunitycentre.co.uk Tracy

Wood – Finance Administrator

tracywood@priorswoodcommunitycentre.co.uk

Lisa Herd – Office Administrator & Activities Coordinator

lisa@priorswoodcommunitycentre.co.uk

Lee-Anne Dew – Cleaner

All staff work part time and equate to 1.9 full time equivalents.

Lesley joined as Manager in 2006, previous roles included PA at an electrical contractors, insurance underwriter and childminder. She has 3 sons and lives locally.

Tracy joined as finance officer in 2012, she took on extra hours in 2018 as the events coordinator. She took early retirement in 2022 but returned in March 2024 as the finance administrator. She is married with two sons.

Lisa joined the team in July 2022 having a background in finance and office administration, she is married with 2 sons.



Lesley Council, Manager, receiving a certificate in recognition of her service to the community of North Taunton from the Mayor of Taunton Councillor Vanessa Garside March 2025

VOLUNTEERS

Management costs are kept to a minimum through the use of volunteers for daily operation of the Community Centre. We have 24 regular volunteers and 19 occasional volunteers who gave a total of 3,270 hours of time during the year. In addition, 6 trustees gave 336 hours during the year. **This represents £44,029 of unpaid hours working on the minimum wage.**

We had 3 new volunteers, 1 volunteer attained their one-year certificate, 2 received their 5 year key ring, 2 received a 10-year pen set and 1 volunteer received their 15-year award receiving an engraved tankard. 14 of our regular volunteers live within the local area, our eldest volunteer is 89.

I absolutely love all the activities and events the Priorswood Community Centre offer. It's lovely watching all the community come together for chats/coffee/companionship. To all the staff and volunteers a massive well done.

Partners

Age UK Somerset	Somerset Community Credit Union
Avon & Somerset Police	Selworthy School Oakhill and Hazlebrook Campus
Citizens Advice Taunton	Sky College
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue	Spaeda
Everyone Active	Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP)
Friendship & Sons	Somerset Council
Get Set Services	Somerset Skills & Learning
Leonard Houlden Court (Housing & Care 21)	St Andrews Church
LiveWest Housing	St Peters Church
Lyngford Park Primary School	St Teresa of Lisieux Church
Lyngford Park Surgery	Taunton North Youth Club
Oakwood Church	Taunton Area Debt Advice
Priorswood Library	Taunton Street Pastors
Priorswood Primary School	Taunton Town Council
Pyrland School	Wellsprings Community Church
Read Easy Taunton and Wellington	Wellsprings Primary School
Rowbarton Church	Somerset Community Credit Union

OUR COMMUNITY

North Taunton is an area of multiple deprivation with one area being ranked as 20% most deprived in the country.

The total population of North Taunton is made up of, Rowbarton 5,000 with 2,250 households and Taunton North 10,502 with 4,619 households.

Both wards are made up of mainly white British with 12.2% classed as other ethnicities.

Council tenants make up 30% of the population with 1,507 Council owned properties. 10.4% of households have no access to a car or van. 2.6% are carers providing 20 hours or more compared to 2.1% across Somerset.

Around 30% of the population have either a long-term health condition or disability.

There is a great community spirit with the Community Centre being seen as the hub of the community.

We have 4 primary schools;

Lyngford Park Primary,

Wellsprings Primary,

Priorswood Primary and St
Andrews Primary School.

A secondary school: Pyrland School

A special educational needs school: Selworthy School with two campuses and Sky Academy for students in years 5 – 11 who have an EHCP.

POLICY REVIEW

The trustees have a robust system in place for reviewing policies and procedures which are reviewed in line with good practice.

The Governance Code, Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Data Protection are reviewed annually along with others that are either reviewed annually or as agreed at an executive meeting.

I would like to say how beautiful the community garden looks and to pass on my thanks for all the hard work your volunteers do in keeping it looking so nice.

Chair's Report by Paul Tooze

This year has again been a successful one for the Community Centre, and the positive impact it has in the North Taunton area. Looking back over my time as a trustee it is incredible how the Centre has changed and evolved over the years in order to meet the emerging needs and challenges faced by local residents. Whilst it is vital to change and grow, the Centre continues to be what it has been for many years - a safe and secure place where people can come simply to chat, have a coffee, and enjoy the company of others. The increased footfall this year is testament to both the new and the old.

I am grateful to both Somerset Council and Taunton Town Council for



maintaining their core funding grants and support for the summer activities in the park, especially when resource within local government is becoming extremely stretched. It is reassuring that both bodies recognise the huge value that the Centre brings, and their continued support is essential to our future. These grants, whilst most

welcome, need to be supplemented greatly through other charitable donations and funding streams.

This year we have placed a greater focus on monitoring in terms of funding successfully received and how we are progressing against budget.



I can report that the Charity's accounts are in good order and have been independently signed-off by our accountant. We have strong financial controls in place and policies are frequently reviewed. The trustees also have full oversight of our accounts. We are also moving with the times and even have a policy around Artificial Intelligence and its safe use!

We've been incredibly lucky to have a team of committed and knowledgeable trustees. Their expertise and thoughtful contributions ensure that the Charity is managed with care and professionalism, continuing to progress even in the face of challenges that arise. Each trustee brings a valuable set of skills, and I appreciate the time and dedication they invest. We are always looking to expand our team and are committed to building a team that reflects our community, so please contact us if you think you can add value as a trustee. In terms of trustee meetings, I am grateful to Fiona who has joined us as minute taker, an unenviable, but important role!

In addition to our trustees, our work is greatly enhanced by our partners and local organisations who have continued to collaborate throughout the year to deliver outstanding services, support, and activities across the community. I'd like to thank them for their contribution, and the outstanding services they deliver when they visit the centre.



Lastly, my heartfelt thanks go to Lesley, Tracy, Lisa, Lee-Anne, and all of our dedicated volunteers.

They remain the driving force behind the Centre, giving generously of their time and energy to support the residents of North Taunton. It is down to their continued efforts and the astounding groundwork which was put in by our beloved former Chair Sue Kilbey between 2009 and 2017, which has led to the fantastic and well-run Charity that we have today.



We look forwards to another positive year.



Managers' report by Lesley Council

This year we've seen the Community Centre grow into a real community hub with an increase in footfall and new groups added to our program.

We took stock of what was on offer and how we could move forward for the benefit of our community. As manager I attended many networking and funding meetings, these were both online and in person and proved very worthwhile with more partnership working and links formed.

We are always striving to offer more and found that there was a gap in what we offered and realised that, for those that wanted something different and were able to pay for it, we could offer workshops of an evening. This made even more use of the Community Centre and proved extremely popular. They ranged from canvas painting to resin art, felt making and Christmas wreath making; this enabled us to bring in new people to the Community Centre which in turn meant

they could see what we had to offer and how they could access support, if and when needed. We plan to continue with a program of monthly workshops well into 2025/26.





Unfortunately, after 23 years, we had to stop our weekly luncheon club, this was a sad day especially for all the volunteers who had helped for many years, but due to falling numbers, higher overheads and volunteers having to step away due to health issues, we had no option other than to close.

We continued with all of our other groups which have all seen a rise in people attending, on top of these we held various information mornings including the RSPCA offering free cat microchipping, the NHS offered covid vaccination drop ins and advice on bowel screening, we held a talk from John of the Museum of Somerset with a fantastic reminiscence session on the old fashioned sweets we used to eat as children.



The Village Agents donated a brand new school uniform which we gave out to parents in need and the foodbank supported us with emergency food parcels. Cooper Associates offered a monthly pension advice morning as well as Burnham & Weston Energy, who gave out freebies and advice on cutting energy costs. Our history group attended Hestercombe House and gardens finding out about how the house was used in the war.

The main event of our calendar was our summer activity days on Lyngford Park which proved even more popular than previously with many families attending each week. This year Rowbarton Food Pantry supported us with 400 picnic bags to give out to children, especially those on free school meals. We

were incredibly lucky with the weather and would like to thank all the stallholders,



advice stands and activities that took part.

To finish 2024 we held our Christmas market around the shopping precinct, again

we were

lucky with the

weather and increased the footfall by bringing the start time an hour earlier attracting those from local schools. I would like to thank the schools who brought students to sing carols around the Christmas

tree.

2025 started with planning and fundraising to enable us to carry out alterations to the inside of the Community Centre which we hope will be completed by the end of 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, volunteers, trustees and partners who have all worked tirelessly to make the Community Centre what it is today, without their continued support we would not have been able to offer so much to our community, which in turn has made North Taunton a better place to live and work.

BREAKDOWN OF SERVICE USERS

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
Cafe Customers	5991	5192	4591
Community Events	2835	3965	2240
Bric-a-Brac sales	2458	1934	1828
Scrabble Group	298	261	262
Circuits Exercise class	315	306	285
Lunch Club (stopped March 24)	0	299	461
General enquiries	420	528	434
Tai Chi Class	288	244	247
Digital support group	127	117	104
Knit, Natter & craft group	142	101	190

Citizens Advice (Ceased April 2024)	12	56	48
History Group	109	135	32
Somerset Council Benefits advisor (Ceased July 2024)	6	8	53
Cooking Group	31	13	17
Job Club (Ceased 2022)	0	0	6
Write2Read (Ceased April 2024)	0	7	48
Somerset Council Housing Advisor (ceased 2023)	0	0	8
Walking Group	12	23	0
Police	10	14	14
Credit Union	9	6	24
Creative Writers Group	60	41	49
Workshops	193	100	36
NHS & Health Related	45	11	70
Bereavement Support (Ceased 2023)	0	0	2
Menopause Support Group (Ceased January 25)	19	46	24
TOTAL SERVICE USERS	13380	13142	11073

Data shows a snapshot of users to the Community Centre.

There were 5,096 unique visits to our website.

There were 384,228 hits on our social media sites.

Thank you so much for the lovely food hamper you delivered before Christmas, it made me really happy.

DELIVERY PLAN: Business Plan 2023/2024				
	Objectives	Desired Outcomes	Measures and Timescale	Actual Outcome

1	Recruit and train volunteers and trustees. Offer training opportunities. Produce updates through meetings, newsletters and a volunteers' manual.	Open to all. Maintain volunteers. Reflect our community. Build self-confidence; use existing knowledge & skills, learn new skills, role satisfaction, seek employment, recognition through awards. Recruit professionally qualified volunteers for specific jobs.	Increased numbers. Numbers gaining paid employment.	24 regular volunteers, 19 Occasional. 6 trustees. 1 volunteer gained their 15 year award and received an engraved tankard.
2	Operate the Community Centre.	Gain funding to meet core costs. Maximum potential	Community Centre Usage	Footfall 13380
3	Host advice surgeries	Access to advice and support	On-going	Footfall 51
4	Maintain Hallmark 1 accreditation.	Maintain Hallmark 1 accreditation.	On-going	Hallmark 1 maintained.
5	To offer a collection facility for Credit Union	Offering people the opportunity to save	On-going	£704.40 saved
6	Organise weekly social groups. Scrabble Knit & natter	Offer a warm, friendly environment to socialise and enjoy activities facilitated by volunteers.	To be attended by a minimum of 5 people. To be selffunding	Footfall 440

7	Provide transport and a hot meal via a Lunch Club			Ceased March 2024 due to falling numbers and supervisor retiring
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8	Provide fitness classes. Circuits Tai chi Walking Group	Provide a venue and tutor. Collect and bank money. Move towards sustainable selffunding. Participants benefit from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved health and mobility • the opportunity for social interactions 	To be attended by a minimum of 6 people each week.	Footfall of 615
9	Organise food, nutrition and cookery classes.	Teach basic skills. Provide education about diet and health. Participants experience improved health through: Increased understanding about healthy eating Gain confidence and develop new skills Participating in group learning sessions	A minimum of 4 people attending.	Footfall 31
10	Offer support with health & wellbeing. NHS sessions	Offer support Signposting Health information	On-going support	Footfall 64

11	<p>Deliver open access community events aimed at young people.</p> <p>Raise funds to hold the events.</p>	<p>Access to experiences and activities that entertain, educate and provide diversionary activities aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour. Parents, grandparents and carers have opportunities to share experiences with their children, meet others and talk to a range of public service providers.</p>	<p>1 day events attended by a minimum of 30 young people. School holidays.</p>	Footfall 2050
12	<p>Work with schools and colleges to offer work experience.</p>	<p>Participate in a working environment, develop skills to add to their CVs.</p>	<p>Offer as many opportunities as possible.</p>	
13	<p>Organise educational groups; Digital support History Creative Writers</p>	<p>Gain knowledge and learn new skills, facilitated by volunteers and tutors.</p>	<p>To be attended by a minimum of 5 people. To be selffunding</p>	Footfall 296

14	Organise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bazaars in Spring and Autumn • Christmas Market • World Book Day event • One off events 	Raise awareness of the Community Centre. Recruit volunteers. Raise funds. Residents are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn about services on offer • find volunteering opportunities 	To raise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £750 from bazaars • £1000 from the Christmas Market. 	Bazaars raised £1443.10 Christmas Market raised £1810.77 Footfall 978
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buy items at low cost. 		
15	Host Somerset Council community computer.	On-line access. Volunteer-assisted. Develop IT skills.	On-going.	
16	To be the voice of the community whilst staying politically neutral.	Enable those adversely affected by and concerned about current issues or changes to have their say and forward concerns to the appropriate agency.	On-going.	Concerns re-laid to those agencies concerned
17	Work in partnership with the North Taunton Development Group.	Residents benefit from the 'joined-up', inter-agency approach.	Timescale ongoing.	Attended North Taunton Development Group Meetings
18	To be dementia friendly.	Visitors greeted in a friendly and welcoming manner.	On-going	

19	1. Produce a community newsletter. 2. To hold information leaflets. 3. Signposting facility.	Residents are well informed of events, services and opportunities. Offer a signposting facility.	Spring, Summer and Winter	3000 hard copies produced and distributed. Electronic copies emailed
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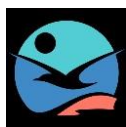
Having an opportunity to distribute our museum ticket offers face-to-face is a great way to introduce the community to what we have to offer. Priorswood Community Centre has helped us reach many people over the last few years and they are a valued partner in our social prescribing project. The work done by the staff and volunteers is worthy of high praise. The support they offer is clearly invaluable



and the centre is very much the heart of the area.

Keep up the good work! John Somerset Museum

We would like to thank our funders, without their support the Community Centre would not be able to function.



**The Norman
Family Charitable Trust**



**TAUNTON
TOWN
COUNCIL**



Stan Vidler Memorial Charitable Trust



Foyle Fundation



Supported by Somerset Council



A Healthy and Caring Somerset

We would like to thank all those organisations and individuals who have generously supported the charity. North Taunton Partnership has continued to support many local residents who have benefitted from our services. Details of restricted grants are shown in the accounts.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees are aware of their obligations under charity law and therefore set out the policy for the use of reserve funds. The intention in establishing this reserves policy is to ensure the continuation of the charity's normal activities through any medium-term shortfall in funding.

For the financial year to 31 March 2026, the trustee's policy is to maintain free reserves (defined as unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets) equivalent to 4 months' budgeted expenditure of £30,000

The trustees feel it is also prudent to have an additional reserve of £2,500 for any substantial unexpected and urgent need for which funding cannot be obtained in the necessary timeframe, giving a total reserve of £32,500.

Free reserves at 31 March 2024 were £36,139

FUTURE PLANS

A Business and Development Plan has been produced by the trustees setting out the objectives for the Partnership and Community Centre for the twelve months April 2025 to March 2026.

The trustees declare that they have approved the report as above and that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit.

Signed on behalf of the North Taunton Partnership's trustees

Paul Tooze Chairman

Date: 16th July 2025

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st March 2025
Receipt and Payments Account

Funds	Funds	Unrestricted 2025	Restricted 2024	Total	Total
Receipts					
Grants			76,750	76,750	41,822
Donations		1,652		1,652	2,295
Interest		912		912	1,066
Activities					
Community Centre Sales		10,854		10,854	10,178
Community Social		5,376		5,376	4,708
Education		812		812	521
Fundraising		1,450		1,450	1,621
Health & Wellbeing		2,934		2,934	4,360
Newsletter		1,285		1,285	1,189
Room Hire		1,086		1,086	2,272
Workshops		4,736		4,736	0
Other		491		491	156
Total Receipts		31,588	76,750	108,338	70,188
Payments					
Administration					
Staff Costs		25,086	31,324	56,410	51,260
Heat & Light		1,512	845	2,357	2,530
Phone & Internet		1,136	375	1,511	1,035
Water & Rates		449		449	368
Office Costs		4,303	1,094	5,397	6,295
Garden		276		276	328
Maintenance		1,143		1,143	0
Fees		80		80	60
Newsletter		811	785	1,596	2,017
Garage Rent		844		844	769
Volunteers		573		573	450
Activities					
Community Social		2,985	5,400	8,385	15,192
Education		177		177	13
Health & Wellbeing		0	4,460	4,460	7,465
Workshops		756	1,667	2,423	0
Total Payments		40,131	45,950	86,081	87,782
Surplus/(Deficit)		(8,543)	30,800	22,257	(17,594)
<hr/>					
Cash Funds brought forward		44,682	4,000	48,682	66,276

Cash Funds carried forward	36,139	34,800	70,939	48,682
Analysis of Restricted Funds	Balance Bfwd	Receipts	Payments	Balance Cfwd
	£	£	£	£
Stan Vidler	0	400		400
ASDA Foundation	0	600		600
SCF Somerset Fund	0	2,300		2,300
SASP HHM	0	3,500	3,500	0
SASP Wages	0	1,050	1,050	0
SCF High Sheriff	1,500		1,500	0
Somerset Play Forum	0	5,000	0	5,000
Norman Family Trust	0	1,500	750	750
The Foyle Foundation	0	5,000	2,083	2,917
SCF Festive Fund	0	400	400	0
CAB Somerset	0	2,000		2,000
SCC Core	0	12,500	12,500	0
NS Trust	0	15,000	0	15,000
SCF Winter Grant	0	16,000	16,000	0
SCF Summerfield	0	5,000	1,667	3,333
SCF Accelerated Fund	0	3,000	3,000	0
Taunton Town Council	0	2,500	0	2,500
Tesco Groundworks	0	1,000	1,000	0
TTC Summer Activities	2,500		2,500	0
Total Restricted Funds	4,000	76,750	45,950	34,800

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Accounting Policies

Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 permits a charity to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities where gross income in the financial year does not exceed £250,000, therefore receipts and payments accounts and a statement of assets and liabilities has been prepared and presented for the year ended 31 March 2025; this is consistent with previous years.

All Income, including grants, is recorded when received. All Expenditure is recorded when paid.

NORTH TAUNTON PARTNERSHIP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of North Taunton Partnership for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 2 to 3

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The 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 a consideration of any unusual issues 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 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 section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulation and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of 2011 Act and section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulation.
- Has not been met or

No other matter has come to my attention in accordance with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Timothy Green FCMA 29 Beechwood Drive Crewkerne TA18 7BY
Date: 23rd June 2025



**Food Waste Carrymoor
at the summer activity
days**

**Volunteers selling
raffle tickets at the Christmas Market**





Members of the Quality and Performance Team in the Southwest with Lesley Council, Manager, and Pip Sheard, Garden Volunteer. The team lent a helping hand in the community garden.

Michelle Holt, team leader, said: "We were happy to make our small contribution to tidy up this lovely garden which is a place of beauty, reflection, and calm for the local community.

Priorswood Community Centre

**13-14 Priorswood Place Eastwick Road Taunton TA2 7JW 01823
353643**

Email: lesleycouncil@priorswoodcommunitycentre.co.uk

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