

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

England & Wales · Charity number 1110164

Details

Other names	THE AUTUMN CENTRE FOR THE OVER 50S
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05397008
Registered	2005-06-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Autumn Centre Countsfarm Road Corby Corby Northamptonshire NN18 8BH
Phone	01536264671
Email	info@theautumncentre.co.uk
Website	www.theautumncentre.co.uk

Activities

Objects: (A) TO PROMOTE THE BENEFIT OF INHABITANTS AGED FIFTY AND OVER OF THE BOROUGH OF CORBY AND WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS, BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID INHABITANTS AND WHERE APPROPRIATE THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO RELIEVE PERSONS IN NEED, TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS.(B) TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN FACILITIES AT THE AUTUMN CENTRE, COUNTS FARM ROAD, CORBY OR ELSEWHERE AND TO MAINTAIN AND MANAGE SUCH FACILITIES (WHETHER ALONE OR IN CO-OPERATION WITH ANY LOCAL AUTHORITY OR OTHER PERSON OR BODY) IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTIVES.

Activities: To promote the benefit of inhabitants aged 50 and over of the borough of Corby and without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together

the said inhabitants and where appropriate the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to relieve persons in need, to advance education and to provide facilities

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CORBY
- Northamptonshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£233,339	£253,136	-	-
2024-03-31	£308,574	£230,481	-	-
2023-03-31	£182,103	£188,929	-	-
2022-03-31	£159,608	£169,783	-	-
2021-03-31	£229,918	£158,430	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jonathan Sheldon	Chair	2019-10-18
Dianne Floody		2018-01-30
Lesley Elizabeth Willan		2024-10-29
NAVIN BHATIA		2013-10-14
PETER FLOODY		2013-10-14

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1110164

Accounts

THE AUTUMN DAYCARE CENTRE CORBY

DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1st APRIL 2024 - 31st MARCH 2025



The Autumn Centre Limited
Company Registered Number: 05397008
Registered Charity Number: 1110164

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Legal and Administrative information:

Company Registration Number:	05397008
Charity Registration Number	1110164
Registered Office:	The Autumn Centre Counts Farm Road Corby Northants NN18 8BH
Directors/Trustees:	Jonathan Sheldon- Chair Dianne Floody - Vice-Chair Peter Floody MBE Marie Bissett Les Coupland Marion Palmer Susan Sorrie Susan Tew Navin Bhatia Lesley Willan Lorraine D'Albert 1 x vacancy
Company Secretary:	Peter Floody MBE
Treasurer:	Peter Floody MBE
Bankers:	Co-operative Bank Delf House Southways Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Independent Examiner:	Brenda Peers-Ross 29 Drift Road Selsey Chichester West Sussex PO20 0PW

The trustees present their report, together with the financial statement of the Charity (**See Appendix I**) for the year ended 31st March 2025

Executive Summary 26th August 2025

Towards the end of March 2024 we were made aware of our Annual Grant from North Northants Council (NNC) being reduced from a historical £37K to just £10.8K further reduced in July to £8.8K a massive blow just days before the commencement of the 2024/25 financial year. We had to restructure the budget with this alarming cut in mind and form a collaborative with 4 other organisations to be included in the reduced grant process. This has resulted in the Autumn Centre recording a loss of nearly £20K (2024/25) whereas the year before we recorded a profit. Thankfully we have a reserve budget to ensure we can continue to deliver our much needed service and reassure our members and their families.

On a much more positive note we are working very closely with Public Health (PH) for the Charity to become a "Centre of Excellence", in partnership with Northampton University, and NNC to support this ambitious venture. The new "Orchard Project" will enable a study to be undertaken aimed at people living with the early onset of dementia and also allow for early stage intervention through a research programme coupled with a Capital Investment of £199K. As a charity, we are very excited with this concept, and are really looking forward to making an even bigger difference for our senior and wider community in the future.

As a charity we are constantly thanked and commended for our service delivery as we continue to improve the quality of life for our senior community with many of our members living with a host of health issues. We will continue to strive to become financially independent to ensure we are not at the mercy of continually reducing grants from various quarters.

The Trustees would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our members and their families, staff, volunteers, supporters and well wishers. A huge thank you to you all.

Trustees Report 1st April 2024 – March 31st 2025

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and recruitment and appointment of Trustees is through election at our Annual General Meetings. If a vacancy exists we can consider future trustees with specific skills who are recommended to the board.

The trustees meet on the last Tuesday of the month to discuss business on behalf of the charity and to take any decisions required by the trustees as an active and inclusive process.

All trustee meetings are minuted and sent out to all trustees to be agreed at the next monthly meeting along with any matters arising / amendments before proceeding with that month's agreed agenda.

Staffing

The Autumn Centre used to employ 8 members of staff including our Manager who runs the Centre on a day to day basis in partnership with the users, volunteers, staff and the Board of Directors (Trustees who are all members of the charity). This number rose to 9 members of staff from May 2022 as we appointed an additional carer for the Dementia Suite as the need was clearly developing with increasing pressure to accommodate more new members living with dementia.

We were hoping to employ an additional carer last year but the grant reduction of £28,200 from NNC has made this impossible in the short term. This left the trustees and staff being a bit confused and disappointed after all the positivity we were hearing from North Northants Council Officers & Elected Members regarding our high quality and much needed service provision.

We had 2 members of staff leave over the last 18 months and this allowed us to promote from within and appoint new health workers to fill the vacant posts. This also gave us an opportunity to restructure the allocated hours to suit our current operational needs to the benefit of both staff and members.

We are where we are today because of our amazing dedicated staff members. As they all say this is not a job, it is a "way of life", and this is so obvious as they all go well beyond their individual "job descriptions". The care and support they give to all our members is what creates the "Autumn Centre Caring Environment" and why we continue to attract new members.

Staffing Structure

1 x Manager / Level 5 Health & Social Care / Leadership & Management
1x Deputy Manager / Level 3 Health & Social Care
4 x Health Care Assistants / All Level 3 Health & Social Care
2 x Catering Staff
1 x Caretaker Cleaner post / (post delivered with 2 part time staff)

Volunteers & Members.

Our staff are supported in a big way by our band of dedicated volunteers who help us to deliver a higher quality of service as they have brought and gained so many skills to ensure all our members are looked after in our "Family Environment" and every one is cared for, respected and also given the opportunity to become part of the team. Staff and volunteers ensure that many of the local events around the town are attended by our team to promote and raise awareness of a wonderful local charity on people's doorsteps.

Proposed new staff posts in future years.

- Intergenerational Officer
- Additional Health Care Assistants
- Coordinator for Business Development/Income generation
- Site Supervisor (depending on increased hours of opening)
- Admin Support

We can also boast a variety of related qualifications within the "Team" such as First Aid, Fire Wardens, OTAGO, Assistant Yoga Teacher, Mental Health Well-Being Co-ordinator, Activities Co-ordinator - keep fit and stay active.

Training for Staff / Volunteers, Students & Trustees

We invest heavily in our staff training to ensure compliance and continual development. To this end we have substantially increased our training budget to ensure funding is always available to top up training requirements. This has also resulted in the purchase and training of staff for the Charity Log system. Utilising a training matrix with over 70 site specific courses for staff, trustees and volunteers, this includes dementia awareness which is proving invaluable.

The training is coupled with regular individual supervision sessions between staff and our Manager to ensure any issues are addressed early. It is very important to us that all the staff and volunteers enjoy coming to work. To this end we also updated the Employee's Handbook with all terms / conditions produced by both staff and trustees along with all our policies and procedures.

We also work closely with the local college to allow students studying Health and Social Care to take up work placements at the centre to allow them hands-on experience. We can boast that one of the students worked with us for over a year gaining qualifications and being able to move on to a new post with another organisation.

Potted History (2002 - 2025)

The town used to boast three day centres from 1970's / 80's & 90's (Central Day Centre, Arran Way Day Centre and Darley Dale Day Centre) but all three were merged in 2002 into what we have today "The Autumn Centre", as it was proving difficult to sustain three centres in one town, and all three were funded by Northamptonshire County Council and Corby Borough Council (now merged into North Northants Council).

With the merger of the three facilities it greatly reduced the funding needed from the two councils and has saved the authorities many, many hundreds of thousands of pounds over the past 23 years with better facilities and services all under one roof.

The building is owned by NNC and it had for many years agreed to retain landlord's responsibility but the lease is up for renewal (expires August 2025).

After negotiations NNC have agreed to offer us a new 25 year lease under current terms and conditions, for the first two years after we have signed the new lease. After the first two years of the new lease the charity will become responsible for more accountability of internal facilities such as sanitary ware, flooring, lighting and boilers etc.

Covid 19 Staying Vigilant

Staff are very aware that Covid has greatly reduced but also aware it has not fully left us. A number of the local community are still contracting the disease but thankfully the Covid Jabs have reduced the number and severity of people still contracting it. We will continue with various implemented practices and remain vigilant as most of our members will remain in the high risk bracket.

We were unable to hold an AGM in 2020 or 2021 owing to Covid 19 but thankfully we have held AGM's in 2022 / 2023 / 2024 and our most recent in March 2025.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity is very focused on its objective to improve the quality of life for our seniors in Corby and across the North of the County . We also have some younger members of the community either living with dementia or a variety of disabilities or life long illnesses. We have many members living with a variety of health conditions including:

- Members living with early and mid stages of diagnosed dementia
- Wheelchair bound or unable to walk unaided
- Mental Health
- Heart Disease
- Non Communicative
- Diabetes
- Heart Conditions
- Visually Impaired
- Learning Conditions
- Asthmatic

To this end the charity provides a host of activities as agreed / requested by the users to improve health / mobility / fighting loneliness / isolation / reducing the impact of dementia on individuals and their families and staying fitter longer giving many the chance to retain home independence

The activities of the centre are always aligned with key outcomes required by Public Health / NNC through the Well Being Programme for vulnerable adults.

We have been inspected by officers from North Northants Council and our service comfortably met their high bar criteria for quality of services. This has given the team a real boost and is a very encouraging message going forward.

We are the only Day Care Centre in Corby, freely accessible, operating 5 days a week Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. offering a variety of services / activities including:

Special Events

Christmas Parties, Burns Suppers, Halloween Fun, New Year Celebrations, St Patrick's Day, St Andrews Day, Summer Inclusive Programme, Race Days (on the big screen), Easter Celebrations, Indian Food Experience,

Tribute Acts/Other Entertainers

Stage Entertainers bring a fantastic feeling to our members and we include various tribute acts such as Elvis and Neil Diamond, Jersey Boy and have groups such as Andante and the Wanderers, who have a wide repertoire entertaining the members at many special events, and DJ John Headley. The members love these events as they bring back wonderful memories to the members and with many having a really good sing along.

Activities

Floor projector interactive play, Virtual Reality Headsets, personalised individual playlists along with OTAGO in falls prevention plus Get up and Go, seated dance, aerobics, yoga, exercise sessions, smoking cessation, weigh-ins, along with many other health initiatives.

We have our very own "Body Rockers" who love doing all the exercises and have their own motif tee shirts.

We have Virtual Reality Headsets to allow our members to visit the world, go on walks while still at the centre, all through embracing modern technology.

Pet therapy, TV & Films, darts, quizzes, table top ping pong (brilliant for stimulating the brain), board games, arts & crafts, bingo, Ukulele band.

Food-market, members can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for a small donation.

We previously purchased a floor projector that the members can interact with such as walking through meadows, resting their feet in a stream with electronic fish swimming in and out, making it a living experience, plus a host of other activities all projected on the floor for many members to enjoy all at the same time. This has proven to be an excellent provision for members.

As an organisation we encourage new ideas from within the membership and where new requests are made we try hard to deliver new and exciting activities. As can be seen from above there is normally a wide list of activities and this is expanding year on year. This programme of events suffered badly during the pandemic but we have bounced back stronger and fitter than ever before.

Visits by local dignitaries, sponsors, local and NNC councillors, health representatives, local schools and prospective clients are regular attendees to the centre.

Intergenerational Officer (One for the Future).

The Trustees of the Autumn Centre have never lost sight of the fact that we are not just a Day Care Centre but have the desire to become a "Community Hub". To this end we have a long-term objective to promote interaction between our older community and the younger community bringing them together to explore common ground where all members of the local community can benefit and enjoy the centre for interactive opportunities.

Outside the centre we have a Multi Activity Games Area (MUGA) that could be utilised to organise joint and mixed activities across the age spectrum. This could include different activities being led by different age groups but linked to something for all.

To achieve this ambitious proposal we would love to create a future post of an Intergenerational Worker whose role would be to explore, create and deliver an interactive development programme for all the members of the community regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, race or religion.

Over recent years we have seen the demise of youth provision and it is with this in mind we want to reach out and welcome the younger generation to feel the centre has something for them and they also can have the feeling of ownership with respect for the centre, their peers and all different generations in a positive, rewarding, and inclusive programme. Much of the future programme could operate outside the hours of our current daily service provision.

Financial Pressures (Our biggest threat!)

All charities face continual financial challenges and as already mentioned earlier in the report regarding the huge reduction of our annual grant and our lease expiring in 2025 we will face even greater pressures as a result of this.

With the government increasing the National Minimum Wage from April 2024 and then again in April 2025 and NI Contributions, we as a caring charity always pay our junior members of staff the enhanced living wage, adding a considerable increase in our salaries budget. We also had to bring in a temporary member of

staff to cover the absence of a health worker owing to an operation and recovery time.

This among other costs has forced all staff, trustees and members to be even more proactive in fundraising, sponsored activities, grant applications, chasing donations, and of course our structured income streams from our users in Tiers 1, 2 & 3 service provision.

An improved training budget agreed to pursue accreditation for the Charity to become recognised as a "Centre of Excellence"

Plus all the other related increases in utilities, various contracts, food stuffs etc are all rising pressures and many charities have gone under and this is something we are working tirelessly to avoid.

Restricted Funding (£55K +£5K + £2K +£25K =£87K) Specific Projects.

We have recently set aside some Restricted Funding as we have been very successful in bringing in new monies either through grant applications or donations. These are of course to be used for specific elements of our future plans and often in compliance with specific grant applications / donation requirements.

We were given a donation of **£55K** and it is presently restricted after consultation with the Executors of Jeff Ward's will to be utilised for the benefit of the Dementia Suite and its users. A fitting tribute to Jeff.

Within the restricted funds we also have **£7K** towards Grow/Cook/Eat projects.

This year we were also awarded a **£25K** grant towards new furniture, which will be utilised within the Dementia Suite upgrade and across the rest of the Centre.

We have put all the above on hold to ensure maximum opportunity with the recent announcement from Public Health for a large Capital Grant to make improvements to the building.

Sustainability for the Future

Delivery of our 3 Tier Daily Experience

April 2021 was the start of the implementation of our "Going Forward " strategy with the implementation of our new " **3 Tier Daily Experience**" pricing structure.

In the past pre Covid and being paid for delivering 3 x Public Health Contracts (Value £54K per annum) which ceased in March 2021, we had to restructure our complete service delivery to give the charity any chance of survival in the coming

years (which thankfully so far we have managed to do) as we are still looking to go forward after that huge financial blow four years ago and more recently the cut this year of £28,200 from NNC. This has resulted in us having to dive deeply into our reserves and utilise nearly £20K.

Our **"3 Tier Daily Experience"** pricing structure included for all tiers:

- Three Course Meal (including specific dietary requirements).
- All beverages
- Health Exercises, Wellness Checks, OTAGO, YOGA Singalongs/Quizzes / Arts & Crafts, Table Top Games plus others.
- Support from staff with showering, meals, hydration, toileting, barber services, shaving, manicures, weighing / blood pressure checks,
- Opportunity to meet new people and forge new friendships.
- A comfortable, warm, safe welcoming environment.
- If any member is unable to attend through ill health a freshly cooked meal can be delivered to their home.

Tiers 2 & 3 include more personal care with various functions such as assisting members with toileting, showering and meals, often One to One interaction and **Tier 3** being for members living with Dementia. The pricing structure (April 2024-March 2025) reflects this being as below:

3 TIER DAILY EXPERIENCE

Tier 1 = £12.00 with increase to £13.00 from April 2025 (more able bodied)

Tier 2 = £35.00 with increase to £40.00 from April 2025 (early diagnosis of dementia, additional care required)

Tier 3 = £55.00 with increase to £60.00 from April 2025 (members living with dementia / continual additional care)

For all financial information please refer to our examined accounts (Appendix I).

As pointed out above we will have to increase our prices substantially from April 2025 and all the members / their families are on board and understand the reasons for the increase and our quest for financial sustainability. This has become essential for our very existence especially with the cut from April 2024 in our usual local authority annual grant.

The **Daily Experience** has proven to be of significant importance in various degrees to our many members and their families. In some instances it has given an element of life back to certain family members as all know their loved ones are in good hands and are treated as part of **"Our Family"** but with high levels of professional support / care linked to their individual needs.

All our meals are freshly cooked daily on site by our own in-house catering team with individual requirements and needs built into any care / support packages. We also have the facilities to ensure any member not wishing to eat all three courses at lunch time, the courses not eaten, can be taken home, packed up in catering packaging to keep fresh, for eating later.

Many of Tier 2 & Tier 3 are referred through Adult Social Services with some Tier 1 also being referred but most Tier 1 are here because they choose to be as it supports their quest of staying healthy longer, retaining independence and meeting new friends. Also some Tier 2 & 3 are from private sources with their families paying us directly.

We are currently averaging 124 visits per week by members with the following in each tier, Tier 1 = 67, Tier 2 = 36 & Tier 3 = 21 with a total number of visits of 6,167.

Our overall membership is currently 141 members.

It is important to note our delivery of front line services brought in £50K per annum up until March 2021 and since relaunching our new business model because of losing PH contract funding our front line service delivery Tiers 1/2/3 we have brought in over £162,750 to the end of March 2025 and have projected an income for next year of £182,500 by March 2026.

To run the Autumn Centre over the next 12 months will be in the region of £250,000.00 (yes a quarter of a million £££££'s) so we have an awful lot of services to deliver over the next 12 months to give us any hope of becoming financially sustainable and linking to our grants strategy and other income generating ideas.

We are continually looking to expand our membership for future sustainability but if the trend was in the other direction it would severely put the charity at risk of failing and therefore closure. The efforts by all the staff, members, volunteers and trustees are committed to ensure that never happens.

Working Groups

We have 5 working groups as follows:

- 1. Carers & Volunteering**
- 2. Fundraising Initiatives / Events and Grant Strategy.**
- 3. Marketing, Promotion & Website**
- 4. Five Year Business Plan**
- 5. Orchard Project Steering Group**

All of these groups have been playing an instrumental role in bringing another element of sustainability to the Autumn Centre Corby through their targeted efforts in their field of expertise.

This has recently seen the fifth working group being created, the Orchard Project Steering Group.

1. Carer / Volunteering

The Carer Working Group includes Trustees, Staff, supportive friends & family members who have a vested interest in ensuring our loved ones' needs are indeed met. The level of care is an ongoing development for us but the staff, trustees, volunteers, general members and now family members have all embraced this development with open arms. This group has allowed us to link in more volunteers.

We have some excellent volunteers and counting the trustees input and other volunteers this gives us an additional level of support, if we had to pay for the volunteers time it would add over £55K to the existing salary costs. This voluntary

contribution is priceless for our well being as a charity and it humbles us at their dedication for supporting our charity.

2. Fundraising Initiatives / Events & Grant Strategy

Members of this group will concentrate on income generating activities / events such as the Trustees 20 Kilometer sponsored walk, fun days, our Managers sponsored swim, A Day at the Races, raffles, The group has some very experienced members in this field and is reaping dividends as we go forward. We had set aside £1,800 in the 24/25 financial year to utilise a professional bid writer to submit grants on our behalf, this brought in £25,000 and still awaiting other grant bids being processed.

3. Marketing / Promotion & Website

This group has already played a major role in: the production of leaflets & posters, designing an advert on Corby Radio, adverts in various circulars such as The Corby Trader, NHS Newsletter, in house quarterly bulletin/ videos on tik tok and facebook and continues to shape our website. This has been a real bonus getting our message out and is bringing in new members and volunteers on a regular basis as well as utilising the space in the local Corby Library. This also allows future members and their families to check the service provision, even before they set foot inside the centre. It helps current members' families to track our development and new activities / health initiatives as they are added to keep our service delivery fresh and specifically aimed at our members for their continued well being.

To promote the centre the staff wear branded uniforms. This allows us to fly our own flag at various health initiatives and community events held around the county.

4. Evolving 5 Year Business Plan.

This Working Group will use the last 4 years trading figures since the introduction of the **3 Tier Daily Experience** to produce a Business Plan that will shape our service delivery well into the future and seek the best roadway to follow to achieve the long term objective of inhouse sustainability.

We will be looking at:

- Where we came from Pre 2002 - 2019
- The Pandemic & coming out of it 2019 - 2022
- Where we are now 2025
- Where we want/need to be 2026 - 2030

We will use our 23 years of operational experience, the pandemic, our service delivery plan and North Northants Corporate Plan, Public Health Aims and Objectives and of course our members' needs and aspirations to strive for our ambition of being financially sustainable, by providing a service aimed at the senior community with a variety of health issues made even more difficult with NNC cut to annual grant.

Currently we are providing a much needed service for the senior community offering support to many to live a healthier life and at the same time providing a complimentary service to cater for many seniors (and some younger members) already living with a variety of health issues including dementia.

Please Note

The medium/long term business plan will change over the coming months as we are in the process of exploring the Autumn Centre Corby becoming a Centre of Excellence. We are currently working alongside Public Health, NNC and Northampton University (please see below).

5. Orchard Project Steering Group

The project steering group, consisting of representatives from each organisation: Professor Jacqueline Parkes, University of Northampton, Assistant Director of Public Health, Shirley Plenderleith, Public Health, Capital Programme Manager, Denise York, North Northamptonshire Council, Claire Davies PhD student, four Trustees and the Centre Manager. Professor Parkes will be leading the research project into the slowing down of early onset dementia, through delivery of a pilot project at the Autumn Centre. Public Health, NNC have allocated £199,000.00 to upgrade and redesign the Autumn Centre to accommodate this pilot. This is an addition to current services and not a replacement. Over the last 6 months the project has been outlining the processes with the Autumn Centre and plans have been drawn up to upgrade the building, ensuring that we all agree the way forward.to

Transport (Local Provider) & Escort Service (in-house staff).

We provide an excellent transport service/escort service and we strive to make the service self-sufficient, but this is proving difficult owing to the current financial processes in place with NNC Adult Social Services. From April 2025 we will be included in the NNC automatic uplift regarding referred placements, this is a financial bonus to us.

Notable Achievements

We have achieved on so many other fronts as well as the above including:

- We were nominated and short-listed for a Spirit of Corby Award, again this year, however we were unsuccessful but received great plaudits on the night.
- In recent years we have faced a new challenge of mini heatwaves and now have processes in place, such as providing cooling fans, ice lolly hydration stations, more ventilation, cold and iced water plus cooling towels to minimise any chance of our vulnerable users feeling unwell from the heat. Thankfully all our additional measures proved effective and our

members and their families are very grateful for our awareness and implementation of an action plan. If needed again this summer we can immediately roll out the safety measures as we remain on high alert for any forecasts of any sustained heatwaves.

- We have also recently had to deal with flooding in the area where many roads were closed and the Centre was inaccessible.
- To qualify for NNC grant funding we had very short notice (about 10 days) in March 2024 to form a collaborative with 4 other partners or we would not have been able to submit a bid. This we managed to achieve and it was an amazing amount of work by ourselves and the other 4 members of the new "Older People's Collaborative" across the whole of North Northamptonshire. This proved how professional the "Voluntary / Charitable Sector" is and how working together we can often deliver, even within a very unfavourable timeframe.
- New plants are annually purchased and planted in the courtyard to complement the outside seating area which is furnished with bistro tables, chairs and picnic tables and used by members during the nice weather. This area is lovingly tended by our amazing volunteers.
- Continued development of the "Friends of The Autumn Centre" group, This is a group of individuals with special skills we can call upon as and when required to support the trustees & members. This will be invaluable when we build the two new garden areas for the Grow, Cook and eat projects once the boundary line has been extended. This will also allow the relaunch of the "Digging with Dementia Group".
- Full Houses again for Members Christmas Dinners staged over a couple of days during Dec 2024 which was attended by our local mayor and representatives from Public Health, NNC and some of our sponsors.
- The previously fitted eco friendly wall heaters in the Dementia Suite continue to make it very snug even in the very cold weather.
- Pauley's continues to offer returned but edible fruit and vegetables free of charge to be collected once a week. We use as much as we can for the week's menus and offer the rest to members for a small voluntary contribution.
- Continuing to utilise a permanent promotion space in Corby Library in the Health & Well-Being area and also on their Facebook page.
- Continued to build on the close working relationship on a number of projects with our local infant / junior schools and technical college
- Demand for the snug / quiet room continues to grow for assessments, consultations, family waiting area, staff meetings, trustees monthly meetings, meeting potential sponsors / volunteers, Yoga, staff interviews, 1 to 1's and Orchard Project Steering Group meetings. This has proven incredibly successful for our "Personal Service" requirements.
- Continuing to work with various agencies including Adult Social Care Commissioning Team, Social Prescribers, Public Health, GP Surgeries, Mental Health Team and SALT Team.
- All trustees DBS Checked
- We are working closely with a number of organisations that allow members of their staff to attend and assist the staff and volunteers within

the Autumn Centre as part of a business community project. This has proven very successful and the volunteers are appreciated, not only by the staff but wholeheartedly by our members.

- Corby Lions made a financial donation to our Charity this year (£500) and also purchased a new wheelchair for us for the benefit of our less mobile members.

Donations / Grants / Fundraising

We are very dependent on a variety of income streams other than our charges for front line daily service provision. To that end we are so grateful to organisations, individuals and grant making funders for the following as without this combined support we would not be able to deliver what we do on a daily basis.

Donations (£5,215.00)

- £3,000.00 1:1 Diet Weight Plan
- £500 Rolls Royce
- £500 Corby Lions
- £1,215.00 Funeral Donations

Grants (£36,800.00)

- £3,000.00 Members Empowerment Fund
- £8,800.00 North Northamptonshire Council (Service provision)
- £25,000.00 Post Code Lottery (equipment & furnishings)

Fundraising (£18486.00)

- £1,065.00 Managers Swim
- £1,465.00 Guernsey 39 mile Coastal footpath walk
- £745.00 Santa's 20 Kilometre Walk
- £500 Race Night
- £50.00 Trustee (ST) Knitted Items
- £765.00 Winter Baubles
- £58.00 Bric a Brac stall
- £87.00 Staff / Starbucks quiz night
- £1922.50 Raffles
- £5,850.00 Members Donations / Funeral Donations
- £5,978.50 Activity Fundraising Events in house

Future Plans & Hopes

The centre will continue to develop services in line with the ever increasing demands on our more senior members of the community fighting: social isolation, ill health, reduced mobility, onset of dementia, mental health, vulnerability to falls, various disabilities, hospitalisation and personal grief.

As a charity we are totally committed to continue to grow in spite of ever increasing financial pressures from loss of contracts, increased inflation especially food and energy bills, cuts in grant aid and ever reducing funding streams.

We all accept the ageing population is growing and therefore the need for facilities such as ours are in greater demand than ever before. Hence the need for writing a 5 Year Business plan to guide us into the future setting ourselves realistic and achievable targets.

Failure to create a sustainable service is not in the minds of any members, staff or trustees as we are united for the benefit of the Senior Community including many of the most vulnerable.

As mentioned elsewhere in the report we are in current talks with Public Health and Northampton University to explore the possibility of developing the Autumn Daycare Centre Corby into a Centre of Excellence. This will be accompanied by a large Capital Funding Injection and coupled to our own Restricted Funding this could see major improvements to the facility.

Through increased levels of income aligned to increased pricing for services, fundraising, donations, sponsorship and external grant applications we will continue to shape the "Care Team" to complement and grow the service. If we fail to do this and attempt to stand still we will implode and fail our client / member base and the families of those often in desperate need of such a service.

- Owing to the brutal cut in NNC grant funding this year from £37K to just £8,800 we will need to utilise our reserve, drawing down almost £20K, a huge blow to any charity trying hard to become financially stable.
- This seems incredibly shortsighted as in 2023/24, when we received £37K we made a profit in the region of £10K. As can be seen from our accounts (appendix 1) we no longer have the confidence we felt only 12 months ago.
- We will continue building good working relationships with Public Health, where together we can identify and meet common needs.
- To create an Arts Programme to design murals / photographs on parts of the building to celebrate our members and local heroes.
- Continue to undertake annual reviews of all our policies and procedures to ensure best practice and continual improvement

DESIRED FUTURE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

(All on hold awaiting outcome of Orchard Project re-shaping the programme)

As a charity we have had a Capital Programme item on our monthly Agenda for the past 3 years and trustees / staff and members have agreed to pursue the following over coming years.

Dementia Suite

- We have wanted to extend the footprint of the Dementia Suite by pushing the toilets back to create 3 new DDA compliant toilet facilities.
- Taking out the west facing window and installing french doors into a safe garden area where members can sit and relax. This could alternatively accommodate a small conservatory to allow all year round access.
- Extend the east wall in the dementia suite to incorporate existing storage rooms into being an integral part of the footprint to allow us to invite more members to utilise the suite.
- Create a new garden / outside area on the east boundary to allow a host of activities to be enjoyed and to implement the Grow, Cook and Eat project with funding (£2K) from the David Cock Foundation. This will include the relaunch of the "Digging for Dementia Group".

Memory Cafe / Extending West Boundary Fence Line.

- This will allow us to create a garden/fitness area and alfresco dining area,
- To extend the current boundary fence line to create an additional 80 sq metres. This will allow us to deliver the Grow, Cook and Eat project with funding received from Groundwork.

Reception Area

- To upgrade the existing toilets and create 3 x new DDA compliant toilets giving more room in the reception area.
- To install a doorway into the external area and build a new reception office to allow all visitors to be greeted on arrival at the centre.

More Recently to Build a Multifunctional Activity Hall in the CourtYard

- This was originally to be paid for by the legacy from Jeff Ward's will with match funding from a previously proposed capital grant application. The executors have agreed that the £55K allocated can be used in the re-development of the Dementia Suite and we will ensure that Jeff's legacy will be recognised within this capital project.
- We may still wish to build the small hall as previously outlined but again this may be one of our future aspirations.

Long Term Mezzanine Floor

- To create a mezzanine floor in the space above the false ceiling in the main hall. This has been a long term plan and may be further down the line but it will one day allow us to provide a host of additional services. As a lift will be required this has to date made this financially unachievable.

Desired Capital for Future Consideration

- Creating a new improved personal care facility with a hoist, shower and possible step in the bath.
- Staff room for changing, washing etc
- Admin / business development office.
- Storage will always be needed and as we develop a capital programme storage will need building in / reviewing.

Financial Transparency

Lee McCormick leads the team and has been an excellent Manager since taking up the role nearly 8 years ago. We are all very much indebted to her and her excellent team of staff and volunteers.

Lee has developed a close working relationship with an officer from CVS Northampton (Brenda Peers Ross) and produces monthly spreadsheets which are copied to our main funders and trustees.

This is complemented with monthly updates by the Treasurer at Trustees meetings on current balance, current income / expenditure plus projected income / expenditure to the end of the current financial year. This ensures transparency and financial dealings are scrutinised at a number of levels by all the trustees.

Unfortunately CVS Northampton ceased to operate from June 2024 owing to a number of financial pressures, a very sad day for the Voluntary sector.

With the cessation of CVS Northampton we have made alternative arrangements regarding our annual accounts and pay-roll services. Our independent examiner this year will be Brenda Peers-Ross.

Reserves Policy

An amount of approximately 6 months operational costs are normally kept in reserve along with a small committed capital fund for future development of the Centre (to act as match funding for future capital grant applications) as secured funding, if ever a Termination Strategy had to be implemented. We need to ensure we can meet our legal obligations towards our hard working and valued staff plus any outstanding bills / contracted services.

The reserve can also be utilised, if for any reason, existing funding sources are late in processing either grants or contractual payments for the wide-ranging care / activity programme currently in place.

Benefit with Testimonials As can be seen from the report the Charity of the Autumn Centre meets a growing need for the senior community and various younger individuals living with various disabilities and needs in Corby and beyond. Without the Autumn Daycare Centre many believe many of the senior community living with a wide range of health issues lives would be much poorer than they are at present.

Testimonial 1 : My Mother Janet

The facility of the Autumn Centre in Corby has and continues to be a lifeline for my family. My mother Janet is a regular at the centre, attends every day for 4 hours and really enjoys her time there.

Dementia is a very hard disease to come to terms with, mum has had this for over 8 years now and as a family we struggled to get our heads around this. Mum has attended the centre for 4 years and the stimulation she receives from the support team at the centre is paramount to her quality of life.

My dad is my mum's full-time carer and without the Autumn Centre would be in a much darker place. It gives him the respite he needs to recharge his battery each day. My dad is able to attend the clubs he is a member of and socialise with other friends as therapy, as it can be very lonely otherwise.

Mum definitely benefits from all that happens at the Autumn Centre, we can really see a difference in mum's awareness of everything around her, after she attends the centre.

The team at the Autumn Centre work hard and know how to interact with mum on a daily basis and this is very visible. This service is vital to anyone who has family members with dementia or requires any support in this field.

The family of Janet Jeffery

Testimonial 2 : Katie's Grandad (Keith)

Our family cannot express enough gratitude for the incredible care and support our Grandad received at The Autumn Centre during the last few months of his life. Before attending the centre, he was often confused and spent much of his time sleeping, but everything changed once he started going twice a week. He became a different person - more lively, engaged, and full of stories. It was truly heartwarming to see him so excited to go, often getting ready early and eagerly awaiting his time there.

The activities at the centre brought him so much joy, and he would always talk about the delicious meals with such enthusiasm. The staff's dedication and kindness gave him a new lease on life, and for that, we will be forever grateful.

The morning before he became gravely ill, he attended the centre, and knowing that these were his last pain-free and happy hours spent in a place he loved brings immense comfort to our family. The Autumn Centre gave our Grandad a sense of purpose and happiness in his final days, and we cannot thank them enough for that.

We also treasure the photos and videos from the social media updates that the centre posts. These glimpses into his joyful moments at the centre have become precious memories that we will hold onto forever.

To anyone considering care options for their loved one, we wholeheartedly recommend The Autumn Centre. The compassion, professionalism, and warmth of the staff made all the difference in our Grandad's life and in ours. They truly provide a second home filled with love and understanding, and we will always cherish the memories they helped create for him and for us.

Katie Varden (Granddaughter)

Testimonial 3 : What an amazing place! (April 2023)

What an amazing place the Autumn Centre is! My mum and dad Jean and Mike love coming twice a week. It has improved mum's confidence so much and they love talking to their new found friends. They even try to schedule all their appointments around their Autumn Centre days - so they don't miss out. Their 3 course lunch always sounds delicious. Mum and dad love the chair exercises, the musical bingo, playing dominoes, quizzes, bingo games and so much more. The staff and volunteers are so caring and supportive, making the centre have a real family feel. My dad was dancing at the Christmas Party now he is in his 80's. I highly recommend the Autumn Centre.

Sarah (Jean and Mike's daughter)

Testimonial 4: Tribute to my father

When my Mum passed away six years ago one of my biggest concerns was my father being lonely with close family not living in the same county. I wanted to find somewhere for my dad to be able to socialise with people of the same age. I can truly say the Autumn Centre was the answer to mine and my father's prayers.

Not only does it provide five days a week of fabulous homemade three course lunches, fantastic activities along with transport to and from the centre.

Karen McGee - (daughter of William Fincham)

Our heartfelt thanks once again go out to a large number of groups, individuals and organisations:

- Our Transport Company
- Corby Lions
- Rolls Royce
- 1:1 Diet Plan
- North Northamptonshire Councillors Empowerment Fund
- W Pauley
- Friends of Corby Woodland Project
- RS Components
- North Northants Council
- Brenda-Peers Ross - Independent Examiner
- Vicky Bell - Professional Grants Advisor
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation
- Co-op
- Corby Library Services
- Growing Community Award Scheme (David Cock Foundation)
- The Executors for the Will of Jeff Ward (Lesley & Caroline)
- Groundwork (Grow, Cook & Eat Project).
- Starbucks Corby
- Older People's Collaborative.
- The Orchard Project Steering Group
- Eternity Funerals
- Andante, The Wanderers, John Headley, Adam Whitmee (Jersey Boy), Ukulele Band, Elvis and various tribute artists.
- Laban Dance Training Group
- And of course our very own Staff, Volunteers, Members and Well-wishers.

Thank you all

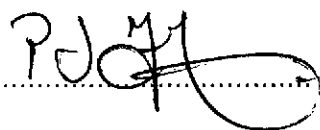
Trustees Responsibilities

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.
- 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 1993.
- 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.

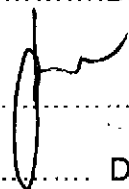
The trustees report was produced by our Company Secretary and presented to the trustees for adoption on 26th August 2025.

Peter Floody MBE.....



Company Secretary.....Date: Tuesday 26th August 2025

Jonathan Sheldon.....



Chair..... Date Tuesday 26th August 2025

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of:
THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD**

Page 26

Registered Charity Number: 1110164

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on the attached pages 27 to 32.

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 this year under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, as amended; and
- state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 of 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with the Companies section 386 of the 2006 Act: or
- the accounts do not accord with these records: or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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: or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Brenda Peers-Ross

Brenda Peers-Ross FMAAT, ACIE
10TH October 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024
		£	£	£			£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		5,215	-	5,215	3,486	55,000	58,486
Charitable Activities	1	227,605	25,000	252,605	238,505	5,000	243,505
Other Income		519	-	519	6,583	-	6,583
Total income		233,339	25,000	258,339	248,574	60,000	308,574
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	253,136	-	253,136	230,481	-	230,481
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		253,136	-	253,136	230,481	-	230,481
Net income/(expenditure)		(19,797)	25,000	5,203	18,093	60,000	78,093
Reconciliation of funds							
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	(2,000)	2,000	-
Total funds brought forward		158,759	62,000	220,759	142,666	-	142,666
Total funds carried forward		138,962	87,000	225,962	158,759	62,000	220,759

Income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

(A Company Limited By Guarantee)

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

Company Number: 05397008

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4	49	-	49	66
Current Assets					
Debtors	5	2,011	-	2,011	6,047
Cash at bank and in hand		141,576	87,000	228,576	215,570
Investment		-	-	-	-
		143,587	87,000	230,587	221,617
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(4,674)	-	(4,674)	(924)
		(4,674)	-	(4,674)	(924)
Net current assets /(liabilities)		138,913	87,000	225,913	220,693
Net assets/(liabilities)		138,962	87,000	225,962	220,759
Charity Funds		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Unrestricted funds	7	138,962	-	138,962	158,759
Restricted	8	-	87,000	87,000	62,000
Total charity funds/(deficit)		138,962	87,000	225,962	220,759

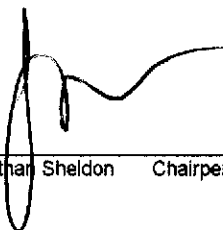
For the year ending 31st March 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

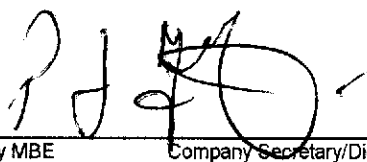
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- (ii) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- (iii) these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within the Companies Act 2006, SORP (FRS 102) effective October 2019 and relevant UK accounting standards.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 26th August 2025
Signed on behalf of the board of trustees.


Johnathan Sheldon Chairperson/Director


P Floody MBE Company Secretary/Director

Notes on pages 30 to 32 form part of the financial statements.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Practice SORP (FRS102) issued on 1st October 2019 and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

Format

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a Statement of Financial Activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the year.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants are brought into account on a receivable basis.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is stated inclusive of value added tax.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all tangible fixed assets by instalments over the expected useful lives. The period generally applicable are:

Equipment	25% on	reducing balance method
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Intangible income

Intangible income, in the form of donated facilities and voluntary help etc., is not included in the financial statements since it is not considered practicable to quantify such income.

Reserves

The current reserve policy is to maintain sufficient cash flow for known commitments, and the replacement of replacement of certain assets. Not all grants/income are received at the beginning of the financial year other are received in arrears.

Risk

The directors/trustees do not believe the organisation is subject to any substantial risk beyond those disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The organisation has employer and public liability insurance to protect it in the case of a claim.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
1 Charitable activities					
NNC		9,117		9,117	38,500
PPL		-	25,000	25,000	-
Voluntary Action		5,400	-	5,400	-
MEF		3,000	-	3,000	-
Groundwork		-	-	-	5,000
NCF		-	-	-	3,000
		<u>17,517</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>42,517</u>	<u>46,500</u>
Café income		167	-	167	40
Tier 1/2		94,000	-	94,000	118,892
Tier 3		69,113	-	69,113	56,222
Hall hire		1,530	-	1,530	30
Transport		26,792	-	26,792	19,095
Activities raffles etc.		18,486	-	18,486	2,191
Fareshare		-	-	-	535
		<u>227,605</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>252,605</u>	<u>243,505</u>
2 Charitable activities					
Employment costs	3	172,608	-	172,608	150,068
Training courses and activities		3,238	-	3,238	7,026
Stationery, printing, postage, etc		64	-	64	745
Telephones, internet		3,246	-	3,246	1,680
Equipment, alarm etc		997	-	997	565
Repairs, maintenance and renewals		1,420	-	1,420	3,461
Rent, rates, heat and light		5,468	-	5,468	9,649
Transportation		28,796	-	28,796	21,767
Storage unit		-	-	-	3,484
Sundries		4,170	-	4,170	2,007
Cleaning and hygiene costs		2,233	-	2,233	1,585
Marketing, publicity		2,011	-	2,011	2,220
Provisions		25,435	-	25,435	22,416
Insurance		709	-	709	571
Governance					
Professional fees		2,284	-	2,284	2,759
Independent Examination		440	-	440	456
Depreciation		17	-	17	22
Total expenditure		<u>253,136</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>253,136</u>	<u>230,481</u>
3 Trustees and Employment costs					
Gross salaries		162,209	-	162,209	142,431
Employer NI		6,970	-	6,970	5,074
ER Pension		3,151	-	3,151	2,449
Volunteer Expenses		40	-	40	-
DBS Checks		238	-	238	114
		<u>172,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>172,608</u>	<u>150,068</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

There are no employee being paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees by head count during the year was: 8 (2024:8)

During the year the trustees received £nil in remuneration. (2024: £nil)

The total expenditure reimbursed to trustees amounted to £nil (2024: £nil)

4 Tangible assets

Cost

Balance 01.04.24

Add: Additions during the year

Depreciation

At 1 April 2024

Charge in year

At 31 March 2025

Net Book Value

At 31 March 2025

At 31 March 2024

	2025	2024
Tangible Assets	Tangible Assets	Tangible Assets
£	£	£
15,612	15,612	
-	-	
15,612	15,612	
15,546	15,524	
17	22	
15,563	15,546	
49		
		66

5 Debtors

Other

Prepayments

2025	2024
£	£
1,500	5,545
511	502
2,011	6,047

6 Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year

Sundry creditors

HMRC

Accruals

2025	2024
£	£
(1,803)	(914)
(2,451)	-
(420)	(10)
(4,674)	(924)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Opening Balance 2023 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2024 £
7 Unrestricted reserves					
Fixed Assets	66	-	(17)	-	49
Unrestricted	33,848	233,339	(253,119)	(13,328)	740
Designated: Furniture replacement	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
Designated: Equipment replacement	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Designated: Redecoration etc.	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Designated: IT equipment	1,605	-	-	-	1,605
General Reserve	113,240	-	-	13,328	126,568
	158,759	233,339	(253,136)	-	138,962

The Trustees have designated reserves for replacement of furniture , equipment and IT equipment based on a cycle of replacement.

The Centre is now responsible for internal redecoration and is trying to build a fund over the next few years.

Trustees have allocated a general reserves to ensure adequate cash flow to meet liabilities, grants and other income are not always received in advance. The aim as part of the Trustee's good governance is to build a general reserve to cover six months operating costs, based on current cost that amounts to £253,136.

8 Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance 2024 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2025 £
Grant Groundwork	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Legacy from Jeff Ward	55,000	-	-	-	55,000
David Cock Foundation	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
PPL	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
	62,000	25,000	-	-	87,000

Groundwork - funds are a contribution towards "Grwn, Cook, Eat project.

The Legacy received from Jeff Wade is for capital expenditure and professional fees.

David Cock Foundation is for the Grow, Cook, and Eat project.

PPL Peoples Postcode Lottery grant is towards the new furniture within the dementia suite upgrade.

9 Workforce pension

The Autumn Centre operate a NEST Pension Scheme

10 Ultimate Controlling Party

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its trustees, who are also the directors, and whose names are shown at the front of the financial statements.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1110164

Accounts

THE AUTUMN DAYCARE CENTRE CORBY

**DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1st APRIL 2023 - 31st MARCH 2024



The Autumn Centre Limited
Company Registered Number: 05397008
Registered Charity Number: 1110164

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Legal and Administrative information:

Company Registration Number:	05397008
Charity Registration Number	1110164
Registered Office:	The Autumn Centre Counts Farm Road Corby Northants NN18 8BH
Directors/Trustees:	M Bissett - Chair J. Sheldon - Vice-Chair L. Coupland M. Craig Dianne Floody P. Floody MBE P. Hulme M. Palmer S. Sorrie S. Tew N. Bhatia
Company Secretary:	P. Floody MBE
Treasurer:	P. Floody MBE
Bankers:	Co-operative Bank Delf House Southways Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Independent Examiner:	Brenda Peers-Ross 29 Drift Road Selsey Chichester West Sussex PO20 0PW

The trustees present their report, together with the financial statement of the Charity (**See Appendix I**) for the year ended 31st March 2024

Executive Summary 27th August 2024

Over the past twelve months as a charity we have delivered a host of services within the local senior community and have continued to develop and grow. We are so grateful to so many who have accompanied us on our journey and have collectively faced many hurdles but thankfully we have overcome them all thanks to our amazing in-house team of dedicated staff, members, volunteers and board of trustees.

Towards the end of March 2024 we were made aware of our Annual Grant from CBC / North Northants Council (NNC) being reduced from a historical £37,000.00 to just £8,800.00 a massive blow just days before the commencement of the 2024/25 financial year. We had to restructure the budget with this alarming cut in mind and were forced into forming a collaborative to be included in the grant process.

A very recent opportunity has arisen allowing us to look forward more positively working together with Public Health (PH), NNC and Northampton University to support us to become a "Centre of Excellence". The new "Orchard Project" will enable a study to be undertaken aimed at people living with dementia and also allow for early stage intervention.

The Centre will also benefit from a Capital Programme at the centre with a £199K capital investment from PH (this may enhance our desired programme as detailed in the report).

As a charity, we are very excited with this concept, and are really looking forward to making an even bigger difference for our senior and wider community in the future.

Trustees Report 1st April 2023 – March 31st 2024

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and recruitment and appointment of Trustees is through election at our Annual General Meetings. If a vacancy exists we can consider future trustees with specific skills who are recommended to the board.

The trustees meet on the last Tuesday of the month to discuss business on behalf of the charity and to take any decisions required by the trustees as an active and inclusive process.

All trustee meetings are minuted and sent out to all trustees to be agreed at the next monthly meeting along with any matters arising / amendments before proceeding with that month's agreed agenda.

Staffing

The Autumn Centre used to employ 8 members of staff including our Manager who runs the Centre on a day to day basis in partnership with the users, volunteers, staff and the Board of Directors (Trustees who are all members of the charity). This number rose to 9 members of staff from May 2022 as we appointed an additional carer for the Dementia Suite as the need was clearly developing with increasing pressure to accommodate more new members living with dementia.

We were hoping to employ an additional carer later this year but the grant reduction of £28,200 from NNC has made this impossible in the short term. This left the trustees and staff feeling a bit confused after all the positivity we were hearing from North Northants Council Officers & Elected Members regarding our high quality and much needed service provision.

We had 2 members of staff leave over the last 12 months and this allowed us to promote from within and appoint new health workers to fill the vacant posts. This also gave us an opportunity to restructure the allocated hours to suit our current operational needs to the benefit of both staff and members.

We are where we are today because of our amazing dedicated staff members. As they all say this is not a job, it is a "way of life", and this is so obvious as they all go well beyond their individual "job descriptions". The care and support they give to all our members is what creates the "Autumn Centre Caring Environment" and why we continue to attract new members.

Staffing Structure

1 x Manager / Level 5 Health & Social Care / Leadership & Management
1x Deputy Manager / Level 3 Health & Social Care
4 x Health Care Assistants / All Level 3 Health & Social Care
2 x Catering Staff
1 x Caretaker Cleaner

Volunteers & Members.

Our staff are supported in a big way by our band of volunteers who help us to deliver a higher quality of service as they have brought and gained so many skills to ensure all our members are looked after in our "Family Environment" and every one is cared for, respected and also given the opportunity to become part of the team.

Proposed new staff posts in future years.

- Intergenerational Officer
- Additional Health Care Assistants
- Coordinator for Business Development
- Site Supervisor (depending on increased hours of opening)

We can also boast a variety of related qualifications within the "Team" such as First Aid, Fire Wardens, OTAGO, Assistant Yoga Teacher, Mental Health Well-Being Co-ordinator, Activities Co-ordinator - keep fit and stay active.

Training for Staff / Volunteers, Students & Trustees

We invest heavily in our staff training to ensure compliance and continual development. To this end we have substantially increased our training budget to ensure funding is always available to top up training requirements.

Utilising a training matrix with over 70 site specific courses for staff, trustees and volunteers, this includes dementia awareness which is proving invaluable.

The training is coupled with regular individual supervision sessions between staff and our Manager to ensure any issues are addressed early. It is very important to us that all the staff and volunteers enjoy coming to work. To this end we also updated the Employee's Handbook with all terms / conditions produced by both staff and trustees along with all our policies and procedures.

We also work closely with the local college to allow students studying Health and Social Care to take up work placements at the centre to allow them hands-on experience. We can also boast one of the placements is now one of our full time members of staff working in our dementia suite.

Potted History (2002 - 2024)

The town used to boast three day centres from 1970's / 80's & 90's (Central Day Centre, Arran Way Day Centre and Darley Dale Day Centre) but all three were merged in 2002 into what we have today "The Autumn Centre", as it was proving difficult to sustain three centres in one town, and all three were funded by Northamptonshire County Council and Corby Borough Council (now merged into North Northants Council) .

With the merger of the three facilities it greatly reduced the funding needed from the two councils and has saved the authorities many, many hundreds of thousands of pounds over the past 22 years with better facilities and services all under one roof.

The building is owned by NNC (previously Corby Borough Council) and it had for many years agreed to retain landlord's responsibility but the lease is up for renewal (expires August 2025) and negotiations are scheduled to commence in July 2024 to review the terms and conditions of any new lease.

Being aware of the reduction in the grant from April of this year (2024) we are not as confident for the same level of support as we received over the last 22 years regarding the terms and conditions of a new lease.

Covid 19 Staying Vigilant

Staff are very aware that Covid has greatly reduced but also aware it has not fully left us. A number of the local community are still contracting the disease but thankfully the Covid Jabs have reduced the number and severity of people still contracting it. We will continue with various implemented practices and remain vigilant as most of our members will remain in the high risk bracket.

We were unable to hold an AGM in 2020 or 2021 owing to Covid 19 but thankfully we have held AGM's in 2022 / 2023 and our most recent in March 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity is very focused on its objective to improve the quality of life for our seniors in Corby and across the North of the County . We also have some younger members of the community either living with dementia or a variety of disabilities or life long illnesses. We have many members living with a variety of health conditions including:

- Members living with early and mid stages of diagnosed dementia
- Wheelchair bound or unable to walk unaided
- Mental Health
- Heart Disease
- Non Communicative
- Diabetes
- Heart Conditions
- Visually Impaired
- Learning Conditions
- Asthmatic

Activities

To this end the charity provides a host of activities as agreed / requested by the users to improve health / mobility / fighting loneliness / isolation / reducing the impact of dementia on individuals and their families and staying fitter longer giving many the chance to retain home independence

The activities of the centre are always aligned with key outcomes required by Public Health / NNC through the Well Being Programme for vulnerable adults.

We have been inspected by officers from North Northants Council and our service comfortably met their high bar criteria for quality of services. This has given the team a real boost and is a very encouraging message going forward.

We are the only Day Care Centre in Corby, freely accessible, operating 5 days a week Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. offering a variety of services / activities including:

Special Events

Christmas Parties, Burns Suppers, Halloween Fun, New Year Celebrations, St Patrick's Day, St Andrews Day, Summer Inclusive Programme, Race Days (on the big screen), Easter Celebrations, Indian Food Experience, We also held a series of events to Celebrate the King's Coronation in 2023.

Tribute Acts

Stage Entertainers bring a fantastic feeling to our members and we include various tribute acts such as Elvis and Neil Diamond, and have groups such as Andante who have a wide repertoire entertaining the members at many special events. The members love these events as they bring back wonderful memories to the members with many having a really good sing along.

Activities

Floor projector interactive play, Virtual Reality Headsets, personalised individual playlists along with OTAGO in falls prevention plus Get up and Go, seated dance, aerobics, exercise sessions, smoking cessation, weigh-ins, along with many other health initiatives.

We have our very own "Body Rockers" who love doing all the exercises and have their own motif tee shirts.

We have Virtual Reality Headsets to allow our members to visit the world, go on walks while still at the centre, all through embracing modern technology.

Pet therapy, TV & Films, darts, quizzes, table top ping pong (brilliant for stimulating the brain), board games, arts & crafts, bingo, Ukulele band.

Food-market, members can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for a small donation.

We previously purchased a floor projector that the members can interact with such as walking through meadows, resting their feet in a stream with electronic fish swimming in and out, making it a living experience, plus a host of other activities all projected on the floor for many members to enjoy all at the same time. This has proven to be an excellent provision for members.

Yoga classes scheduled to commence July 2024,

As an organisation we encourage new ideas from within the membership and where new requests are made we try hard to deliver new and exciting activities. As can be seen from above there is normally a wide list of activities and this is expanding year on year. This programme of events suffered badly during the pandemic but we have bounced back stronger and fitter than ever before.

Visits by local dignitaries, sponsors, local and NNC councillors, health representatives, local schools and prospective clients are regular attendees to the centre.

Intergenerational Officer (One for the Future).

The Trustees of the Autumn Centre have never lost sight of the fact that we are not just a Day Care Centre but have the desire to become a "Community Hub". To this end we have a long-term objective to promote interaction between our older community and the younger community bringing them together to explore common ground where all members of the local community can benefit and enjoy the centre for interactive opportunities.

Outside the centre we have a Multi Activity Games Area (MUGA) that could be utilised to organise joint and mixed activities across the age spectrum. This could include different activities being led by different age groups but linked to something for all.

To achieve this ambitious proposal we would love to create a future post of an Intergenerational Worker whose role would be to explore, create and deliver an interactive development programme for all the members of the community regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, race or religion.

Over recent years we have seen the demise of youth provision and it is with this in mind we want to reach out and welcome the younger generation to feel the centre has something for them and they also can have the feeling of ownership with respect for the centre, their peers and all different generations in a positive, rewarding, and inclusive programme. Much of the future programme could operate outside the hours of our current daily service provision.

Financial Pressures (Our biggest threat!)

All charities face continual financial challenges and as already mentioned earlier in the report regarding the huge reduction of our annual grant and our lease expiring in 2025 we could face even greater pressures as a result of this. With the government increasing the National Minimum Wage from April 2024 and we as a caring charity always pay our junior members of staff the enhanced living wage, adding a considerable increase in our salaries budget.

This among other costs has forced all staff, trustees and members to be even more proactive in fundraising, sponsored activities, grant applications, chasing donations, and of course our structured income streams from our users in Tiers 1, 2 & 3 service provision.

An improved training budget agreed to pursue accreditation for the Charity to become recognised as a "Centre of Excellence"

Plus all the other related increases in utilities, various contracts, food stuffs etc are all rising pressures and many charities have gone under and this is something we are working tirelessly to avoid.

Restricted Funding (£55K +£5K =£60K) Specific Projects.

We have recently set aside some Restricted Funding as we have been very successful in bringing in new monies either through grant applications or donations. These are of course to be used for specific elements of our future plans and often in compliance with specific grant applications compliance / donation requirements.

We were given a donation of **£55K** and it is presently restricted for the building of an additional 50 sq metre activity hall from the executors for the will of Jeff Ward. Jeff passed away and had been living with dementia. The executors came to the centre and were so impressed by our services they thought they would be giving us a £20K donation but after the tour they loved what we were doing at the centre and made the donation up to £50K to build something as a lasting legacy in memory of Jeff which was a lovely gesture. This was later made up to £55K. If we wish to have a change of use we will need to go back and speak with the executors.

We also have recently received a **£5K** grant from Groundwork for a Grow / Cook & Eat project which is also restricted for this project.

We have put all the above on hold to ensure maximum opportunity with the recent announcement from Public Health for a large Capital Grant to make improvements to the building.

Sustainability for the Future

Delivery of our 3 Tier Daily Experience

April 2021 was the start of the implementation of our "Going Forward " strategy with the implementation of our new "**3 Tier Daily Experience**" pricing structure. In the past pre Covid and being paid for delivering 3 x Public Health Contracts (Value £54K per annum) which ceased in March 2021, we had to restructure our complete service delivery to give the charity any chance of survival in the coming

years (which thankfully we have managed to do) as we are still looking to go forward after that huge financial blow three years ago.

Our **"3 Tier Daily Experience"** pricing structure included for all tiers:

- Three Course Meal (including specific dietary requirements).
- All beverages
- Health Exercises, Wellness Checks, OTAGO, YOGA (from July 2024).
- Bingo / singalongs quizzes / Arts & Crafts, Table Top Games plus others.
- Support from staff with showering, meals, hydration, toileting, barber services, shaving, manicures, weighing / blood pressure checks,
- Opportunity to meet new people and forge new friendships.
- A comfortable, warm, safe welcoming environment.
- If any member is unable to attend through ill health a freshly cooked meal can be delivered to their home.

Tiers 2 & 3 include more personal care with various functions such as assisting members with toileting and meals, often One to One interaction and **Tier 3** being for members living with Dementia. The pricing structure (April 2023 – March 2024) reflects this being as below:

3 TIER DAILY EXPERIENCE

Tier 1 = £11.00 with increase to £12.00 from April 2024 (more able bodied)

Tier 2 = £30.00 with increase to £35.00 from May 2024 (early diagnosis of dementia, additional care required)

Tier 3 = £50.00 with increase to £55.00 from April 2024 (members living with dementia / continual additional care)

For all financial information please refer to our examined accounts (Appendix I).

As pointed out above we will have to increase our prices substantially from April 2024 and all the members / their families are on board and understand the reasons for the increase and our quest for financial sustainability. This has become essential for our very existence especially with the cut from April 2024 in our usual local authority annual grant.

The **Daily Experience** has proven to be of significant importance in various degrees to our many members and their families. In some instances it has given an element of life back to certain family members as all know their loved ones are

in good hands and are treated as part of **"Our Family"** but with high levels of professional support / care linked to their individual needs.

All our meals are freshly cooked daily on site by our own in-house catering team with individual requirements and needs built into any care / support packages.

We also have the facilities to ensure any member not wishing to eat all three courses at lunch time, the courses not eaten, can be taken home, packed up in catering packaging to keep fresh, for eating later.

Many of Tier 2 & Tier 3 are referred through Adult Social Services with some Tier 1 also being referred but most Tier 1 are here because they choose to be as it supports their quest of staying healthy longer, retaining independence and

meeting new friends. Also some Tier 2 & 3 are from private sources with their families paying us directly.

We are currently averaging 125 visits per week by members with the following in each tier, Tier 1 = 65, Tier 2 = 37 & Tier 3 = 23

Our overall membership is currently 120 members.

It is important to note our delivery of front line services brought in £50K per annum up until March 2021 and since relaunching our new business model because of losing PH contact funding our front line service delivery Tiers 1/2/3 will bring in over £160K per annum up to end of March 2024 and are projected to bring in £180K by the end of March 2025.

To run the Autumn Centre over the next 12 months will be in the region of £250,000.00 (yes a quarter of a million £££££'s) so we have an awful lot of services to deliver over the next 12 months to give us any hope of becoming financially sustainable and linking to our grants strategy and other income generating ideas.

We are continually looking to expand our membership for future sustainability but if the trend was in the other direction it would severely put the charity at risk of failing and therefore closure. The efforts by all the staff, members, volunteers and trustees are committed to ensure that never happens.

Working Groups

We have 4 working groups as follows:

- 1. Carers & Volunteering**
- 2. Fundraising Initiatives / Events and Grant Strategy.**
- 3. Marketing, Promotion & Website**
- 4. Five Year Business Plan**

All of these groups have been playing an instrumental role in bringing another element of sustainability to the Autumn Centre Corby through their targeted efforts in their field of expertise.

This has recently seen the fourth working group being created, the 5 Year Business Plan Working Group.

1. Carer / Volunteering

The Carer Working Group includes Trustees, Staff & family members who have a vested interest in ensuring their loved ones' needs are indeed met. This increased level of care was a new development for us from last year but the staff, trustees, volunteers, general members and now family members have all embraced the new development with open arms. This group has allowed us to link in more volunteers.

We have some excellent volunteers and counting the trustees input and other volunteers this gives us an additional level of support, if we had to pay for the volunteers time it would add over £50K to the existing salary costs. This voluntary contribution is priceless for our well being as a charity and it humbles us at their dedication for supporting our charity.

2. Fundraising Initiatives / Events & Grant Strategy

Members of this group will concentrate on income generating activities / events such as the Trustees 20K sponsored walk, fun days, our Managers sponsored swim, A Day at the Races, raffles. The group has some very experienced members in this field and is reaping dividends as we go forward.

We have set a-side £1,800 in the 24/25 financial year to utilise a professional bid writer to submit grants on our behalf and to help us navigate the bid process for the future. This is very much in line with our future grant strategy process.

3. Marketing / Promotion & Website

This group has already played a major role in: the production of leaflets & posters, designing an advert on Corby Radio, adverts in various circulars such as The Corby Trader, NHS Newsletter and helped to shape our website that we launched in 2022. This has been a real bonus getting our message out and is bringing in new members and volunteers on a regular basis as well as utilising the space in the local Corby Library. This also allows future members and their families to check the service provision, even before they set foot inside the centre. It helps current members' families to track our development and new activities / health initiatives as they are added to keep our service delivery fresh and specifically aimed at our members for their continued well being.

To promote the centre the staff were issued with new branded uniforms, picked through a consultative process with staff and volunteers. This allows us to fly our own flag at various health initiatives and community events held around the county.

4. Evolving 5 Year Business Plan.

This is our latest Working Group and will use the last 3 years trading figures since the introduction of the **3 Tier Daily Experience** to produce a Business Plan that will shape our service delivery well into the future and seek the best roadway to follow to achieve the long term objective of inhouse sustainability.

We will be looking at:

- Where we came from Pre 2002 - 2019
- The Pandemic & coming out of it 2019 - 2022
- Where we are now 2024
- Where we want/need to be 2025 - 2029

We will use our 22 years of operational experience, the pandemic, our new service delivery plan and North Northants Corporate Plan, Public Health Aims and Objectives and of course our members' needs and aspirations to strive for our ambition of being financially sustainable, by providing a service aimed at the senior community with a variety of health issues.

Currently we are providing a much needed service for the senior community offering support to many to live a healthier life and at the same time providing a complimentary service to cater for many seniors (and some younger members) already living with a variety of health issues including dementia.

Please Note

The medium/long term business plan may change over the coming months as we are in the process of exploring the Autumn Centre Corby becoming a Centre of Excellence. We are currently in talks with Public Health, NNC and Northampton University.

Transport (Local Provider) & Escort Service (in-house staff).

To help our financial sustainability we had to terminate the transport subsidy we gave to our members prior to losing the funding from Public Health in 2021. Our members realised we were forced to make this decision and have fully supported us ever since

We now have an agreement where we pay the local service provider directly on a new "Pay as you Go" service, with the current transport cost being £25K per annum. We claim this back from our individual members using the service so we now run it at nil cost to the charity.

This is an additional cost to members but they and their families fully understood why we had to implement this system and for the ending of the transport subsidy. The transport provider has vehicles adapted to carry wheelchairs and other members with mobility issues.

We provide an in-house escort service by staff who travel with the local provider with some of our members and see them safely from and into their homes.

Notable Achievements

We have achieved on so many other fronts as well as the above including:

- Our very own Deborah, who was recognised for 15 years volunteering service, in the Spirit of Corby Awards, as the best volunteer of the year, absolutely amazing. Deborah was presented with the award on the night at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Corby and again in front of staff, volunteers and members at the Autumn Centre,
- In recent summers we have faced another new challenge with having to close our centre for 2 days during the government's red warning during the heatwave. When we re-opened we provided cooling fans, ice lolly hydration stations, more ventilation, cold and iced water plus cooling towels to minimise any chance of our vulnerable users feeling unwell from the heat. Thankfully all our additional measures proved effective and our members and their families were very grateful for our awareness and implementation of an action plan. If needed again this summer we can

immediately roll out the safety measures as we remain on high alert for any forecasts of any sustained heatwaves.

- To qualify for NNC grant funding we had very short notice (about 10 days) in March 2024 to form a collaborative with 4 other partners or we would not have been able to submit a bid. This we managed to achieve and it was an amazing amount of work by ourselves and the other 4 members of the new "Older People's Collaborative" across the whole of North Northamptonshire. This proved how Professional the "Voluntary / Charitable Sector" is and how working together we can often deliver, even within a very unfavourable timeframe.
- A wonderful series of events to celebrate the King's Coronation and we were successful in our bid to NNC for a £1,500.00 grant to provide the celebrations.
- New plants are annually purchased and planted in the courtyard to complement the outside seating area which is furnished with bistro tables, chairs and picnic tables and used by members during the nice weather. This area is lovingly tended by one of our amazing volunteers.
- Continued development of the "Friends of The Autumn Centre" group, This is a group of individuals with special skills we can call upon as and when required to support the trustees & members. This will be invaluable when we build the two new garden areas for the Grow, Cook and eat projects once the boundary line has been extended. This will also allow the relaunch of the "Digging with Dementia Group".
- We had a retired solicitor visiting the centre to allow our members to raise many issues they needed guidance with. This was very successful and she was voted on to the board as a trustee at our AGM in March 2023 and thankfully again in March 2024
- Full Houses again for Members Christmas Dinners staged over a couple of days during Dec 2023 which was attended by our local mayor and representatives from Public Health, NNC and some of our sponsors.
- The previously fitted eco friendly wall heaters in the Dementia Suite continue to make it very snug even in the very cold weather.
- Pauley's continues to offer returned but edible fruit and vegetables free of charge to be collected once a week. We use as much as we can for the week's menus and offer the rest to members for a small voluntary contribution.
- Continuing to utilise a permanent promotion space in Corby Library in the Health & Well-Being area and also on their Facebook page.
- Retaining all the trustees at our recent Annual General Meeting in March 2024.
- Continued to build on the close working relationship on a number of projects with our local infant / junior schools and technical college
- Demand for the snug / quiet room continues to grow for assessments, consultations, family waiting area, staff meetings, trustees monthly meetings, meeting potential sponsors / volunteers, staff interviews and 1 to 1's. This has proven incredibly successful for our "Personal Service" requirements.

- Continuing to work with various agencies including Adult Social Care Commissioning Team, Social Prescribers, Public Health, GP Surgeries, Mental Health Team and SALT Team.
- All trustees DBS Checked

Donations / Grants / Fundraising

We are very dependent on a variety of income streams other than our charges for front line daily service provision. To that end we are so grateful to organisations, individuals and grant making funders for the following as without this combined support we would not be able to deliver what we do on a daily basis.

Donations

- £1,000.00 Corby Diagnostic Tea Bar
- £100.00 Co-op tea party
- £55,000.00 Executors of Jeff Ward's will.
- £1,000.00 Cambridge Weight Plan
- £1,000.00 RS Components
- £1,000.00 Corby Ladies Indoor Tennis Club

Grants

- £3,000.00 Members Empowerment Fund
- £2,000.00 David Cock Foundation (grow, cook & eat project),
- £5,000.00 Groundwork (grow, cook & eat project).
- £1,500.00 NNC King's Coronation

Fundraising

- £525.00 Managers Swim
- £947.00 Santa's 20 Kilometre Walk
- £401.66 Race Nights
- £270.00 Trustee (ST) Knitted Items
- £2,726.00 Also our own members with the following Raffles, Auctions, 59ers, bingo balls, fruit & veg donations

Future Plans & Hopes

The centre will continue to develop services in line with the ever increasing demands on our more senior members of the community fighting: social isolation, ill health, reduced mobility, onset of dementia, mental health, vulnerability to falls, various disabilities, hospitalisation and personal grief.

As a charity we are totally committed to continue to grow in spite of ever increasing financial pressures from loss of contracts, increased inflation especially food and energy bills, cuts in grant aid and ever reducing funding streams.

We all accept the ageing population is growing and therefore the need for facilities such as ours are in greater demand than ever before. Hence the need for writing a 5 Year Business plan to guide us into the future setting ourselves realistic and achievable targets.

Failure to create a sustainable service is not in the minds of any members, staff or trustees as we are united for the benefit of the Senior Community including many of the most vulnerable.

As mentioned elsewhere in the report we are in current talks with Public Health and Northampton University to explore the possibility of developing the Autumn Daycare Centre Corby into a Centre of Excellence. This will be accompanied by a large Capital Funding Injection and coupled to our own Restricted Funding this could see major improvements to the facility.

Through increased levels of income aligned to increased pricing for services, fundraising, donations, sponsorship and external grant applications we will continue to shape the "Care Team" to complement and grow the service. If we fail to do this and attempt to stand still we will implode and fail our client / member base and the families of those often in desperate need of such a service.

- As has been the case in the past we will once again probably be forced to call on our reserves in the next few years but hopefully our service will, in the not too distant future, become self financing.
- Continue building good working relationships with Public Health, where together we can identify and meet common needs.
- To create an Arts Programme to design murals / photographs on parts of the building to celebrate our members and local heroes.
- Continue to undertake annual reviews of all our policies and procedures to ensure best practice and continual improvement

DESIRED FUTURE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

As a charity we have had a Capital Programme item on our monthly Agenda for the past 3 years and trustees / staff and members have agreed to pursue the following over coming years.

Dementia Suite

- We have wanted to extend the footprint of the Dementia Suite by pushing the toilets back to create 3 new DDA compliant toilet facilities.
- Taking out the west facing window and installing french doors into a safe garden area where members can sit and relax. This could alternatively accommodate a small conservatory to allow all year round access.
- Extend the east wall in the dementia suite to incorporate existing storage rooms into being an integral part of the footprint to allow us to invite more members to utilise the suite.
- Create a new garden / outside area on the east boundary to allow a host of activities to be enjoyed and to implement the Grow, Cook and Eat project with funding (£2K) from the David Cock Foundation. This will include the relaunch of the "Digging for Dementia Group".

Memory Cafe / Extending West Boundary Fence Line.

- To remove a window and fit outward opening french doors to create a garden and alfresco dining area.
- To extend the current boundary fence line to create an additional 80 sq metres. This will allow us to deliver the Grow, Cook and Eat project with funding recently received from Groundwork.

Reception Area

- To upgrade the existing toilets and create 3 x new DDA compliant toilets giving more room in the reception area.
- To install a doorway into the external area and build a new reception office to allow all visitors to be greeted on arrival at the centre.

More Recently to Build a Multifunctional Activity Hall in the CourtYard

- We have recently received a donation of £55K in memory of Jeff Ward who passed away in 2023 living with dementia. In conversation with the executors of Jeff Ward's Will we have agreed to build an activity hall in the courtyard to give the members an additional 50 sq metres of all year round multifunctional activity space.

Long Term Mezzanine Floor

- To create a mezzanine floor in the space above the false ceiling in the main hall. This has been a long term plan and may be further down the line but it will one day allow us to provide a host of additional services. As a lift will be required this has to date made this financially unachievable.

Desired Capital for Future Consideration

- Creating a new improved personal care facility with a hoist, shower and possible step in the bath.
- Staff room for changing, washing etc
- Admin / business development office.
- Storage will always be needed and as we develop a capital programme storage will need building in / reviewing.

Financial Transparency

Lee McCormick leads the team and has been an excellent Manager since taking up the role nearly 7 years ago. We are all very much indebted to her and her excellent team of staff and volunteers.

Lee has developed a close working relationship with an officer from CVS Northampton (Brenda Peers Ross) and produces monthly spreadsheets which are copied to our main funders and trustees.

This is complemented with monthly updates by the Treasurer at Trustees meetings on current balance, current income / expenditure plus projected income / expenditure to the end of the current financial year. This ensures transparency and financial dealings are scrutinised at a number of levels by all the trustees.

Unfortunately CVS Northampton will cease to operate from June 2024 owing to a number of financial pressures, a very sad day for the Voluntary Community.

With the cessation of CVS Northampton we have made alternative arrangements regarding our annual accounts and pay-roll services. Our independent examiner this year will be undertaken by Brenda Peers-Ross

Reserves Policy

An amount of approximately 6 months operational costs are normally kept in reserve along with a small committed capital fund for future development of the Centre (to act as match funding for future capital grant applications) as secured funding, if ever a Termination Strategy had to be implemented. We need to ensure we can meet our legal obligations towards our hard working and valued staff plus any outstanding bills / contracted services.

The reserve can also be utilised, if for any reason, existing funding sources are late in processing either grants or contractual payments for the wide-ranging care / activity programme currently in place.

Benefit with Testimonials As can be seen from the report the Charity of the Autumn Centre meets a growing need for the senior community and various younger individuals living with various disabilities and needs in Corby and beyond. Without the Autumn Daycare Centre many believe many of the senior community living with a wide range of health issues lives would be much poorer than they are at present.

Testimonial 1 : My Mother Janet

The facility of the Autumn Centre in Corby has and continues to be a lifeline for my family. My mother Janet is a regular at the centre, attends every day for 4 hours and really enjoys her time there.

Dementia is a very hard disease to come to terms with, mum has had this for over 7 years now and as a family we struggled to get our heads around this. Mum has attended the centre for 2 or 3 years and the stimulation she receives from the support team at the centre is paramount to her quality of life.

My dad is my mum's full-time carer and without the Autumn Centre would be in a much darker place. It gives him the respite he needs to recharge his battery each day. My dad is able to attend the clubs he is a member of and socialise with other friends as therapy, as it can be very lonely otherwise.

Mum definitely benefits from all that happens at the Autumn Centre, we can really see a difference in mum's awareness of everything around her, after she attends the centre.

The team at the Autumn Centre work hard and know how to interact with mum on a daily basis and this is very visible. This service is vital to anyone who has family members with dementia or requires any support in this field.

The family of Janet Jeffery

Testimonial 2 : What an amazing place! (April 2023)

What an amazing place the Autumn Centre is! My mum and dad Jean and Mike love coming twice a week. It has improved mum's confidence so much and they love talking to their new found friends. They even try to schedule all their appointments around their Autumn Centre days - so they don't miss out. Their 3 course lunch always sounds delicious. Mum and dad love the chair exercises, the musical bingo, playing dominoes, quizzes, bingo games and so much more. The staff and volunteers are so caring and supportive, making the centre have a real family feel. My dad was dancing at the Christmas Party now he is in his 80's. I highly recommend the Autumn Centre.

Sarah (Jean and Mike's daughter)

Testimonial 3 : A massive thank you

I just wanted to give you all at the Autumn Centre a massive thank you as since Mum has started we have seen such a massive improvement in her mental state and wellbeing.

Before Mum started at the Autumn Centre she was suicidal and in a very depressive state. She had just spent two months in St. Mary's and when she was discharged was still not any better. She just cried a lot and did nothing for herself.

She is now speaking a lot more and seems happier in herself. She gets herself dressed and makes her bed, which is a huge improvement. She is confident and outgoing.

The Autumn Centre has done wonders for Mum and I just want to let you all know you are amazing. Please continue doing a fantastic job.

Kerry - (Linda Maughan's daughter)

Testimonial 4: Tribute to my father

When my Mum passed away six years ago one of my biggest concerns was my father being lonely with close family not living in the same county. I wanted to find somewhere for my dad to be able to socialise with people of the same age. I can truly say the Autumn Centre was the answer to mine and my father's prayers.

Not only does it provide five days a week of fabulous homemade three course lunches, fantastic activities along with transport to and from the centre.

Karen McGee - (daughter of William Fincham)

Our heartfelt thanks once again go out to a large number of groups, individuals and organisations:

- A.T.O. Corby Cab & Star Cabs Corby (contract ceased Dec 2023).
- Matts Cabs (new transport provider since Dec 2023).
- Corby Lions
- W Pauley
- Friends of Corby Woodland Project
- Corby Diagnostic Centre Tea Bar
- Morrisons Supermarket
- RS Components
- North Northants Council
- Brenda-Peers Ross - Independent Examiner
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation
- Co-op
- Corby Library Services
- Growing Community Award Scheme (David Cock Foundation)
- The Executors for the Will of Jeff Ward (Lesley & Caroline)
- Groundwork (Grow, Cook & Eat Project).
- Starbucks Corby
- And of course our very own Staff, Volunteers, Members and Well-wishers.
- The newly formed (March 2024) Older People's Collaborative.
- The Orchard Team.

Thank you all

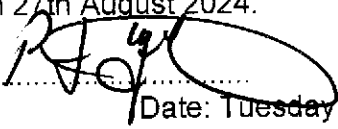
Prepared and presented to the Board of Trustees by the Company Secretary for approval / adoption and signed on their behalf.

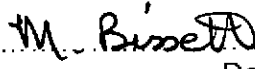
Trustees Responsibilities

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.
- 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 1993.
- 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.

The trustees report was produced by our Company Secretary and presented to the trustees for adoption on 27th August 2024.

Peter Floody MBE.....
Company Secretary Date: Tuesday 27th August 2024

Marie Bissett.....
Chairperson Date Tuesday 27th August 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of:
THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD**

Page 26

Registered Charity Number: 1110164

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on the attached pages 27 to 32.

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 this year under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, as amended; and
- state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 of 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with the Companies section 386 of the 2006 Act: or
- the accounts do not accord with these records: or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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: or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Brenda Peers-Ross

Brenda Peers-Ross FMAAT, ACIE
28th October 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023
		£	£	£			£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		3,486	55,000	58,486	9,912	-	9,912
Charitable Activities	1	238,505	5,000	243,505	171,179	-	171,179
Other Income		6,583	-	6,583	1,012	-	1,012
Total income		248,574	60,000	308,574	182,103	-	182,103
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		-	-	-	70	-	70
Charitable activities	3	230,481	-	230,481	188,859	-	188,859
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		230,481	-	230,481	188,929	-	188,929
Net income/(expenditure)		18,093	60,000	78,093	(6,826)	-	(6,826)
Reconciliation of funds							
Transfer between funds		(2,000)	2,000				
Total funds brought forward		142,666	-	142,666	149,492	-	149,492
Total funds carried forward		158,759	62,000	220,759	142,666	-	142,666

Income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Company Number: 05397008

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4	66	-	66	88
Current Assets					
Debtors	5	6,047	-	6,047	305
Cash at bank and in hand		153,570	62,000	215,570	142,927
Investment		-	-	-	-
		159,617	62,000	221,617	143,232
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(924)	-	(924)	(654)
		(924)	-	(924)	(654)
Net current assets /(liabilities)		158,693	62,000	220,693	142,578
Net assets/(liabilities)		158,759	62,000	220,759	142,666
Charity Funds		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Unrestricted funds	7	158,759	-	158,759	142,666
Restricted	8	-	62,000	62,000	-
Total charity funds/(deficit)		158,759	62,000	220,759	142,666

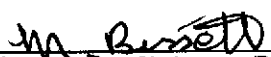
For the year ending 31st March 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- (ii) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- (iii) these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within the Companies Act 2006, SORP (FRS 102) effective October 2019 and relevant UK accounting standards.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 24th September 2024,
Signed on behalf of the board of trustees.


Marie Bissett Chairperson/Director


P Floody MBE Company Secretary/Director

Notes on pages 30 to 32 form part of the financial statements.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Practice SORP (FRS102) issued on 1st October 2019 and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

Format

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a Statement of Financial Activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the year.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants are brought into account on a receivable basis.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is stated inclusive of value added tax.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all tangible fixed assets by instalments over the expected useful lives. The period generally applicable are:

Equipment	25% on	reducing balance method
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Intangible income

Intangible income, in the form of donated facilities and voluntary help etc., is not included in the financial statements since it is not considered practicable to quantify such income.

Reserves

The current reserve policy is to maintain sufficient cash flow for known commitments, and the replacement of replacement of certain assets. Not all grants/income are received at the beginning of the financial year other are received in arrears.

Risk

The directors/trustees do not believe the organisation is subject to any substantial risk beyond those disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The organisation has employer and public liability insurance to protect it in the case of a claim.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
1 Charitable activities					
NNC		38,500	-	38,500	48,270
Groundwork		-	5,000	5,000	-
NCF		3,000	-	3,000	-
		<u>41,500</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>46,500</u>	<u>48,270</u>
Café income		40	-	40	23
Tier 1/2		118,892	-	118,892	96,164
Tier 3		56,222	-	56,222	21,760
Hall hire		30	-	30	540
Transport		19,095	-	19,095	-
Activities raffles etc.		2,191	-	2,191	3,773
Fareshare		535	-	535	649
		<u>238,505</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>243,505</u>	<u>171,179</u>
2 Charitable activities					
Employment costs	3	150,068	-	150,068	132,807
Training courses and activities		7,026	-	7,026	4,202
Stationery, printing, postage, etc		745	-	745	628
Telephones, internet		1,680	-	1,680	1,466
Equipment, alarm etc		565	-	565	5,865
Repairs, maintenance and renewals		3,461	-	3,461	5,505
Rent, rates, heat and light		9,649	-	9,649	8,571
Transportation		21,767	-	21,767	-
Storage unit		3,484	-	3,484	-
Sundries		2,007	-	2,007	3,016
Cleaning and hygiene costs		1,585	-	1,585	1,537
Marketing, publicity		2,220	-	2,220	4,364
Provisions		22,416	-	22,416	17,418
Insurance		571	-	571	565
Governance					
Professional fees		2,759	-	2,759	2,401
Independent Examination		456	-	456	484
Depreciation		22	-	22	30
Total expenditure		<u>230,481</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>230,481</u>	<u>188,859</u>
3 Trustees and Employment costs					
Gross salaries		142,431	-	142,431	127,285
Employer NI		5,074	-	5,074	3,225
ER Pension		2,449	-	2,449	2,297
Volunteer Expenses		-	-	-	-
DBS Checks		114	-	114	-
		<u>150,068</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,068</u>	<u>132,807</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

There are no employee being paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees by head count during the year was: 8 (2023:8)

During the year the trustees received £nil in remuneration. (2023: £nil)

The total expenditure reimbursed to trustees amounted to £nil (2023: £nil)

4 Tangible assets

Cost

Balance 01.04.23

Add: Additions during the year

Depreciation

At 1 April 2023

Charge in year

At 31 March 2024

Net Book Value

At 31 March 2024

At 31 March 2023

	2024	2023
	Tangible Assets	Tangible Assets
	£	£
	15,612	15,612
	-	-
	<u>15,612</u>	<u>15,612</u>
	15,524	15,494
	22	30
	<u>15,546</u>	<u>15,524</u>
	<u>66</u>	
		<u>88</u>

5 Debtors

Other

Prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
	5,545	-
	502	305
	<u>6,047</u>	<u>305</u>

6 Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year

Sundry creditors

Accruals

	2024	2023
	£	£
	(914)	(144)
	(10)	(510)
	<u>(924)</u>	<u>(654)</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7 Unrestricted reserves	Opening Balance 2023 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2024 £
Fixed Assets	88	-	(22)	-	66
Unrestricted	27,287	248,574	(230,459)	(11,554)	33,848
Designated: Furniture replacement	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
Designated: Equipment replacement	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Designated: Redecoration etc.	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Designated: IT equipment	1,605	-	-	-	1,605
Designated: Covid-19	601	-	-	(601)	-
General Reserve	103,085	-	-	10,155	113,240
	142,666	248,574	(230,481)	(2,000)	158,759

The Trustees have designated reserves for replacement of furniture , equipment and IT equipment based on a cycle of replacement.

The Centre is now responsible for internal redecoration and is trying to build a fund over the next few years.

Trustees have allocated a general reserves to ensure adequate cash flow to meet liabilities, grants and other income are not always received in advance. The aim as part of the Trustee's good governance is to build a general reserve to cover six months operating costs, based on current cost that amounts to £152,240

8 Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance 2023 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2024 £
Grant Groundwork	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Legacy from Jeff Ward	-	55,000	-	-	55,000
David Cock Foundation	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
	-	60,000	-	-	62,000

Groundwork - funds are a contribution towards "Grwn, Cook, Eat project.

The Legacy received from Jeff Wade is for capital expenditure and professional fees.

David Cock Foundation is for the Grow, Cook, and Eat project.

9 Workforce pension

The Autumn Centre operate a NEST Pension Scheme

10 Ultimate Controlling Party

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its trustees, who are also the directors, and whose names are shown at the front of the financial statements.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1110164

Accounts

Company Registered Number: 05397008
Registered Charlty Number: 1110164

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD
DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st MARCH 2023

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
DIRECTORS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
DIRECTORS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Legal and Administrative Information:

Company Registration Number: 05397008

Charity Registration Number: 1110164

Registered Office The Autumn Centre
Counts Farm Road
Corby
Northants
NN18 8BH

Directors/Trustees: M Bissett - Chair
N Bhatia – Vice Chair
L Copeland (appointed 30.03.23)
M Craig
Diane Floody
P Floody
P Hulme
M Palmer
Janice Paton
J Sheldon
J Spalding
S Sorrie (appointed 30.03.23)
S Tew

Company Secretary: P Floody

Treasurer: P Floody

Bankers: Co-operative Bank
Delf House
Southways
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent Examiners: CVS Northamptonshire
32-36 Hazelwood Road
Northampton NN1 1LN

The trustees present their report, together with the financial statement of the Charity (See Appendix I) for the year ended 31st March 2023

Executive Summary 25th July 2023

During the height of the pandemic the Autumn Centre closed and reopened on a number of occasions. Thankfully this is now a part of recent history but we continue to retain some practices adopted during the pandemic to ensure we remain vigilant and resist any level of complacency for the future.

We have had to make many changes over the past three years owing to the pandemic and the cessation of 3 contracts being delivered on behalf of Public Health. We were informed (along with many other charities / service providers) our three contracts for delivering services on behalf of Public Health would definitely terminate on 31st March 2021 (loss of £54K per annum) as Public Health were restructuring their prioritised outputs shifting more towards Homelessness and Substance Misuse.

As a result of this we had to come up with a financial strategy that linked to our reserves and continuing support from North Northants Council would allow us the opportunity to pursue financial stability over the coming years. This is linked to the introduction of an income plan, the "3 Tier Daily Experience", explained in detail later in this report with the cost to members being dependent on the level of care / support required by an individual.

Since its implementation the "3 Tier Daily Experience" is nudging us towards future financial sustainability with increased levels of financial income for our extended level of services on offer to our members and their families.

We have been extremely fortunate to have retained the same manager over the past 6 years as she has built an amazing team around her and leads us with professionalism, enthusiasm and an incredibly welcoming personality.

As recently as last week on Thursday 20th July 2023 we had an assessment visit from the North Northants Council Monitoring Team and the team were really impressed with our service delivery, again this is a huge boost to the staff, volunteers, trustees and members of the Charity.

Trustees Report 1st April 2022 - March 31st 2023

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The recruitment and appointment of new trustees / directors is either through recommendation to the Board of Trustees or proposed by members and elected at the Annual General Meeting. Owing to Covid 19 restrictions we were unable to hold an AGM in either 2020 or 2021 and all serving trustees elected at the 2019 AGM agreed to serve until the next AGM which thankfully we were able to hold in February 2022 and since then another AGM in March 2023.

The trustees meet on the last Tuesday of the month to discuss business on behalf of the charity and to take any decisions required by the trustees as an active and inclusive process. A couple of years ago, due to the various lockdowns, we had to learn how to hold meetings in a Zoom format (not bad considering 95% of us on the board are pensioners). This we mastered but it did at the time impact on the number of trustees tuning in, thankfully this is presently a thing of the past. We have been able to hold face to face monthly meetings for nearly the past 18 months, which is great to build further sociable links.

All trustee meetings are minuted and sent out to all trustees to be agreed at the next monthly meeting along with any matters arising / amendments before proceeding with that month's agreed agenda.

The Centre employed 8 members of staff including the Manager who runs the Centre on a day-to-day basis in partnership with the users, volunteers, staff and the Board of Directors (Trustees who are all members of the charity). This number rose to 9 members of staff in May 2022 as we appointed an additional carer for the Dementia Suite as the need was clearly developing with increasing pressure to accommodate more new members living with dementia.

Without the staff, under the excellent leadership of our manager, the charity would not be in the position we are today coming out of the Pandemic stronger than when we went into it and more resilient.

North Northants Council continued to support us with a grant in 2022 and confirmed the same level of support for 2023. We are indebted to NNC for its continued support. We are clearly proving the benefit of such a facility in the north of the county to the new authority and continue to be able to rely on their financial and professional support for the foreseeable future.

The town used to boast three day centers (Central Day Centre, Arran Way Day Centre and Darley Dale Day Centre) but all three were merged in 2002 into what we have today "The Autumn Centre", as it was proving difficult to fund three centers in one town, and all three were funded by Northants County Council and Corby Borough Council (now merged into North Northants Council).

With the merger of the three facilities, it greatly reduced the funding needed through the two councils and has saved the authorities many hundreds of thousands of pounds over the past 21 years with better facilities and services all under one roof. The building is owned by NNC, and it has agreed to retain landlords' responsibility for the fabric of the building with the charity ensuring the centre is maintained to a high standard.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity is very focused on its desire to improve the quality of life for the over 50's in Corby and the surrounding area. We also have some slightly younger disabled members of the community. To this end the centre provides a host of activities as agreed / requested by the users to improve health / mobility / fighting loneliness / isolation / reducing the impact of dementia on individuals and their families and staying fitter longer. The activities of the centre are always aligned with key outcomes required by Public Health through the Well Being Programme for vulnerable adults. We will continue to maintain a good and fruitful relationship with Public Health and the new North Northants Council. We have been inspected by officers from North Northants Council and our service met their criteria for quality of services. This has given the team a real boost and is a very encouraging message going forward.

We had to realign our services since the pandemic and as a result we had to close the Hairdressing Salon and the Memory Cafe, but both these gaps have been filled with service provision more aligned to our current / developing services.

Special Events such as Christmas Parties, Burns Suppers, Halloween Fun, New Year Celebrations, Summer Inclusive Programme, Race Days (on the big screen), Easter Celebrations, Indian Food Experience Stage Entertainers have all returned with the pandemic recent history, although we are always on our guard as the infection is not yet behind us. Thankfully the continuing booster jabs seem to be letting us relax and enjoy ourselves more freely.

Special Visits by local dignitaries, sponsors, local councilors, health representatives, local schools and prospective clients were badly hit by the pandemic but these have thankfully returned with visits by NNC Leader and CEO in 2022 and The Mayor of Corby rekindling previous connections and we will continue to develop links with schools and colleges with placements / work experience to support our new operating structure and service delivery.

As an organisation we encourage new ideas from within the membership and where new requests are made, we try hard to deliver new and exciting activities. As can be seen from above there is normally a wide list of activities, and this was expanding year on year but again devastated during the pandemic, but we have bounced back stronger and fitter than ever before.

The Trustees of the Autumn Centre have never lost sight of the fact that we are not just a Day Care Centre but an all-inclusive Community Centre. To this end we have a long-term objective to promote interaction between our older community and the younger community bringing them together to explore common ground where all members of the local community can utilise the centre for interactive opportunities. Outside the centre we have a Multi Activity Games Area (MUGA) that could be utilised to organise joint and mixed activities across the age spectrum. This could include different activities being led by different age groups but linked to something for all.

To achieve this ambitious proposal, we will look to create a future post of an Intergenerational Worker whose role will be to explore, create and deliver an interactive development programme for all the members of the community regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, race, or religion. Over recent years we have seen the demise of youth provision and it is with this in mind we want to reach out and welcome the younger generation to feel the centre has something for them and they also can have the feeling of ownership with respect for the centre, their peers and all different generations in a positive, rewarding, and inclusive programme.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

April 2021 was the start of the implementation of our "Going Forward " strategy with the implementation of our new " **3 Tier Daily Experience**" pricing structure. In the past pre Covid and being paid for delivering 3 x Public Health Contracts (Value £54K per annum) which ceased in March 2021, we had to restructure our complete service delivery to give the charity any chance of survival in the coming years.

Our "**3 Tier Daily Experience**" pricing structure included for all tiers:

- Three Course Meal
- All beverages
- Health Exercises / Activities
- Bingo
- Support from staff and volunteers

Tiers 2 & 3 include more personal care with various functions such as assisting members with the toilet and with feeding, often One to One interaction and Tier 3 being for Dementia Sufferers. The pricing structure (April 2021 – March 2022) reflects this being:

DAILY EXPERIENCE

Tier 1 = £10.00 with increase from April 2023 (more able bodied)

Tier 2 = £30.00 with increase from May 2023 (some additional care required)

Tier 3 = £50.00 with increase from May 2023 members living with dementia / continual additional care)

- The reason for the month's delay for an increase for Tiers 2 & 3 is in line with Social Services billing procedures and their agreed price increase for the services provided by ourselves for their clients / our members.

For all financial information please refer to our examined accounts (Appendix I).

The **Daily Experience** has proven to be of significant importance in various degrees to our many members and their families. In some instances, it has given an element of life back to certain family members as all know their loved ones are

As April 21- March 22 was our first year implementing the new "3 Tier Daily Experience". As trustees we agreed to hold the prices the same for the next financial year (April 22 — March 23) as a thank you for so many members sticking with us, as we accept it had meant a financial hike for all our members, in our quest to become financially independent in the years to come. This also helped with pressures facing our members with crippling cost of living through inflation

__ and in particular food prices and energy prices. The members were so grateful for this extra year with no price increase.

As pointed out above we will have to increase our prices from April 2023 and all the members / their families are on board and understand the reasons for the increase and our quest for financial sustainability.

The Daily Experience has proven to be of significant importance in various degrees to our many members and their families. In some instances, it has given an element of life back to certain family members as all know their loved ones are in good hands and are treated as part of "Our Family" but with high levels of professional support / care linked to their individual needs.

All our meals are cooked on site by our own catering staff with individual requirements and needs built into any care / support packages.

We also have the facilities to ensure any member not wishing to eat all three courses at lunchtime, the courses not eaten, can be taken home, packed up in catering packaging to keep fresh, for eating later.

Most of Tier 2 & Tier 3 are referred through Adult Social Services with some Tier 1 also being referred but most Tier 1 are here because they choose to be as it supports their quest of staying healthy longer, retaining independence and meeting new friends.

Working Groups

We have created 4 working groups as follows:

1. Carer
2. Fundraising & Events
3. Marketing, Promotion & Website
4. Five Year Business Plan

All of these groups have been playing an instrumental role in bringing another element of sustainability to the Autumn Centre Corby through their targeted efforts in their field of expertise.

This has recently seen a fourth working group being created, the 5 Year Business Plan Working Group.

1 Carer Group

The Carer Working Group includes Trustees, Staff & family members who have a vested interest in ensuring their loved ones' needs are indeed met. This increased level of care was a new development for us from last year but the staff/ trustees/ volunteers / general members and now family members have all embraced the new development with open arms. The group meet over a cuppa and discuss related issues and where help is needed either as a charity or for individuals.

3 Marketing / Promotion & New Website

4 Five Year Business Plan Working Group.

We will be looking at:

- Where we came from 2002 - 2019
- The Pandemic & coming out of it 2019 - 2022
- Where we are now 2023
- Where we want / need to be 2023 - 2028

We will use our 21 years of operational experience, the pandemic, our new service delivery plan and North Northants Corporate Plan, Public Health Aims and Objectives and of course our members' needs and aspirations to strive for our ambition of being financially sustainable by providing services aimed at the senior community with a variety of health issues.

We are indebted to NNC as without their current and future help we would not be able to even think of striving to become independently sustainable over the coming years.

Currently we are providing a much-needed service for the senior community offering support to many to live a healthy life and at the same time providing a complimentary service to cater for many seniors already suffering a variety of health issues including dementia.

Transport Costs

To help our financial sustainability we had to terminate the transport subsidy we gave to our members prior to the pandemic subsidising their taxi costs. Our members realised why we were making this decision and have supported us. They now have an agreement where we pay the taxi company directly on a new

“Pay as you Go” service (we claim this back from individuals) thus saving us at least £10,000 per annum since 2021, a huge saving thus again lessening the blow from increased financial pressures.

Other Notable Achievements

We have achieved on so many other fronts as well as the above including:

During the pandemic we delivered thousands of food parcels, activities online over the internet and made phone calls on a daily basis to ensure our members were not isolated but always had a volunteer or member of staff to talk to.

- Any member suffering from long covid is still part of our service delivery and additional support can be offered in a variety of ways.
- We firmly believe the pandemic would have permanently closed the Autumn Centre with the loss of all our services had it not been for the Furlough Scheme, this is something we will never forget or take for granted.
- In the summer of 2022, we faced another new challenge with having to close our centre for 2 days during the government's red warning during the heatwave. When we re-opened, we provided cooling fans, ice lolly hydration stations, more ventilation, cold and iced water plus cooling towels to minimise any chance of our vulnerable users feeling unwell from the heat. Thankfully all our additional measures proved effective, and our members and their families were very grateful for our awareness and implementation of an action plan.
- We purchased a floor projector that the members can interact with such as walking through meadows, resting their feet in a stream with electronic fish swimming in and out making it a living experience plus a host of other activities all projected on the floor for many members to enjoy all at the same time.
- Trustee (ST) knitting many saleable items with all the income going to the centre.
- A wonderful series of events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in 2022 and also her sad demise.
- New plants are annually purchased and planted in the courtyard along with some additional bistro tables and chairs when the area is used by members during the nice weather.

-
- Continued development "Friends of The Autumn Centre" group for individuals with special skills we can call upon as and when required to support the trustees & members. We had a retired solicitor visiting the centre to allow our members to raise many issues they needed guidance with. This was very successful, and she was voted on to the board as a trustee at our AGM in March 2023.
 - Developed and launched a new website in June 2022 to promote the centre and to keep members, supporters and sponsors up to date with all the activities, services, timetable, calendar, newsletter, fundraising events and opportunity to suggest ideas, comment, donate, sponsor and follow what is going on at the centre. This is proving invaluable for many new members who learned about the Autumn Centre from the website.
 - Raised over £1,000 by staging a Burns Supper at the centre for our members. Over £600 was raised by a 20 Kilometre sponsored walk undertaken by a trustee and joined on the last leg by many staff, trustees, members and well-wishers. Our Managers' swim-a thon raised over £500, Jaguar Club £500, Corby Diagnostic Tea Bar £1,000, Corby Lions £500
 - All in all with donations, fundraising, sponsorship and other money spinners we brought in an extra £20K over the financial year. A lot of extra work but well worth the effort.
 - Full Houses for Members Christmas Dinners staged over a couple of days during December 2022.
 - Developing the Dementia Suite with more members joining resulted in the need to engage a new member of staff who joined the team in May 2022. We managed to secure funding to allow our new Dementia Assistant to gain a level 3 Dementia qualification.
 - New eco-friendly wall heaters fitted in the Dementia Suite making it very snug even during the coldest winter months.
 - We are already looking to expand the footprint of our Dementia Suite in 2023/24 owing to the current and potential demand on our services.
 - Retaining a "Digging for Dementia" gardening group of dementia sufferers being supported by staff and a very dynamic volunteer.
 - Utilising a training matrix with over 70 site specific courses for staff, trustees and volunteers including Dementia Awareness, this is proving invaluable.
 - The training is coupled with regular individual supervision sessions between staff and our Manager to ensure any issues are addressed early. It is very important to us that all the staff and volunteers enjoy coming to work. To this end we also produced an Employee's Handbook with all terms / conditions produced by both staff and trustees.

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- Pauley's continues to offer returned but edible fruit and vegetables free of charge to be collected once a week. We use as much as we can for the week's menus and offer the rest to users for a small voluntary contribution.
 - Fare Share offers food on a weekly basis from major supermarkets. We pay £5.00 per week for this service and it has proven to be a life saver for many of our members as we also use what we need for menus and let the rest go for a small donation.
 - Secured a permanent promotional space in Corby Library in the Health & Well-Being area and also on their Facebook page.
 - Retaining all the trustees with all agreeing to serve until we were able to hold an AGM after the pandemic which thankfully took place in February 2022 and our most recent AGM in March 2023 had a fantastic turnout by members.
 - Rekindled a close working relationship on a number of projects with our local Exeter School.

Carried forward a 2K grant to create a new herb, vegetable, and flower garden through the David Cock Foundation with a further £2K from match funding. This is still waiting to happen with the funding ring fenced for this project once we have a new lease in place with the new extended boundary line from NNC.

- Creation of a "quiet room" for assessments, consultations, family waiting area and occasional meetings. This has proven very successful and really added to our "personal service delivery" required at times by members or indeed their families.
- Manager fully qualified and continues to deliver Otago in Falls Prevention plus Get up and Go, Seated Dance & Aerobics Exercise Sessions, table ping pong (brilliant for stimulating the brain), smoking cessation, weigh-ins along with many other related healthy initiatives.
- We have our very own "Body Rockers" who love doing all the exercises and have their own motif t-shirts.
- NNC has kindly offered to extend their delivery of our Arts & Crafts for another set of sessions. We are all very grateful for this wonderful offer.
- Linked to the above we have Virtual Reality Headsets to allow our members to visit the world, go on walks while still at the centre, all through embracing modern technology.
- All trustees DBS Checked
- April 2022 to March end 2023 was our first uninterrupted trading opportunity since the pandemic and our membership has continued to grow which works towards our long-term objective of in-house financial sustainability.
- A new chiropody service visiting the centre on a monthly basis.
- Continue to hold regular monthly trustees meetings to conduct business on behalf of the centre and being face to face is so much better than the zoomed meetings we did during the pandemic.

Future Plans & Hopes

The centre will hopefully continue to develop services in line with the ever-increasing demands on our more senior members of the community fighting: social isolation, ill health, reduced mobility, onset of dementia, mental health, vulnerability to falls, various disabilities, hospitalisation and personal grief.

As a charity we are totally committed to continue to grow in spite of ever-increasing financial pressures from loss of contracts, increased inflation especially food and energy bills, reducing funding streams. We all accept the ageing population is growing and therefore the need for facilities such as ours are in greater demand than ever before. Hence the need for writing a 5 Year Business plan to guide us into the future setting ourselves realistic and achievable targets. Failure to create a sustainable service is not in the minds of any members, staff or trustees as we are united for the benefit of the Senior Corby Community including those most vulnerable.

- Through increased levels of income aligned to increased pricing for services, fundraising, donations, sponsorship, and external grant applications we will continue to shape the "Carer Team" to complement and grow the service. If we fail to do this and attempt to standstill we will implode and fail our client / member base and the families of those often in desperate need of such a service.
- As is the current case we will be forced to call on our reserves in the next few years but hopefully our service will in the not-too-distant future become self-financing. Thus, reducing the need to exhaust our reserves and utilising such reserves for proactive reasons rather than just for survival. This has recently been inevitable because of the pandemic, loss of income related contracts and other financial pressures.
- A big thanks to North Northants Officer, Julie McKinnon, for seeking to secure a new lease on the same terms and conditions, hopefully this will be for a period long enough to allow us to submit substantial bids to grow the facility and services over the coming years, to meet increased demand. Ideally this would be for at least 25 years. Also, for her continued support / advice on a variety of issues over a number of years.
- Continue building good working relationships with Public Health, where together we can meet common needs.
- To create an Arts Programme to design murals / photographs on parts of the building to celebrate our members and local heroes.
- The Charity is looking into a future plan to engage an Intergenerational Worker to create good supportive links between the youth and elders within the community. This would allow many joint initiatives between many of the age groups to create a "One Community" displaying support, interaction and respect from all parties.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

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-
- Continue to undertake annual reviews of all our policies and procedures to ensure best practice and continual improvement.
 - We have a project with Public Health grant funding and North Northants Council to develop a number of new initiatives such as: extending our fenceline to gain more outside space, extending our garden areas, convert some windows into doorways to allow greater access to outside facilities and AI fresco dining, improvements to the dementia suite and to reconfigure all the main toilets to be unisex / disabled compliant.
 - Once the Public Health Project is delivered, the next development stage could look to build a roof over the courtyard to create an orangery giving far more indoor space and therefore all year-round service provision as additional outside space will be catered for with the fence line boundary extension.
 - One of our long-term plans has been to create a mezzanine suite in the space above the false ceiling in the main hall. This would be fitted with a lift and allow additional activities / services and increased numbers as we are always struggling with existing space to meet current needs.
 - Access to the centre is DDA compliant but we would love to make the centre more easily accessible to unaccompanied members in on - powered wheelchairs as the existing ramp makes this difficult for independent wheelchair users (thankfully staff and volunteers are always on hand to offer support).

Financial Transparency

Lee McCormick leads the team and has been an excellent Manager since taking up the role nearly 6 years ago. We are all very much indebted to her and her excellent team of staff and volunteers. Lee has developed a close working relationship with an officer from CVS Northampton (Brenda Peers Ross) and produces monthly spreadsheets which are copied to our main funders and trustees.

This is complemented with monthly updates by the Treasurer at Trustees meetings on current balance, current income / expenditure plus projected income/ expenditure to the end of the current financial year. This ensures transparency and financial dealings are scrutinised at a number of levels by all the trustees.

Reserves Policy

An amount of approx. 6 months operational costs are normally kept in reserve along with a small committed capital fund for future development of the Centre (to act as match funding for future capital grant applications) and secured funding if ever a Termination Strategy had to be implemented to ensure we could meet our legal obligations towards our hard working and valued staff plus any outstanding bills / contracted services.

The reserve can also be utilised if for any reason existing funding sources are late in processing either grants or contractual payments for the wide-ranging care / activity programme currently in place.

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

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PUBLIC BENEFIT

As can be seen from the report the Charity of the Autumn Centre meets a growing need for the over 50's community and various individuals with various disabilities and needs in Corby and surrounding villages. As well as the activities mentioned in the body of the report we support, within the facility, a host of other users and activity providers.

Our heartfelt thanks once again goes to a large number of groups, individuals and organisations:

- North Northants Council
- A.T.O. Corby Cabs & Sky Cabs Corby
- Corby Lions / W Pauley
- Families of Late Members Rogers Memorial & Geoffrey Teboon.
- Staff members' mother in-law family gilding E200 to the centre.
- D Thompson (painter & decorator of the Quiet Room)
- Vaahnu (donation of sensory room equipment).
- Friends of Corby Woodland Project
- S&L Bowls Club
- Corby Rotary Club
- Corby Tennis Ladies Section
- Corby Buffs
- Jaguar Motoring Club
- Corby Diagnostic Centre Tea Bar
- Morrisons Supermarket / RS Components
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation / Fare Share
- Northants VCS / ACRE
- Co-op / Corby Library Services
- Growing Community Award Scheme (David Cock Foundation)
- And of course, our very own Staff, Volunteers, Members and Well-wishers.

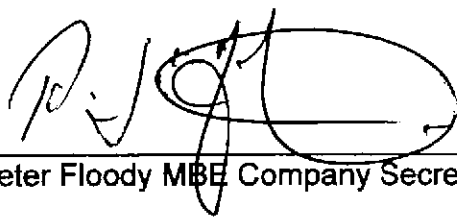
Thank you all.

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.
- 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.
- 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.

Prepared and presented to the Board of Directors/Trustees by the Company Secretary for approval and adoption and signed on their behalf on 25th July 2023.



Peter Floody MBE Company Secretary



Marie Bissett Chairperson Director



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of:

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

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Registered Charity Number: 1110164

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on the attached pages 16 to 21.

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 this year under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, as amended; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 of 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with the Companies section 386 of the 2006 Act: or
- the accounts do not accord with these records: or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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: or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Brenda Peers-Ross

Brenda Peers-Ross FMAAT, ACIE
9th October 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022
		£	£	£			£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		9,912	-	9,912	5,845	-	5,845
Charitable Activities	1	171,179	-	171,179	153,763	-	153,763
Investment income		1,012	-	1,012	-	-	-
Total income		182,103	-	182,103	159,608	-	159,608
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		70	-	70	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	188,859	-	188,859	162,010	7,773	169,783
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		188,929	-	188,929	162,010	7,773	169,783
Net income/(expenditure)		(6,826)	-	(6,826)	(2,402)	(7,773)	(10,175)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		149,492	-	149,492	151,894	7,773	159,667
Total funds carried forward		142,666	-	142,666	149,492	-	149,492

Income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

Company Number: 05397008

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4	88	-	88	118
Current Assets					
Debtors	5	305	-	305	12,161
Cash at bank and in hand		142,927	-	142,927	139,408
Investment		-	-	-	-
		143,232	-	143,232	151,569
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(654)	-	(654)	(2,195)
		(654)	-	(654)	(2,195)
Net current assets /(liabilities)		142,578	-	142,578	149,374
Net assets/(liabilities)		142,666	-	142,666	149,492
Charity Funds					
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
Unrestricted funds	7	142,666	-	142,666	149,492
Restricted	8	-	-	-	-
Total charity funds/(deficit)		142,666	-	142,666	149,492

For the year ending 31st March 2023, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

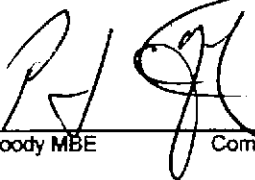
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- (ii) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- (iii) these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within the Companies Act 2006, SORP (FRS 102) effective October 2019 and relevant UK accounting standards.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 27th September 2023,
Signed on behalf of the board of trustees.


Marie Bissett
Chairperson/Director


P Floody MBE
Company Secretary/Director

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Practice SORP (FRS102) issued on 1st October 2019 and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

Format

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a Statement of Financial Activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the year.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants are brought into account on a receivable basis.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is stated inclusive of value added tax.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all tangible fixed assets by instalments over the expected useful lives. The period generally applicable are:

Equipment	25% on	reducing balance method
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Intangible income

Intangible income, in the form of donated facilities and voluntary help etc., is not included in the financial statements since it is not considered practicable to quantify such income.

Reserves

The current reserve policy is to maintain sufficient cash flow for known commitments, and the replacement of replacement of certain assets. Not all grants/income are received at the beginning of the financial year other are received in arrears.

Risk

The directors/trustees do not believe the organisation is subject to any substantial risk beyond those disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The organisation has employer and public liability insurance to protect it in the case of a claim.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
1 Charitable activities					
NNC		48,270	-	48,270	37,000
ACRE		-	-	-	700
		<u>48,270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,270</u>	<u>37,700</u>
Café income		23	-	23	33
Tier 1/2		96,164	-	96,164	41,159
Tier 3		21,760	-	21,760	45,801
Hall hire		540	-	540	580
Activities raffles etc.		3,773	-	3,773	1,618
Fareshare		649	-	649	577
Others including HMRC JRS claims		-	-	-	26,295
		<u>171,179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>171,179</u>	<u>153,763</u>
2 Charitable activities					
Employment costs	3	132,807	-	132,807	115,973
Training courses and activities		4,202	-	4,202	7,270
Stationery, printing, postage, etc		628	-	628	272
Telephones, internet		1,466	-	1,466	1,323
Equipment kitchen etc.		5,865	-	5,865	2,729
Repairs, maintenance and renewals		5,505	-	5,505	5,942
Rent, rates, heat and light		8,571	-	8,571	2,666
Sundries		3,016	-	3,016	2,742
Cleaning and hygiene costs		1,537	-	1,537	2,105
Marketing, publicity		4,364	-	4,364	-
Provisions		17,418	-	17,418	24,706
Insurance		565	-	565	457
Governance					
Professional fees		2,401	-	2,401	3,038
Independent Examination		484	-	484	520
Depreciation		30	-	30	40
Total expenditure		<u>188,859</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,859</u>	<u>169,783</u>
3 Trustees and Employment costs					
Gross salaries		127,285	-	127,285	111,438
Employer NI		3,225	-	3,225	2,664
ER Pension		2,297	-	2,297	1,871
Volunteer Expenses		-	-	-	-
DBS Checks Covid-19		-	-	-	-
		<u>132,807</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,807</u>	<u>115,973</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

There are no employee being paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees by head count during the year was: 8(2022:7)

During the year the trustees received £nil in remuneration. (2022: £nil)

The total expenditure reimbursed to trustees amounted to £nil (2022: £nil)

4 Tangible assets

Cost

Balance 01.04.22

Add: Additions during the year

Depreciation

At 1 April 2022

Charge in year

At 31 March 2023

Net Book Value

At 31 March 2023

At 31 March 2022

	2023	2022
	Tangible Assets	Tangible Assets
	£	£
	15,612	15,612
	-	-
	<u>15,612</u>	<u>15,612</u>
	15,494	15,454
	30	40
	<u>15,524</u>	<u>15,494</u>
	<u>88</u>	
		<u>118</u>

5 Debtors

Other - HMRC JRS claim

Prepayments

	2023	2021
	£	£
	-	11,450
	305	711
	<u>305</u>	<u>12,161</u>

6 Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year

Sundry creditors

Accruals

	2023	2022
	£	£
	(144)	(1,675)
	(510)	(520)
	<u>(654)</u>	<u>(2,195)</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Opening Balance 2022 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2023 £
7 Unrestricted reserves					
Fixed Assets	118	-	(30)	-	88
Unrestricted	34,083	182,103	(188,899)	-	27,287
Designated: Furniture replacement	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
Designated: Equipment replacement	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Designated: Redecoration etc.	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Designated: IT equipment	1,605	-	-	-	1,605
Designated: Covid-19	601	-	-	-	601
General Reserve	103,085	-	-	-	103,085
	149,492	182,103	(188,929)	-	142,666

The Trustees have designated reserves for replacement of furniture , equipment and IT equipment based on a cycle of replacement.

The Centre is now responsible for internal redecoration and is trying to build a fund over the next few years.

Trustees have allocated a general reserves to ensure adequate cash flow to meet liabilities, grants and other income are not always received in advance. The aim as part of the Trustee's good governance is to build a general reserve to cover six months operating costs, based on current cost that amounts to £103,085

8 Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance 2022 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2023 £
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

9 Workforce pension

The Autumn Centre operate a NEST Pension Scheme

10 Ultimate Controlling Party

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its trustees, who are also the directors, and whose names are shown at the front of the financial statements.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1110164

Accounts

Company Registered Number: 05397008
Registered Charity Number: 1110164

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD
DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st MARCH 2022

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
DIRECTORS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

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THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
DIRECTORS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

Legal and Administrative information:

Company Registration Number: 05397008

Charity Registration Number: 1110164

Registered Office The Autumn Centre
Counts Farm Road
Corby
Northants
NN18 8BH

Directors/Trustees: M Bissett - Chair
N Bhatia – Vice Chair
M Craig (appointed 24.2.22)
Don Fisk (resigned 24.02.22)
Diane Floody
P Floody
A Glover (resigned 24.02.22)
P Hulme (appointed 24.02.22)
P Jackson (resigned 24.02.22)
Rhonda Jackson (resigned 24.02.22)
M Palmer (appointed 24.02.22)
Janice Paton
J Sheldon
J Spalding (appointed 24.02.22)
S Tew

Company Secretary: P Floody

Treasurer: P Floody

Bankers: Co-operative Bank
Delf House
Southways
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent Examiners: CVS Northamptonshire
32-36 Hazelwood Road
Northampton NN1 1LN

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

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The trustees present their report, together with the financial statements of the Charity (See Appendix I) for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Executive Summary June 2022

The Autumn Centre first closed on 20th March 2020 owing to Covid 19 and has since reopened and closed on a number of occasions since that time in line with the ever-changing government directives. Through the good office of our Centre Manager we have continued to provide a variety of services on a number of fronts. We have had to make many changes over the past 2 years owing to the pandemic and this has forced us to completely change our traditional working practices.

This has resulted in losing some services such as: the Memory Lane Drop in Cafe, Hairdressing Salon, and for large parts suspending hiring out the Centre in the evenings and weekends, all of which have had a financial impact on the charities wellbeing.

It is very sad to have to report we have lost members through Covid 19 and we can only thank the amazing scientists for creating a vaccine so quickly as most agree this was our passport back to something like normality.

We were also informed (along with many other charities / service providers) our three contracts for delivering services on behalf of Public Health would definitely terminate on 31st March 2021 (loss of £54K) as Public Health were restructuring their prioritised outputs shifting more towards Homelessness and Substance Misuse.

As a result of this we had to come up with a financial strategy that linked to our reserves and continuing support from North Northants Council would allow us the opportunity to pursue financial stability over the coming years. This is linked to the introduction of an income plan, the "3 Tier Day Experience", explained in detail later, in this report that the cost to members is dependent on level of care / support required by an individual.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The recruitment and appointment of new trustees / directors is either through recommendation to the Board of Trustees or proposed by members and elected at the Annual General Meeting. Owing to Covid 19 restrictions we were unable to hold an AGM in either 2020 or 2021 and all serving trustees elected at the 2019 AGM agreed to serve until the next AGM which thankfully we were able to hold in February 2022. Unfortunately, we lost one of our trustees Isabella Meldrum last year who sadly passed away through illness, and has been sadly missed by staff, members, volunteers, and fellow trustees. Isabella was a real stalwart and worked tirelessly to promote the Centre and seek excellent service provision for our members

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

Page 3

The trustees meet on the last Tuesday of the month to discuss business on behalf of the Centre and to take any decisions required by the trustees as an active and inclusive process. Owing to various lockdowns, the meetings have been affected and we have had to learn how to hold meetings in a Zoom format (not bad considering 95% of us on the board are pensioners). This we have mastered but it did impact on the number of trustees tuning in. All meetings are minuted and sent out to all trustees to be agreed at the next monthly meeting along with any matters arising / amendments before proceeding with that month agreed agenda. Thankfully we have been able to hold face to face meetings for the past few months.

The Centre employs 8 members of staff including the Manager who runs the Centre on a day-to-day basis in partnership with the users, volunteers, staff and the Board of Directors (Trustees who are all members of the charity). This number will rise to 9 members of staff by May 2022 as we are in the process of appointing an additional carer for the Dementia Suite as the need is clearly developing with increasing member numbers.

Without the staff, under the excellent leadership of our manager, the charity would not be in the position we are today, coming out of the Pandemic strong and resilient. North Northants Council have continued to support us with a grant in 2022 and we are very indebted for their continued support. We are very confident we can prove the benefit of such a facility in the north of the county to the new authority and continue to be able to rely on their financial and professional support.

The town used to boast three day centres (Central Day Centre, Arran Way Day Centre and Darley Dale Day Centre) but all three were merged in 2002 into what we have today "The Autumn Centre", as it was proving difficult to fund three centres in one town, and all three were funded by Northants County Council and Corby Borough Council (now merged into North Northants Council).

With the merger of the three facilities, it greatly reduced the funding needed through the two councils and has saved the authorities many hundreds of thousands of pounds over the past 20 years with better facilities/ services all under one roof.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity is very focused on its desire to improve the quality of life for the over 50's in Corby and surrounding area. We also have some slightly younger disabled members of the community. To this end the centre provides a host of activities as agreed / requested by the users to improve health / mobility / fighting loneliness / isolation / dementia impact and staying fitter longer. The activities of the centre are always aligned with key outcomes required by Public Health through the Well Being Programme for vulnerable adults. We will continue to maintain a good and fruitful relationship with Public Health and the new North Northants Council. In March 2022 we were inspected by officers from North Northants Council and our

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

Page 4

service met their criteria for quality of services which gave the team a real boost and is a very encouraging message going forward

Pre Covid 19 activities at the Centre included Movement with Music, Painting, Arts & Crafts, Chair Aerobics, X-Tra Energy, Foot Care, Manicures, Otago (falls prevention programme), Dementia, Life Skills and Mindfulness. Much of this was suspended during the pandemic and the various enforced closures.

We have had to realign our services since the pandemic and as a result we have had to close the Hairdressing Salon and the Memory Café but both these gaps have been filled with service provision more aligned to our current / developing services.

Special Events such as Boat Trips, Halloween Fun, Burns Night, New Year Celebrations, Summer Inclusive Programme, race days (on the big screen), Easter Celebrations, Christmas Parties, Indian Food Experience have all again resurfaced since relaxed measures faced by the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Special Visits by local dignitaries, sponsors, local councilors, health representatives, local schools and prospective clients were badly hit by the pandemic but we are thankfully rekindling those connections and will continue to develop links to support our new operating structure and service delivery.

As an organisation we encourage new ideas from within the membership and where new requests are made, we try hard to deliver new and exciting activities. As can be seen from above there is normally a wide list of activities, and this was expanding year on year but again devastated by the pandemic.

The Trustees of the Autumn Centre have never lost sight of the fact that we are not just a Day Centre but an all-inclusive Community Centre. To this end we have a long-term objective to promote interaction between our older community and the younger community bringing them together to explore common ground where all members of the local community can utilise the centre for interactive opportunities. Outside the centre we have a Multi Activity Games Area (MUGA) that could be utilised to organise joint and mixed activities across the age spectrum This could include different activities being led by different age groups but linked to something for all.

To achieve this ambitious proposal, we will look to create a future post of an Intergenerational Worker whose role will be to explore, create and deliver an interactive programme of development for all the members of the community regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, race or religion. Over years we have seen the demise of youth provision and it is with this in mind we want to reach out

and welcome the younger generation to feel the centre has something for them and they also can have the feeling of ownership with respect for the centre, their peers and all different generations in a positive, rewarding, and inclusive programme.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

April 2021 was the start of the implementation of our "Going Forward " strategy with the implementation of our new " **3 Tier Daily Experience**" pricing structure. In the past pre Covid and being paid for delivering 3 x Public Health Contracts (Value £54K per annum) which ceased in March 2021, we had to restructure our complete service delivery to give the charity any chance of survival in the coming years.

Our "**3 Tier Daily Experience**" pricing structure included for all tiers:

- Three Course Meal
- All beverages
- Health Exercises / Activities
- Bingo
- Support from staff and volunteers

Tiers 2 & 3 include more personal care with various functions such as assisting members with the toilet and with feeding, often One to One interaction and Tier 3 being for Dementia Sufferers. The pricing structure (April 2021 – March 2022) reflects this being:

Tier 1 = £10.00 Daily Experience (more able bodied)

Tier 2 = £30.00 " " (some additional care required)

Tier 3 = £50.00 " " (members with dementia / continual additional care)

For all financial information please refer to our examined accounts (Appendix I).

As April 21 - March 22 was our first year implementing the new "3 Tier Daily Experience". As trustees we agreed to hold the prices the same for the next financial year (April 22 – March 23) as a thank you for so many members sticking with us, as we accept it has meant a financial hike for all our members, in our quest to become financially stable in the years to come. This will also help with pressures facing our members with crippling cost of living through inflation and in particular food prices and energy prices.

The **Daily Experience** has proven to be of significant importance in various degrees to our many members and their families. In some instances, it has given an element of life back to certain family members as all know their loved ones are

i
in good hands and are treated as part of “Our Family” but with high levels of professional support / care linked to their individual needs.

All our meals are cooked on site by our own catering staff with individual requirements and needs built into any care packages.

We also have the facilities to ensure any member not wishing to eat all three courses at lunch time, the courses not eaten, can be taken home, packed up in catering packaging to keep fresh, for eating later.

Most of Tier 2 & Tier 3 are referred through Social Services with some Tier 1 also being referred but most Tier 1 are here because they choose to be as it supports their quest of staying healthy and making friends.

Working Groups

We have recently created 3 new working groups:

- 1. Carer**
- 2. Fundraising & Events**
- 3. Marketing & Promotion**

All of these groups will play a part in bringing another element of sustainability to the Autumn Centre Corby through their targeted efforts in their field of expertise.

Carer

The Carer Working Group includes Trustees, Staff & family members who have a vested interest in ensuring their loved ones' needs are met and indeed enhanced. This increased level of care was a new development for us from last year but the staff / trustees/ volunteers / general members and now family members have all embraced the new development with open arms.

Fundraising & Events

Members of this group will concentrate on income generating activities such as sponsored events such as the 20K walk, walking on coals, fun days, swimming with sharks etc. The group has some very experienced members in this field so it should reap dividends as we go forward. This will also be linked to grant applications. All members of the group have experience in this area.

Marketing & Promotion

This group has already played a major role in: the production of leaflets & posters, designing an advert on Corby Radio, adverts in various circulars such as The Corby Trader, NHS Newsletter and helping to shape the new website to be launched in the near future.

Transport Costs

To also help our financial sustainability we had to terminate the transport subsidy we gave to our members through subsidising their taxi costs. Our members realised why we were making this decision and have supported us. They now have an agreement where they pay the taxi company directly on a new "Pay as you Go" service thus saving us £10,000 per annum, a huge saving thus again lessening the blow from increased financial pressures.

We have achieved on so many other fronts as well as the above including:

- Delivered activity packs to fight loneliness during the lockdown, activity books for word searches, crosswords, painting books, exercise books for adults plus many other "goodies". This ensured the most vulnerable members still had contact, seen a known friendly face and engaged in stimulating activities.
- Delivered exercise sessions on-line regarding Otago and Get up and Go
- We also delivered smoking cessation sessions online and virtual weigh -ins while the centre was closed.
- Trustee (ST) making "pretty facemasks" with all income going to the centre
- We made hundreds of companion calls to our vulnerable members who had little or no contact with family and friends
- New plants were purchased and planted in the courtyard along with bistro tables and chairs when the area was open to members.
- Produced a short film on how to stay safe in the centre
- Created a "Friends of The Autumn Centre" group for individuals with special skills we can call upon as and when required to support the trustees & members.
- Carried forward DEFRA funding to continue the Emergency Foodbank until July 2021 delivering to 35 families per week.
- A variety of training is undertaken by staff and trustees.
- Developing a new Website for launching in June 2022 to promote the centre and to keep members, supporters and sponsors up to date with all the activities, services, timetable, calendar, newsletter, fundraising events and opportunity to suggest ideas, comment, donate, sponsor and follow what is going on at the centre.
- Raised over £1,000 in-house by staging a Burns Supper
- Over £3,000 was raised by a 20 Kilometer sponsored walk undertaken by a trustee and joined on the last leg by many staff, trustees, members and well-wishers.
- Full House for Members Christmas Lunches on 21st & 22nd of Dec 2021
- Developing the Dementia Suite with more members joining resulted in the need to engage a new member of staff to be in place by May 2022.
- Utilising a training Matrix with over 70 related courses for staff / volunteers & trustees.

-
- Creation of the 3 specialised working groups
 - All staff other than the Manager have been Furloughed on and off from 20th March 2020 and non-furloughed during times we were able to open, because of the then imposed operating numbers sometimes had to juggle the staff around the furlough scheme. The charity paid the additional 20% to ensure all staff received their full wages as all only work part time hours and this could have proven disastrous if they lost a large part of their expected income. We believe the impact of Covid 19 would have finished the charity and all our services if it had not been for the Furlough Scheme.
 - Pauley's continues to offer returned but edible fruit and vegetables free of charge to be collected once a week. We use as much as we can for the week's menus and offer the rest to users for a small voluntary contribution.
 - Fare Share offers food on a weekly basis from major supermarkets. We used what we could for meals when the centre was operating. During closure times we utilised it as part of our Food Bank Service and sold the remainder to cover administration charges, we pay £55.00 per week for this service and it has proven to be a life saver for some of our members.
 - Secured a permanent promotion space in Corby Library in the Health & WellBeing area and also on their Facebook page.
 - Retaining all the trustees with all agreeing to serve until we were able to hold an AGM, which thankfully took place in February 2022.
 - Retaining a "Digging for Dementia" gardening group of dementia sufferers during times we have been allowed to open. The garden was looked after by some of the trustees during lockdowns.
 - Successful in a grant application to create a new herb, vegetable and flower garden through the David Cock Foundation £2K, owing to Covid 19 this is still waiting to happen with the funding ring fenced for this project.
 - Delivered various training sessions for staff, volunteers, trustees and members with many of the sessions having to be delivered online.
 - Dementia Awareness with more members & trustees now active and aware.
 - Creation of a "quiet room" for assessments, consultations, family waiting area and occasional meetings. This is where the old hairdressing salon used to operate from.
 - The launch of our in-house Dementia Suite which is offering opportunities to individuals and their families to improve their quality of life. This has proven so successful we are already looking into expanding the size of the suite.
 - Manager fully qualified and continues to deliver Otago in Falls Prevention plus Get up and Go, Seated Dance & Exercise.
 - All trustees DBS Checked

-
- Raised additional funds through various in-house activities including the “59ers”, raffles, donations, grants, sponsorships, etc.
 - We were able to come out of Covid 19 with a gradual extension of operating days / hours until we were fully up and running again with our new “**3 Tier Day Experience**” in full swing.
 - Continue to hold regular trustees’ meetings by Zoom and where possible, face to face meetings to conduct business on behalf of the centre and minimise the impact of Covid 19. Making sure we adhered to the government guidelines at the time.
 - Without the Furlough Scheme we would have without doubt ceased to exist as a charity with the loss of a much needed and much-loved facility.

FUTURE PLANS

The centre will hopefully continue to develop services in line with the ever increasing demands on our more senior members of the community fighting social isolation, ill health, reduced mobility, onset of dementia, mental health, vulnerability to falls, various disabilities, hospitalisation and personal grief. As a charity we are totally committed to continue to grow in spite of ever-increasing financial pressures from loss of contracts, increased inflation especially food and energy bills, reducing funding streams. We all accept the ageing population is growing and therefore the need for facilities such as ours are in greater demand. We are in the process of writing a 5 Year Business plan (to be reviewed annually).

Our Future Hopes:

- Through increased levels of income aligned to increased services, grant applications continue to expand the “Carer Team” to complement and grow the service. If we fail to do this and attempt to standstill we will implode and fail our client / member base and the families of those often in desperate need of such a service.
- As is the case, year on year, we will be forced to call on our reserves in the forthcoming years to balance the books. This is inevitable because of the pandemic and other financial pressures.
- A big thanks to North Northants Officer, Julie McKinnon, for seeking to secure a new lease on the same terms and conditions, hopefully this will be for a period long enough to allow us to submit substantial bids to grow the facility and services over the coming years, to meet increased demand. Ideally this would be for at least 25 years. Also, for her continued support on any issues we needed guidance on during the pandemic.
- Continue to build a good working relationship with Public Health where together we can meet common needs.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

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-
- To create an Arts Programme to design murals / photographs on parts of the building to celebrate our members and local heroes.
 - The Charity is looking into a future plan to engage an Intergenerational Worker to create good supportive links between the youth and elders within the community. This would allow many joint initiatives between many of the age groups to create a "One Community" displaying support , interaction and respect from all parties.
 - To undertake annual reviews of all our policies and procedures to ensure best practice and continual improvement.
 - We have a project under consideration with Public Health and North Northants Council to try and secure a grant to develop a number of new initiatives such as: extending our fenceline to gain more outside space, extending our garden areas, convert some windows into doorways to allow greater access to outside facilities and AI fresco dining, install a new kitchen and to reconfigure all the main toilets to be unisex / disabled compliant.
 - If the above becomes a reality, the next development stage could look to build a roof over the courtyard to create an orangery giving far more indoor space and therefore all year round service provision.
 - One of our long term plans has been to create a mezzanine suite in the space above the false ceiling in the main hall. This would be fitted with a lift and allow additional activities /services and increased numbers as we are always struggling with existing space to meet current needs.
 - Access to the centre is DDA compliant but we would love to make the centre more easily accessible to unaccompanied members in non-powered wheelchairs as the existing ramp makes this difficult for older users.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Lee McCormick leads the team and has been an excellent Manager since taking up the role nearly 5 years ago. We are all very much indebted to her and her excellent team of staff and volunteers. Lee has developed a close working relationship with an officer from CVS Northampton (Brenda Peers Ross) and produces monthly spreadsheets which are copied to our main funders and trustees. This is complimented with monthly updates by the Treasurer at Trustees meetings to ensure transparency and financial dealings are scrutinised at a number of levels.

Reserves Policy

An amount of approx. 6 months operational costs are normally kept in reserve along with a small committed capital fund for future development of the Centre (to act as match funding for future capital grant applications) and secured funding if ever a Termination Strategy had to be implemented to ensure we could meet our legal obligations towards our hard working and valued staff plus any outstanding bills / contracted services.

The reserve can also be utilised if for any reason existing funding sources are late in processing either grants or contractual payments for the wide-ranging care / activity programme currently in place.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

As can be seen from the report the Charity of the Autumn Centre meets a growing need for the over 50's community and various individuals with various disabilities and needs in Corby and surrounding villages. As well as the activities mentioned in the body of the report we support, within the facility, a host of other users and activity providers.

The list is long and varied including Joint Action Group, Exeter Neighbourhood Association, The African Arts and Bible Group, St.John's Church, Doggie First Aid Team, Made in Corby (Arts Organisation), Stages (Mental health Organisation), British Red Cross, Age UK, Stuart Rd Clinic, The Salvation Army, Polling Station, Groundwork.

Plus various local hirers for christenings, funerals, race nights, youth activities, childrens parties, training sessions, etc.

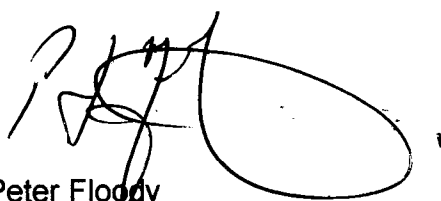
Most of the various hirers have been unable to utilise the facility during the Covid 19.

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.
- 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.
- 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.

Approved by the trustees at a committee meeting held on 28th June 2022 and signed on their behalf:



Peter Floody
Director



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of: THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

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Registered Charity Number: 1110164

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on the attached pages 14 to 19.

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 this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2006 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145(1) of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, as amended; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 of 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 the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements 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 a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brenda Peers-Ross

Brenda Peers-Ross FMAAT, ACIE
15th November 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021
		£	£	£			£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		5,845	-	5,845	3,523	-	3,523
Charitable Activities	1	153,763	-	153,763	226,395	-	226,395
Investment income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income		159,608	-	159,608	229,918	-	229,918
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	162,010	7,773	169,783	158,430	-	158,430
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		162,010	7,773	169,783	158,430	-	158,430
Net Income/(expenditure)		(2,402)	(7,773)	(10,175)	71,488	-	71,488
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		151,894	7,773	159,667	88,179	-	88,179
Total funds carried forward		149,492	-	149,492	159,667	-	159,667

Income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

(A Company Limited By Guarantee)

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

Company Number: 05397008

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4	118	-	118	158
Current Assets					
Debtors	5	12,161	-	12,161	7,736
Cash at bank and in hand		139,408	-	139,408	152,917
Investment		-	-	-	-
		151,569	-	151,569	160,653
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(2,195)	-	(2,195)	(1,144)
		(2,195)	-	(2,195)	(1,144)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		149,374	-	149,374	159,509
Net assets/(liabilities)		149,492	-	149,492	159,667
Charity Funds					
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
Unrestricted funds	7	149,492	-	149,492	151,894
Restricted	8	-	-	-	7,773
Total charity funds/(deficit)		149,492	-	149,492	159,667

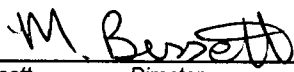
For the year ending 31st March 2022, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

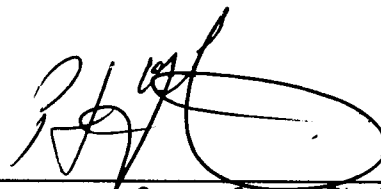
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- (ii) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- (iii) these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within the Companies Act 2006, SORP (FRS 102) effective October 2019 and relevant UK accounting standards.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 28th June 2022,
Signed on behalf of the board of trustees.


Marie Bissett Director


P Floody Company Secretary/Director

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Practice SORP (FRS102) issued on 1st October 2019 and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

Format

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a Statement of Financial Activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the year.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants are brought into account on a receivable basis.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is stated inclusive of value added tax.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all tangible fixed assets by instalments over the expected useful lives. The period generally applicable are:

Equipment	25% on	reducing balance method
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Intangible income

Intangible income, in the form of donated facilities and voluntary help etc., is not included in the financial statements since it is not considered practicable to quantify such income.

Reserves

The current reserve policy is to maintain sufficient cash flow for known commitments, and the replacement of replacement of certain assets. Not all grants/income are received at the beginning of the financial year other are received in arrears.

Risk

The directors/trustees do not believe the organisation is subject to any substantial risk beyond those disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The organisation has employer and public liability insurance to protect it in the case of a claim.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
1 Charitable activities					
CBC		-	-	-	51,590
NNC		37,000	-	37,000	10,692
ACRE		700	-	700	-
DEFRA		-	-	-	30,000
NCF Covid-19		-	-	-	6,000
Commsortia		-	-	-	54,374
		37,700	-	37,700	152,656
Café income		33	-	33	9,687
Tier 1/2		41,159	-	41,159	-
Tier 3		45,801	-	45,801	-
Transport income		-	-	-	2,907
Hall hire		580	-	580	179
Activities raffles etc.		1,618	-	1,618	324
Fareshare		577	-	577	-
Others including HMRC JRS claims		26,295	-	26,295	60,642
		153,763	-	153,763	226,395
2 Charitable activities					
Employment costs	3	115,973	-	115,973	112,821
Training courses and activities		7,270	-	7,270	5,847
Stationery, printing, postage, etc		272	-	272	50
Telephones, internet		1,323	-	1,323	1,466
Kitchen equipment		2,350	379	2,729	-
Repairs, maintenance and renewals		5,942	-	5,942	2,771
Rent, rates, heat and light		2,666	-	2,666	7,855
Sundries		2,599	143	2,742	3,328
Cleaning and hygiene costs		2,105	-	2,105	1,631
Transport costs		-	-	-	5,099
Provisions		17,455	7,251	24,706	13,791
Insurance		457	-	457	518
Governance					
Professional fees		3,038	-	3,038	2,674
Independent Examination		520	-	520	526
Depreciation		40	-	40	53
Total expenditure		162,010	7,773	169,783	158,430
3 Trustees and Employment costs					
Gross salaries		111,438	-	111,438	108,688
Employer NI		2,664	-	2,664	2,005
ER Pension		1,871	-	1,871	1,599
Volunteer Expenses		-	-	-	41
DBS Checks Covid-19		-	-	-	488
		115,973	-	115,973	112,821

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

There are no employee being paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees by head count during the year was: 7 (2021:7)

During the year the trustees received £nil in remuneration. (2021: £nil)

The total expenditure reimbursed to trustees amounted to £nil (2021: £nil)

4 Tangible assets

Cost

Balance 01.04.21

Add: Additions during the year

Depreciation

At 1 April 2021

Charge in year

At 31 March 2022

Net Book Value

At 31 March 2022

At 31 March 2021

	2022	2021
Tangible Assets	Tangible Assets	Tangible Assets
£	£	£
15,612	15,612	
-	-	
<u>15,612</u>	<u>15,612</u>	
15,454	15,401	
40	53	
<u>15,494</u>	<u>15,454</u>	
	<u>118</u>	
		158

5 Debtors

Other - HMRC JRS claim

Prepayments

	2022	2021
£	£	£
11,450	6,895	
711	841	
<u>12,161</u>	<u>7,736</u>	

6 Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year

Sundry creditors

Accruals

	2022	2021
£	£	£
(1,675)	(604)	
(520)	(540)	
<u>(2,195)</u>	<u>(1,144)</u>	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7 Unrestricted reserves	Opening Balance 2021 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2022 £
Fixed Assets	158	-	(40)	-	118
Unrestricted	35,785	159,608	(159,406)	(1,904)	34,083
Designated: Furniture replacement	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
Designated: Equipment replacement	1,000	-	(1,000)	1,500	1,500
Designated: Redecoration etc.	4,000	-	(404)	404	4,000
Designated: IT equipment	1,605	-	-	-	1,605
Designated: Covid-19	1,761	-	(1,160)	-	601
General Reserve	103,085	-	-	-	103,085
	151,894	159,608	(162,010)	-	149,492

The Trustees have designated reserves for replacement of furniture, equipment and IT equipment based on a cycle of replacement.

The Centre is now responsible for internal redecoration and is trying to build a fund over the next few years.

Trustees have allocated a general reserves to ensure adequate cash flow to meet liabilities, grants and other income are not always received in advance. The aim as part of the Trustee's good governance is to build a general reserve to cover six months operating costs, based on current cost that amounts to £103,085

8 Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance 2021 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2022 £
DEFRA	7,773	-	(7,773)	-	-
	7,773	-	(7,773)	-	-

DEFRA - grant is to help support vulnerable people affected by the effects of COVID-19.

9 Workforce pension

The Autumn Centre operate a NEST Pension Scheme

10 Ultimate Controlling Party

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its trustees, who are also the directors, and whose names are shown at the front of the financial statements.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1110164

Accounts

Company Registered Number: 05397008
Registered Charity Number: 1110164

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD
DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st MARCH 2021

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
DIRECTORS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

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THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
DIRECTORS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Legal and Administrative information:

Company Registration Number: 05397008

Charity Registration Number: 1110164

Registered Office The Autumn Centre
Counts Farm Road
Corby
Northants
NN18 8BH

Directors/Trustees: M Bissett - Chair
N Bhatia – Vice Chair
P Floody
A Glover
S Tew
P Jackson
Don Fisk
Janice Paton
Rhonda Jackson
Diane Floody
K Mackenzie (resigned 27.08.21)
I Meldrum (resigned 07.07.21)
J Sheldon

Company Secretary: P Floody

Treasurer: P Floody

Bankers: Co-operative Bank
Delf House
Southways
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent Examiners: CVS Northamptonshire
32-36 Hazelwood Road
Northampton NN1 1LN

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

Page 2

The trustees present their report, together with the financial statements of the Charity (See **Appendix I**) and the related Exit Strategy (See **Appendix II**) for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Executive Summary 29th June 2021

The Autumn Centre first closed on 20th March 2020 owing to Covid 19 and has since reopened and closed on a number of occasions in line with the ever-changing government directives. We have through the good office of our Centre Manager continued to provide a variety of services on a number of fronts.

We have had to make many changes over the past 15 months owing to Covid 19 and this has forced us to completely change our traditional working practices to accommodate Covid 19 Compliance.

This has resulted in some services being suspended such as; the Memory Lane Drop in Cafe, Hairdressing Salon, Hiring out the centre in the evenings and weekends all of which have had a financial impact on the charities wellbeing.

It is very sad to have to report we have lost members through Covid 19 and we can only thank the amazing scientists for creating a vaccine so quickly as most agree this is our passport back to something like a future normality.

*We were also informed (along with many other charities / service providers) our three contracts for delivering services on behalf of Public Health would definitely terminate on 31st March 2021 as Public Health were restructuring their prioritised outputs. These would now shift more towards Homelessness and Substance Misuse. We were invited to submit an Exit Strategy Document by August 2020 (See **Appendix II**), regarding how we would overcome the loss of the income from the contract (£54K per annum). Coupled with the Pandemic this news could not have come at a worse time for us and many other charities.*

*As you will see from the Exit Strategy (**Appendix II**) we have restructured our service delivery and pricing structure and introduced a new Dementia Suite to allow us to take a limited number of dementia clients and this is building up even in these very difficult times. This gives us another financial string to our bow while providing a much-needed front line service for Dementia Clients along with Additional Support members. The new structure has increased the price of each visit and we can only hope the members continue to support us.*

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Company is governed by its Memoranda and Articles of Association. The recruitment and appointment of new trustees / directors is either through recommendation to the Board of Trustees or proposed by members and elected at the Annual General Meeting. Owing to Covid 19 restrictions we were unable to hold an AGM in 2020 and all serving trustees elected at the 2019 AGM agreed to serve until the next AGM which we are hopeful will be able to be held in October 2021. Unfortunately, we lost one of our trustees Isabella Meldrum last week who sadly passed away through illness, she will be sadly missed by staff, members, volunteers, and fellow trustees. Isabella was a real stalwart and worked tirelessly to promote the centre and seek excellent service provision for our members.

The trustees meet on the last Tuesday of the month to discuss business on behalf of the Centre and to take any decisions required by the trustees as an active and inclusive process. Owing to various lockdowns the meetings have been affected and we have had to learn how to hold meetings in a Zoom format (not bad considering 95% of us on the board are pensioners). This we have mastered but it has impacted on the number of trustees tuning in. All meetings are minuted and sent out to all trustees to be agreed at the next monthly meeting along with any matters arising before proceeding with that months agreed agenda.

The Centre employs eight members of staff including the Manager who runs the Centre on a day-to-day basis in partnership with the users, volunteers, staff, and the Board of Directors (Trustees) as all members of the Board are members of the charity. Without the staff under the excellent leadership of our manager the charity would not be in the position we are today with a great chance of surviving the pandemic and hopefully the loss of the PH funding.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity is very focused on its desire to improve the quality of life for the over 50's in the Borough of Corby and some slightly younger disabled members of the community. To this end the Centre provides a host of activities as agreed / requested by the users to improve health / mobility / fighting loneliness / isolation / dementia impact and staying fitter longer. The activities of the centre align with key outcomes required by Public Health through the Well Being Programme for vulnerable adults, the funding for this programme ceased on 31st March 2021 with the resulting loss of £54K income per annum. We will of course strive to maintain a good / fruitful relationship with Public Health and the new North Northants Council.

Pre Covid 19 activities enjoyed at the Centre included Movement with Music, Painting, Arts & Crafts, Chair Aerobics, X-Tra Energy, Foot Care, Manicures, Otago (falls prevention programme, Dementia Lifeskills and Mindfulness. Much of this has been suspended during the pandemic and various enforced closures.

We have previously had our own Hair Salon on site to meet the needs of our members, both male and female but again this was suspended from March 2020 along with our drop in Dementia Memory Lane Cafe. Our ever-popular dining hall supplying nutritious meals all prepared and cooked on site has been hugely impacted with reduced numbers able to attend during the times we have managed to operate because of social distancing meaning less income being generated from all our pre Covid 19 operational procedures.

Special Events such as Boat Trips, Halloween Fun, Burns Night, New Year Celebrations, Summer Inclusive Programme, race days (on the big screen), Easter Celebrations, Ukele Band, Clairvoyant Nights, creation of our own in-house choir, living eggs until hatching, Indian Food Experience, Christmas meals and parties, singing by Big About Choir have all again been suspended since the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Special Visits by local dignitaries, perspective sponsors, local councillors, health representatives, local schools, prospective clients have also been hit by the pandemic.

As an organisation we encourage new ideas from within the membership and where new requests are made, we try hard to deliver new and exciting activities. As can be seen from above there is normally a wide list of activities, and this was expanding year on year but again devastated by the pandemic.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

We continue to support members, but some have passed away either through Covid 19 / other illnesses or gone into full time care over the past 12 months. Once we return to normal, we will be able to undertake a full review of membership as during the times we have been able to reopen more and more people are seeking membership.

The Manager along with the staff and volunteers are very proactive regarding the new members who will benefit from being part of an inclusive and caring organisation.

Even with the horrors of the pandemic we have worked tirelessly over the past 15 months to work around the pandemic and find new ways to operate whether we are able to open or forced to close.

We have achieved on so many fronts including;

- Delivering activity packs to fight loneliness including activity books for word searches, crosswords, painting books, exercise books for adults plus many other “goodies”. This ensures the most vulnerable members still have contact, seen a known friendly face and engaged in stimulating activities.
- Delivering exercise sessions on-line regarding Otago and Get up and Go, Utilising a grant to purchase electronic tablets for members previously unable to take part.
- We are also delivering smoking cessation sessions online and virtual weigh in's.
- Trustee (ST) making “pretty facemasks” with all income going to the centre
- We made hundreds of companion calls to our vulnerable members who had little or no contact with family and friends
- New plants were purchased and planted in the courtyard with the members able to tune in through a documented photo record and small video bites.
- Produced a short film on how to stay safe in the centre
- Created a “Friends of Group” for individuals with special skills we can call upon as and when required to support the trustees.
- Disposable cameras purchased to facilitate a photographic competition for the members.
- Supporting CBC to deliver meals for children over the school holidays.
- Garden furniture from FOG Thoroughsale & Hazelwood for the courtyard
- £200 per month for 3 months donated to the centre from the Corby Lions.
- 3 months Fare Share Fee paid for by Fare Share (value around £600)
- £6,000 awarded from the Northamptonshire Community Foundation CV 19 Response and Recovery Fund. (two awards of £3,000 each.)
- £10,000 CBC Small Business & Charities Grant CV 19 related
- £25K awarded by DEFRA to provide an Emergency Food Bank (delivering food parcels to the most vulnerable families) we have to date delivered thousands of food parcels and are still providing the service as I write this report.
- Initial £5K from DEFRA for food parcels for vulnerable adults
- The centre has created a “ Lockdown Laughter Page” to keep all members in good spirits.
- Launched the Dementia Suite in October with all the hard work preparing / decorating it all by staff/ trustees and volunteers at a nil cost to the charity

-
- 3 Tier Income Stream for members implemented in line with the Exit Strategy to give greater opportunity towards financial stability in the future
 - Staff shortlisted for A Spirit of Corby Award, although not outright winners amazing to be nominated / shortlisted in these trying times.
 - Huge “ Sitting 2000 Can Can Kicks “ online project delivered and has raised over £2,000 from online donations. With live interviews, one of our Centre members’, Emma Gough 94 years of age, achieved her 2000 Can Can Kicks and posted the video to great applause by many who tuned in to the event, sadly Emma passed away sometime later with Covid 19, a massive loss to us all.
 - Secured a new training Matrix with over 70 related courses for staff / volunteers & trustees.
 - All staff other than the Manager have been Furloughed on and off from 20th March 2020 and unfurloughed during times we have been able to open, because of new imposed operating numbers we have sometimes had to juggle the staff around the furlough scheme. The charity is currently paying the additional 20% to ensure all staff receive their full wages as all only work part time hours and this could prove disastrous if they lost a large part of their expected income. We believe the impact of Covid 19 would have finished the charity and all our services if it was not for the Furlough Scheme.
 - Pauley’s continue to offer returned but edible fruit and vegetables free of charge to be collected once a week. We use as much as we can for the week’s menus and offer the rest to users for a small voluntary contribution.
 - Fare Share offer food on a weekly basis from major supermarkets. We use what we can for meals when the centre is operating. During closure times we can utilise it as part of our Food Bank Service and sell the remainder to cover administration charges, we pay £55. 00 per week for this service and it has proven to be a life saver for some of our members.
 - Retaining all the trustees with all agreeing to serve another 12 months in the absence of an AGM in 2020.
 - Retaining a “Digging for Dementia” gardening group of dementia sufferers during times we have been allowed to open. The garden is looked after during closed times by some of the trustees.
 - Successful in a grant application to create a new herb, vegetable, and flower garden through the David Cock Foundation £2K, owing to Covid 19 this is still waiting to happen with the funding ring fenced for this project.
 - Delivered various training sessions for staff, volunteers, trustees, and members with many of the sessions being delivered online.
 - Dementia Awareness with more members & trustees now active and aware.

- The launch of our in-house Dementia Suite which is offering opportunities to individuals and their families to improve their quality of life.
- Manager fully qualified and continues to deliver Otago in Falls Prevention plus Get up and Go, Seated Dance & Exercise. This has saved the charity substantial financial outlay as previously reported we bought in this service for our members. This has often been provided online with some of our members being given tablets to tune in and stay connected.
- All trustees DBS Checked
- Raised additional funds through various in-house activities including Sponsored 22Km walk, trustee making face masks and of course Emma with the sponsored can can kicks.
- Continued to hold regular trustees' meetings by Zoom to be able to conduct business on behalf of the centre including submitting grant applications, claiming staff wages through the Furlough Scheme whilst closed or having to minimise the service.
- Without the Furlough Scheme we would have without doubt ceased to exist as a charity as the pandemic is still having a huge impact on reducing visitor numbers owing to social distancing, this has a financial impact with loss of income.

FUTURE PLANS

The centre will hopefully continue to develop services in line with the ever-increasing demands on our more senior members of the community fighting social isolation, ill health, reduced mobility early onset of dementia, mental health, prevention of falls, various disabilities, and personal grief. As a charity we are totally committed to continue to grow in spite of ever-increasing financial difficulties from various funding streams as detailed in this and previous years reports.

With all of this in mind we will continue to:

- Provide the funding to support the second carer, as the increasing workload for the original position of our one carer could not be met with just one carer.. This additional post is now firmly imbedded within our establishment and paid for from continuing fundraising.
- Submit grant bids to expand our carers /support team as they assist many of our most vulnerable members in so many ways including assisting with; toileting, personal care, showering, meal experience, door to door escorted carers on the transport service, monitoring blood pressure, weekly weigh-in.

-
- As is the case, year on year, we will be forced to call on our reserves in the forthcoming years to balance the books, this is inevitable because of the pandemic and loss of the £54K funding from Public Health.
 - A big thanks to CBC (JMCK) securing us a new 10-year lease on the same terms and conditions
 - To continue to work up a new working relationship with PH to explore new funding opportunities through new health initiative contracts.
 - To create an Arts Programme to design murals / photographs on parts of the building to celebrate our members and local heroes.
 - Annual review of all our policies and procedures.
 - We are working with North Northants Council to try and secure a grant to develop a number of new initiatives such as extending our fenceline to gain more outside space, extend our garden areas, convert some windows into doorways to allow greater access to outside facilities, install a new kitchen and to reconfigure all the toilets to be disabled compliant.
 - One of our long-term ongoing plans is to create a mezzanine suite in the space above the false ceiling in the main hall. This would be fitted with a lift and allow additional activities /services and increased numbers as we are always juggling existing space to meet current needs.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Lee McCormick leads the team and has been excellent Manager since taking up the role two and a half years ago. We are all very much indebted to her and her excellent team of staff and volunteers. Lee has developed a close working relationship with an officer from CVS Northamptonshire (Brenda Peers-Ross) and produces monthly spread sheets which are copied to our main funders. This is complimented with monthly updates by the Treasurer at Trustees meetings to ensure transparency and financial dealings are scrutinised at a number of levels.

RESERVES POLICY

An amount of approx. 6 months operational costs are normally kept in reserve along with a small, committed capital fund for future development of the Centre (to act as match funding for future capital grant applications) and secured funding if ever a Termination Strategy had to be implemented to ensure we could meet our legal obligations towards our hard working and valued staff plus any outstanding bills / contracted services.

The reserve can also be utilised if for any reason existing funding sources are late in processing either grants or contractual payments for the wide-ranging care / activity programme currently in place.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

As can be seen from the report the Charity of the Autumn Centre meets a growing need from the over 50's community and various individuals with various disabilities and needs in the Borough of Corby and surrounding villages.. As well as the activities mentioned in the body of the report we support, within the facility, a host of other users and activity providers.

The list is long and varied including Joint Action Group, Exeter Neighbourhood Association, The African Arts and Bible Group, St. John's Church, Doggie First Aid Team, Made in Corby (Arts Organisation), Stages (Mental health Organisation), British Red Cross, Age UK, Stuart Rd Clinic, The Salvation Army, Polling Station.

Plus, various local hirers for christenings, funerals, race nights, youth activities, children's parties, training sessions, etc.

Most of the various hirers have been unable to utilise the facility during the Covid 19 Pandemic.

As a footnote to all above the Trustees would wish to pay thanks for the support given to us over the last 12 months:

- A.T.O. Corby Cabs
- Corby Lions
- W Pauley
- DEFRA
- Sky Cabs Corby
- Families of Emma Gough & Ray Chiltern
- Friends of Thoroughsale & Hazelwood
- Seagrave Bowls Club
- Corby Rotary Club
- Corby Diagnostic Tea Bar
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation / Response & Recovery Fund
- Fare Share
- NCC / Public Health
- Corby Borough Council (now North Northants Council).
- Northants & Corby VCS
- Commsortia
- Growing Community Award Scheme (David Cock Foundation)
- And of course, our very own Staff, Volunteers, Members, and well-wishers.

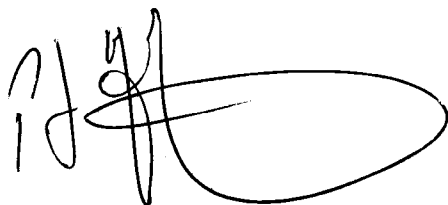
Approved by the board of trustees and signed on their behalf.

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.
- 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.
- 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.

Approved by the trustees at a committee meeting held on 11th January 2022 and signed on their behalf:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a large, sweeping loop that extends to the right.

Peter Floody
Director



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of: THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

Page 11

Registered Charity Number: 1110164

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on the attached pages 12 to 17.

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 this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2006 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145(1) of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, as amended; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 of 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 the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements 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 a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

B Peers-Ross

Brenda Peers-Ross FMAAT, ACIE
18th January 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2020
		£	£	£			£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		3,523	-	3,523	3,680	-	3,680
Charitable Activities	1	196,395	30,000	226,395	192,760	-	192,760
Investment income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income		199,918	30,000	229,918	196,440	-	196,440
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	136,203	22,227	158,430	206,171	-	206,171
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		136,203	22,227	158,430	206,171	-	206,171
Net income/(expenditure)		63,715	7,773	71,488	(9,731)	-	(9,731)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		88,179	-	88,179	97,910	-	97,910
Total funds carried forward		151,894	7,773	159,667	88,179	-	88,179

Income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD

(A Company Limited By Guarantee)

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

Company Number: 05397008

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4	158	-	158	211
Current Assets					
Debtors	5	7,736	-	7,736	119
Cash at bank and in hand		145,141	7,773	152,914	89,462
Investment		-	-	-	-
		152,877	7,773	160,650	89,581
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(1,141)	-	(1,141)	(1,613)
		(1,141)	-	(1,141)	(1,613)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		151,736	7,773	159,509	87,968
Net assets/(liabilities)		151,894	7,773	159,667	88,179
Charity Funds		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
Unrestricted funds	7	151,894	-	151,894	88,179
Restricted	8	-	7,773	7,773	-
Total charity funds/(deficit)		151,894	7,773	159,667	88,179

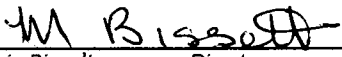
For the year ending 31st March 2021, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

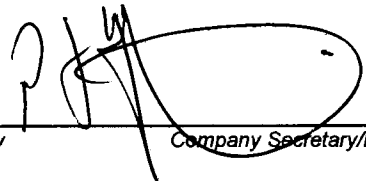
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- (ii) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- (iii) these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within the Companies Act 2006, SORP (FRS 102) effective January 2015 and relevant UK accounting standards.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 11th January 2022,
Signed on behalf of the board of trustees.


Marie Bissett Director


P Floody Company Secretary/Director

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Practice SORP (FRS102) issued on 1st October 2019 and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

Format

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a Statement of Financial Activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the year.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants are brought into account on a receivable basis.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is stated inclusive of value added tax.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all tangible fixed assets by instalments over the expected useful lives. The period generally applicable are:

Equipment	25% on	reducing balance method
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Intangible income

Intangible income, in the form of donated facilities and voluntary help etc., is not included in the financial statements since it is not considered practicable to quantify such income.

Reserves

The current reserve policy is to maintain sufficient cash flow for known commitments, and the replacement of replacement of certain assets. Not all grants/income are received at the beginning of the financial year other are received in arrears.

Risk

The directors/trustees do not believe the organisation is subject to any substantial risk beyond those disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The organisation has employer and public liability insurance to protect it in the case of a claim.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
1 Charitable activities					
CBC		51,590	-	51,590	37,000
NCC		10,692	-	10,692	-
DEFRA		-	30,000	30,000	-
NCF Covid-19		6,000	-	6,000	-
Commsortia		54,374	-	54,374	57,043
		122,656	30,000	152,656	94,043
Café income		9,687	-	9,687	49,329
Transport income		2,907	-	2,907	21,064
Hall hire		179	-	179	2,836
Activities raffles etc.		324	-	324	14,392
Fareshare		-	-	-	9,096
Others including HMRC JRS claims		60,642	-	60,642	2,000
		196,395	30,000	226,395	192,760
2 Charitable activities					
Employment costs	3	103,430	9,391	112,821	111,032
Training courses and activities		5,847	-	5,847	7,891
Stationery, printing, postage, etc		50	-	50	622
Telephones, internet		1,466	-	1,466	908
Kitchen equipment		-	-	-	3,391
Repairs, maintenance and renewals		2,771	-	2,771	3,310
Rent, rates, heat and light		7,855	-	7,855	11,743
Sundries		1,963	1,365	3,328	3,027
Cleaning and hygiene costs		1,631	-	1,631	2,033
Transport costs		5,099	-	5,099	32,326
Provisions		2,320	11,471	13,791	25,497
Insurance		518	-	518	521
Governance					
Professional fees		2,674	-	2,674	3,250
Independent Examination		526	-	526	550
Depreciation		53	-	53	70
Total expenditure		136,203	22,227	158,430	206,171
3 Trustees and Employment costs					
Gross salaries		99,791	8,897	108,688	105,825
Employer NI		1,511	494	2,005	3,362
ER Pension		1,599	-	1,599	1,835
Volunteer Expenses		41	-	41	-
DBS Checks Covid-19		488	-	488	10
		103,430	9,391	112,821	111,032

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

There are no employee being paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees by head count during the year was: 7 (2020:7)

During the year the trustees received £nil in remuneration. (2020: £nil)

The total expenditure reimbursed to trustees amounted to £nil (2020: £nil)

4 Tangible assets

Cost

Balance 01.04.20

Add: Additions during the year

Depreciation

At 1 April 2020

Charge in year

At 31 March 2021

Net Book Value

At 31 March 2021

At 31 March 2020

	2021	2020
	Tangible Assets	Tangible Assets
	£	£
	15,612	15,612
	-	-
	<u>15,612</u>	<u>15,612</u>
	15,401	15,331
	53	70
	<u>15,454</u>	<u>15,401</u>
	<u>158</u>	
		<u>211</u>

5 Debtors

Other - HMRC JRS claim

Prepayments

	2021	2020
	£	£
	6,895	-
	841	119
	<u>7,736</u>	<u>119</u>

6 Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year

Sundry creditors

Accruals

	2021	2020
	£	£
	(601)	(1,063)
	(540)	(550)
	<u>(1,141)</u>	<u>(1,613)</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Opening Balance 2020 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2021 £
7 Unrestricted reserves					
Fixed Assets	211	-	(53)	-	158
Unrestricted	- 11,137	191,178	(129,171)	(15,085)	35,785
Designated: Furniture replacement	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
Designated: Equipment replacement	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Designated: Redecoration etc.	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Designated: IT equipment	1,605	-	-	-	1,605
Designated: Covid-19	-	8,740	(6,979)	-	1,761
General Reserve	88,000	-	-	15,085	103,085
	88,179	199,918	(136,203)	-	151,894

The Trustees have designated reserves for replacement of furniture , equipment and IT equipment based on a cycle of replacement.

The Centre is now responsible for internal redecoration and is trying to build a fund over the next few years.

Trustees have allocated a general reserves to ensure adequate cash flow to meet liabilities, grants and other income are not always received in advance. The aim as part of the Trustee's good governance is to build a general reserve to cover six months operating costs, based on current cost that amounts to £103,085

8 Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance 2020 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2021 £
DEFRA	-	30,000	(22,227)	-	7,773
	-	30,000	(22,227)	-	7,773

DEFRA - grant is to help support vulnerable people affected by the effects of COVID-19.

9 Workforce pension

The Autumn Centre operate a NEST Pension Scheme

10 Ultimate Controlling Party

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its trustees, who are also the directors, and whose names are shown at the front of the financial statements.