



Cowpen Quay Community Association

Annual Report 2025



Dräger

The Buffalo Community Centre
55 Regent Street
BLYTH
Northumberland
NE24 1LL

Mission Statement

To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the local area without distinction by associating with voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare, recreation and leisure with the object of improving the conditions of the said inhabitants.

To establish, run and maintain the Buffalo Community Centre, and to promote activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives.

Those objectives embraced by the charity include working with:

Children and young people

Elderly people

People with a disability or special needs

General public

Activities provided include:

Education and training

Activities for the disabled

Arts and culture

Sports and recreation



Honorary Chairperson's Report

Another year has passed, and we find CQCA (Cowpen Quay Community Association) is in our 51th year of our project like many more before, has seen our centre develop new activities and some not continuing due to the changes in trends. On a positive note, we have a variety of development plans for the future and will continue to deliver the best service we can to our community.

We should never underestimate the job that our staff team do along with the hard work our volunteers and Management Committee and centre manager do to make this another successful year for the Association. Without them our centre could not function successfully and I offer them heartfelt thanks on behalf of myself, the Association and the people who use our community centre.

Once again, our Youth Clubs and other young people's projects, over 50s arts/crafts groups, Global Majority (Black Asian Minority Ethnic) women's group, camera club and many more continue to flourish.

Supported with funding assistance from Eileen and the work our team of youth leaders do, both staff they are exceptional in their work with our young people. Our Junior Youth Club has become very well established and continues to grow successfully with many exciting projects planned to benefit our community.

The support local people have continued to provide; completing valuable maintenance. Together with the local council our young people, they have carried out some tremendous clean-up work around the locality. We wish to extend a vote of thanks on behalf of our Association.

Finally, our groups, who are as always, the Association's soul; the reason we have been so successful over the years, and I would like to express our thanks to you for our success over the past year. We gained a new local Trustee this year who has many years of business experience and he will complement our current Trustees. We will endeavour to continue to provide the services we offer for all current and potential centre users, and to be there when they require us. With our volunteers and local support, we will continue to offer a welcoming and friendly centre where community activities take place.

Foster Burt



Chairperson Cowpen Quay Community Association

CQCA Centre Report

CQCA have had a busy year in the centre with work being done in the centre. We have had new windows installed in the office, hall, and toilets; these have been a great asset to the Building and have so far made the building quieter and improved insulation as the rooms seem to retain heat more. The window company have been really supportive to the centre and worked well with the staff they also supported us with a donation of £500 for our youth clubs, they have said they would like to support us in the future and hope to come down soon to see how they can support us.

Our youth projects applied for an environment award related to the new rewiring that was completed last year, as they supported this through feedback and funding, among other things. They have also been doing litter picks around the area and recycling at the centre. We won the environment award in November, and the young people were thrilled to achieve this milestone.

This year also saw our fourth annual Iftar organised in collaboration with the Dialogue Society. The event was well attended by various representatives from the community, such as the Mayor, the High Sheriff of Northumberland, the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, police and fire service personnel, local councillors, and many other community representatives. This day was enjoyed by all and brought the community together as a whole to celebrate as one. Everyone had a wonderful time, enjoying the entertainment and food, as well as networking, which helped support other projects within the community.

International Women's Day was another well-attended event this year, with women of many differing cultures coming together to celebrate. They all enjoyed different foods that are traditional dishes from various cultures.

We celebrated Ukraine Day this year in the park pavilion with outdoor games and food for the families to enjoy. It was smaller, as many families are now settled into the community and have found employment, etc.

This year, our centre has hosted sessions aimed at supporting new carers. These sessions cover topics such as powers of attorney, disability benefits, the blue badge application process, equipment, and other relevant support services. They are well-attended and serve as an excellent support network for those who provide care for others.

In October, we hosted the Week of Action at the centre. It was attended by various representatives from the community, such as the council, police, fire and rescue, Northumberland Recovery Programme, and community volunteers. The event was well attended by all. We conducted training on recycling, litter picking, and clearing fly-tipping, as well as sessions to educate the public on how to use bins correctly. At the end, we also held a social gathering for everyone involved to discuss the outcomes of the work we all did over the week.

The yoga sessions have been held here for the past year and have now concluded because the group grew too large for the hall space available, and the instructor decided to branch out on her own and acquire a building. Her future looks very promising, and we are pleased to have supported her throughout her journey into this new adventure.

We have worked with various training providers over the past year who have delivered courses to help people back into employment. Other courses we have had here include CSCE card training for construction sites, training for warehouse work and health and safety. These courses are always well attended and enjoyed by the community.

We have recently replaced the fire escape staircase at the rear of the building, as it was becoming worn due to age and weather conditions. It has now been upgraded to galvanised steel, ensuring it will last a very long time and improving the building for future generations. We have had the flat roof replaced, which is located under the fire escape. We also identified that the other flat roof, which is for the boiler room and gas cupboard, also needs replacing. This will be done towards the end of the year. Other works are planned as we always aim to keep the building in a good state of repair.

We held a coffee morning at the centre to support a local club that had a fire, which affected the building's operation. They needed to raise funds quickly to carry out repairs so they could continue generating income. We managed to raise over £80 in just a couple of hours to support them.

Dale has been actively participating in the Town Deal Board meetings, which is giving him valuable insight into what's happening in Blyth. It also provides him with the opportunity to ensure that the community has its say in matters discussed at the Blyth business network meetings.

Jo and Dale are part of the Blyth Better Together meetings which have proved thought-provoking, good for networking; with a lot of information sharing about local issues and positive outcomes from the community working together. The youth aspect has been particularly interesting, with very little antisocial behaviour reported thanks to effective youth work in the area.

Our staff have taken part in certified training to ensure they are up to date with new laws and legislation for first aid, food hygiene, allergies and safeguarding.

The youth clubs have been very successful over the past year, attracting a lot of new young people to our sessions. We have worked with them on various topics such as healthy eating, food hygiene, drug and alcohol awareness, energy drink risks, smoking, vaping, and bullying, to mention a few. Each week, over 70-80 young people attend, which is fantastic to see. This attendance shows that young people enjoy and learn from the sessions, as they tend to engage more willingly when it is their choice, unlike statutory activities like school. The young people were over the moon with the new Nintendo switch that was donated from one of our other groups who use our building, they have all really enjoyed playing games on it. The youth workers along with karbon Homes have been able to secure a gated outside green space for outside youth activities.

Our SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability) group attended a course from a local training provider called Winnovation Training, where they learnt skills in independent living and emergency first aid. All the young people participated in and enjoyed the sessions. One young person has since moved out and is now living in supported living.

This year has been busy in the centre, and a lot of changes are going on, but the team has worked well together to ensure the best for our community.

Celebrating a Remarkable Milestone! 🏆

We are absolutely thrilled to share that our incredible Chair, Foster Burt, has been honoured by the High Sheriff of Northumberland for an astounding 51 years of volunteering with our charity.

Foster's dedication, compassion, and tireless commitment to our community have shaped the very heart of our organisation. From championing local causes to supporting generations of volunteers, his impact has been nothing short of extraordinary.

This award is a well-deserved recognition of a lifetime of service — and we couldn't be prouder. ❤️

Please join us in congratulating Foster on this wonderful achievement. Here's to his legacy of kindness and leadership!



We would like to thank all of the funders and partners who have supported us in order to achieve our goals, together we can support the community we serve to the best of our ability.

Funders who have support us over this past year:

James Knott
 Garfield Western
 William Leech
 High Sheriff
 Ballinger Trust
 Arnold Clark
 RW Mann
 Bernard Sunley
 JH Burn
 Scofield
 Barbour Foundation
 NCC
 Community Foundation
 County Council VE Event
 Hadrian trust
 Catherine Cookson
 St Hilda's Trust

Baily Thomas
 Karbon Homes
 Joicey Trust
 Croft Lodge Freemasons
 De Oyly Carte
 Shears foundation
 Carr Ellis
 Open circle



4th Annual Iftar



VE Day



Saint Georges Day



Fused Glass Workshop



Litter pick around local area



Visit from Northumberland Fire and Rescue



When Newcastle won the Carabao Cup



Cooking sessions



Receiving Environment award



First aid training



Young people receiving their certificates



Busy session



Comfy corner



Taking Nora her 90th birthday cards from the youth club

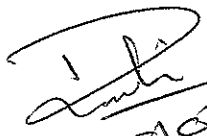
Accounts
AND
CENTRE REPORT

Cowpen Quay Community Association
Charity No. (1131449)
Co. Registration No. (6293107)

Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended 30th September 2025

Steve Hancock Consultancy
16 Appleby Park
North Shields
Tyne & Wear
NE29 0PL


08/01/2026
Rubina Kaushik

Cowpen Quay Community Association

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4	Report of the Accountants
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Report of the Trustees for the year ended September 30 9 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2025

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, and SORP 2005: Accounting & reporting by Charities.

Reference & Administration details

Charity name	Cowpen Quay Community Association
Charity Registration Number	1131449
Company Number	6293107
Registered Office	55 Regent Street Blyth Northumberland NE24 1LL

Directors

Foster Burt
Aziz Sha Mohammed
Rubina Kashif
Steve Frake

Company Secretary

Trustees

Foster Burt
Aziz Sha Mohammed
Rubina Kashif
Steve Frake

Chair

Treasurer
Vice Chair/Secretary

Management

Eileen Cartie

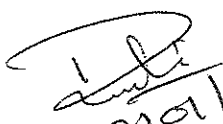
Centre Manager

Accountants

Steve Hancock

Bankers

TSB
3-5 Newgate Street
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 1AN


08/01/2026.
Rubina Kashif

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30th September 2025

Structure, Governance & Management

Cowpen Quay Community Association Limited was incorporated 26th June 2006 with objectives being embodied in the Memorandum of Association. Methods of elections of Trustees are in place and reviewed from time to time.

Procedures for the induction of Trustees includes a skills audit in the form of examination of Curriculum Vitae to establish suitability for the post. Basic level checks are performed on prospective Trustees to ensure that they hold no criminal offences. More in depth checks can be carried out should the need arise. Induction programmes are in operation which inform the Trustee of the Charities objects, the financial position and any issues facing the Charity. Day to day management of the centre is delegated to the centre manager.

The management committee has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Internal risks are minimized by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charity.

Objectives & Activities.

The objectives of the Charitable Company are:

1. To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the local area without distinction by associating with voluntary organizations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare, recreation and leisure with the object of improving the conditions of the said inhabitants.
2. To establish, run and maintain a community centre in cooperation with any local statutory body involved in the management of the centre and to promote activities in furtherance of the charities objects.

Those embraced by the charities objects include:

- Children and young people
- Elderly People
- People with disability or special needs
- General public

Activities provided:

- Education and training
- Activities for disabled
- Arts and Cultural Sports and recreation

Trough:

- Staff and volunteers
- Buildings, facilities and open space

Financial Review

In establishing the Associations policy on reserves consideration has been given to the following:

The need for reserves:

- The development of any new function
- The underpinning of longer commitments
- Arrangements for monitoring and reviewing policy
- The level of reserves
- Maintenance of reserves at a legal level

Reserves

The management has examined the Charities funding requirements for working capital and in the unlikely event that the centre could not continue its activities provision should be made for the establishment of reserves £95-£100k within unrestricted funding.

Responsibilities of Trustees

Charity law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies
- 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 and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking responsible steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities.

By order of the Trustees

Foster Burt



Chairperson

**COWPEN QUAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTANT'S TO THE DIRECTOR'S OF
COWPEN QUAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

As described in the Balance Sheet you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2025 set out on pages 5 to 12 and you consider that the company is exempt from audit.

In accordance with the instructions, we have compiled these unaudited financial statements in order to assist you to fulfil your statutory responsibilities, from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

**STEVE HANCOCK CONSULTANCY
16 APPLEBY PARK
NORTH SHIELDS
TYNE & WEAR
NE29 0PL**

25th November 2025

Cowpen Quay Community Association

Statement of Financial Activities

For The Year Ended 30th September 2025

	Note	Restricted Capital £	Restricted Revenue £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025	Total 2024
Incoming Resources						
Grants and Donations	3	17142	111395	36846	165383	171642
Other Income	3			43224	43224	42900
Transfer cash to Purchase Fixed Assets		30952		(30,952)	0	-
Total Incoming Resources		<u>48094</u>	<u>111395</u>	<u>49118</u>	<u>208607</u>	<u>214542</u>
Resources Expended						
Direct Charitable Expenses	4		134990	30515	165505	173469
Depreciation	4	29247			29247	13308
Total Resources Expended		<u>29247</u>	<u>134990</u>	<u>30515</u>	<u>194752</u>	<u>186777</u>
Net Incoming resources		<u>18,847</u>	<u>(23,595)</u>	<u>18,603</u>	<u>13,855</u>	<u>27,765</u>
Fund Balance @ 30/9/24		7520	213426	217142	438088	410323
Transfer Between Funds						
Fund Balance @ 30/9/2025	7	<u>26,367</u>	<u>189831</u>	<u>235,745</u>	<u>451943</u>	<u>438088</u>

Cowpen Quay Community Association

Balance Sheet

As at 30th September 2025

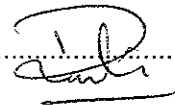
	Note	Restricted Capital £	Restricted Revenue £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible assets	6	54936			54936	53231
Current Assets						
Debtors				14488	14488	14541
Bank			189831	222062	411893	419421
Cash				1300	1300	371
		0	189831	237850	427681	434333
Current Liabilities						
Sundry Creditors and Defer Income	8	(28,569)		(2,105)	(30,674)	(49,476)
Net Current Assets		(28,569)	189,831	235745	397007	384857
Long Term Liabilities	8				0	0
Total Net Assets		26,367	189831	235745	451943	438088
Funds						
Restricted Funds	7	26,367	189831		216198	220946
Unrestricted Funds - Free	7			115745	115745	97142
- Designated	7			120000	120000	120000
		26,367	189,831	235,745	451943	438088

For the year ending 30th September 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies

Directors' Responsibilities :

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to Companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with SORP FS102.

The financial statements were approved by the board onand were signed by:

 Director
08/01/2026.

Cowpen Quay Community Association

For the year Ended 30th September 2025

Notes To The Accounts

1 Accounting Policies

The Financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and follow the recommendation in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP (FRS102).

Income and Expenditure is recorded on an accruals basis.

Incoming Resources

Monies received from capital grants are recognised in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis and the fixed assets included in cost in the balance sheet. A restricted fund has been established in the balance sheet and will reduce each year by the charge of depreciation.

Revenue grants

Gross amounts received are recognised within incoming resources and the corresponding expense is shown within outgoing resources.

Hire of Hall

All monies received are shown separately within the SOFA under incoming resources and are shown in unrestricted funds.

Fixed Assets Depreciation and Impairment

The treatment of assets within the organisation is in line with Charities SORP (FRS102). Management has reviewed the policy on the value of Leasehold Improvements over 15 years old and established a policy where these assets have been fully written off. Depreciation on other fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost over their useful lives and before expiration of the lease on the building as follows:

Leasehold Improvements 2023>	30%	Straight Line
Computer equipment	20%	Straight Line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20%	Straight Line

2 Taxation

The charity is registered and exempt from taxation on its charitable activities.

Cowpen Quay Community Association

For the year Ended 30th September 2025

Notes To The Accounts

3	Incoming Resources	Restricted Capital £	Restricted Revenue £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Grants & Donations					
	Deferred Income Released	17142			17142	11428
	Donation			1683	1683	439
	Children In Need				0	16740
	Arnold Clark			1000	1000	0
	Community foundation		16965	6750	23715	24385
	NCC		14930	2250	17180	0
	St. Hilda's			2000	2000	0
	Balinger Trust		40000		40000	20000
	Bernard Sunley Found			3765	3765	1000
	William Leach			3750	3750	8750
	Albert Hunt				0	4000
	Hays Travel			686	686	0
	Virgin Money				0	10000
	Awards 4 All				0	20000
	The Doyle Carte		6000		6000	
	Joicey Trust			2000	2000	0
	RW Mann			2000	2000	2000
	Barbour Trust		5000		5000	5000
	Hadrian Trust			500	500	0
	Bailey Thomas			5000	5000	0
	J H Burn			400	400	0
	The Shears Foundation		6000		6000	9000
	Catherine Cookson			500	500	0
	James Knott		15000		15000	15000
	Blyth Town Council			162	162	0
	Scofield			850	850	0
	Rothley Trust			800	800	0
	Northumbria Police				0	5000
	Bernicia Fund				0	10000
	Garfield Weston		7500		7500	7500
	Banks			2000	2000	1000
	CAF			750	750	400
		17142	111395	36846	165383	171642
	Other Income					
	Membership Dues			342	342	360
	Staff & Support Fees			1503	1503	730
	Hire of Premises			41374	41374	40953
	Other			5	5	857
		17142	111395	80070	208607	214542

Cowpen Quay Community Association

For the year Ended 30th September 2025

Notes To The Accounts

	Restricted Capital £	Restricted Revenue £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
4 Outgoing Resources					
Direct Charitable Expenditure					
Wages & Salaries		134990		134990	129171
Travel & Entertainment			567	567	1238
Telephone			552	552	582
Utilities			5857	5857	13997
Rates & Council Tax			551	551	387
Insurance			1604	1604	1426
Cleaning			1638	1638	919
Print,Postage and Stationary			399	399	1280
Repairs And Maintenance - General			5446	5446	3428
General Office Expenses			1821	1821	5754
Volunteer Expenses			60	60	100
Professional Fees			5309	5309	8189
Premises Expenses			1817	1817	524
Repairs and maintenance - Security			1189	1189	4536
Repairs and Renewals - Equipment			2540	2540	1463
Consumables			657	657	135
Licenses & Software			508	508	340
Waste Collection				-	-
Catering				-	-
Depreciation	29247			29247	13308
Impairment				0	0
	<u>29247</u>	<u>134990</u>	<u>30515</u>	<u>194752</u>	<u>186777</u>

Cowpen Quay Community Association

For the year Ended 30th September 2025

Notes To The Accounts

5	Staff Costs	2025	2024
	Wages & Salaries	126499	121161
	National Insurance	5654	5308
	Pension Costs	2837	2702
	Total	134990	129171
	Staff Numbers		
	Management and Staff	3	4
	Sessional Youth Workers	1	2
	Actual numbers employed		
	Full Time	3	4
	Part Time	2	3

6	Fixed Assets	Restricted				Unrestricted		
		Leasehold Improvements	Fix,ftgs & Equipment	Computer Equipment	L/Hold Improve 2023>	Fix,ftgs & Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
	Cost							
	As at 1/10/24	392916	28268	19627	66539	31604	9382	548336
	Additions				30952			30952
	Disposals							
	As at 30/9/25	392916	28268	19627	97491	31604	9382	579288
	Depreciation							
	As at 1/10/24	392916	28268	19627	13308	31604	9382	495105
	Charge				29247			29247
	Disposals							
	Impairment							
	As at 30/9/25	392916	28268	19627	42555	31604	9382	524352
	NBV							
	As at 1/10/24	0	0	0	54231	0	0	54231
	As at 30/9/25	0	0	0	54936	0	0	54936

The lease of the building is short term at an initial peppercorn rent, reviewed every 5 years over the lease period. The first review was on 1st August 2009. There has been no value ascribed to the rental income waived by Blyth Valley Borough Council. The lease is treated as an operating lease which ceases in 2029 but is subject to renewal.

7	Fund Balances	Restricted Capital £	Restricted Revenue £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Balance at 1/10/24	7520	213426	217142	438088	410323
	Surplus / (Deficit) for year	18,847	(23,595)	18,603	13,855	27,765
	Transfer Between Funds					
	Balance 30/9/25	26367	189831	235745	451943	438088

Cowpen Quay Community Association

For the year Ended 30th September 2023

Notes To The Accounts

8	Deferred Income	Opening Balance £	Income Released £	Deferred	Closing Balance £
	Refurbishment Costs	(45,711)	17,142		(28,569)
		<u>(45,711)</u>	<u>17,142</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(28,569)</u>
	Creditors & Accruals				(2,105)
	Total Current Liabilities				<u>(30,674)</u>

Refurbishment grants are released to income over the depreciable life of the assets to which they relate.

Long term Liabilities

Total

9 The association has not entered into any related party transactions.

10 Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the SOFA on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

11	Trustee Remuneration	2025	2024
	The Trustees received neither remuneration nor expenses during the year.	0	0

12	Fees for examination of accounts	2025 £	2024 £
	Auditors' Fees	-	-
	Other Fees (Accountancy)	999	950

Cowpen Quay Community Association

For the year Ended 30th September 2022

Notes To The Accounts

13 List of Organisations Funding Cowpen Quay Community Association
Awards received in the Financial year 2024/2025

Date	Organisation
Oct-24	Arnold Clark RW Mann Bernard Sunley J H Burn Scolfield Barbour Foundation
Nov 24	NCC
Jan 25	Community Foundation County Council
Feb 25	Community Foundation Hadrian Trust Catherine Cookson Community Foundation
Mar 25	Bailey Thomas Karbon Homes NCC
Apr 25	Joicey Trust
May 25	D'Oyly Carte Community Foundation Shears Foundation St. Hildas Open Circle
Sep 25	Ballinger Trust

Steve Hancock Consultancy

16 Appleby Park, North Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE29 0PL

Cowpen Quay Community Association
55 Regent Street
Blyth
Northumberland
NE24 1LL
25th November 2025

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of Cowpen Quay Community Association for the year ended 30th September 2025.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees of the charity are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirement under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 does not apply. It is my Responsibility to:

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

Basis of 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 in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Examiner's Statement

Based on my examination, no matter has come to my attention;

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and with the provisions of Companies Act 2006.
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act and with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 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.

Independent Examiner
Stephen Hancock





Cowpen Quay Community Association

Annual Report 2025



Dräger

The Buffalo Community Centre
55 Regent Street
BLYTH
Northumberland
NE24 1LL

Mission Statement

To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the local area without distinction by associating with voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare, recreation and leisure with the object of improving the conditions of the said inhabitants.

To establish, run and maintain the Buffalo Community Centre, and to promote activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives.

Those objectives embraced by the charity include working with:

Children and young people

Elderly people

People with a disability or special needs

General public

Activities provided include:

Education and training

Activities for the disabled

Arts and culture

Sports and recreation



Honorary Chairperson's Report

Another year has passed, and we find CQCA (Cowpen Quay Community Association) is in our 51th year of our project like many more before, has seen our centre develop new activities and some not continuing due to the changes in trends. On a positive note, we have a variety of development plans for the future and will continue to deliver the best service we can to our community.

We should never underestimate the job that our staff team do along with the hard work our volunteers and Management Committee and centre manager do to make this another successful year for the Association. Without them our centre could not function successfully and I offer them heartfelt thanks on behalf of myself, the Association and the people who use our community centre.

Once again, our Youth Clubs and other young people's projects, over 50s arts/crafts groups, Global Majority (Black Asian Minority Ethnic) women's group, camera club and many more continue to flourish.

Supported with funding assistance from Eileen and the work our team of youth leaders do, both staff they are exceptional in their work with our young people. Our Junior Youth Club has become very well established and continues to grow successfully with many exciting projects planned to benefit our community.

The support local people have continued to provide; completing valuable maintenance. Together with the local council our young people, they have carried out some tremendous clean-up work around the locality. We wish to extend a vote of thanks on behalf of our Association.

Finally, our groups, who are as always, the Association's soul; the reason we have been so successful over the years, and I would like to express our thanks to you for our success over the past year. We gained a new local Trustee this year who has many years of business experience and he will complement our current Trustees. We will endeavour to continue to provide the services we offer for all current and potential centre users, and to be there when they require us. With our volunteers and local support, we will continue to offer a welcoming and friendly centre where community activities take place.

Foster Burt



Chairperson Cowpen Quay Community Association

CQCA Centre Report

CQCA have had a busy year in the centre with work being done in the centre. We have had new windows installed in the office, hall, and toilets; these have been a great asset to the Building and have so far made the building quieter and improved insulation as the rooms seem to retain heat more. The window company have been really supportive to the centre and worked well with the staff they also supported us with a donation of £500 for our youth clubs, they have said they would like to support us in the future and hope to come down soon to see how they can support us.

Our youth projects applied for an environment award related to the new rewiring that was completed last year, as they supported this through feedback and funding, among other things. They have also been doing litter picks around the area and recycling at the centre. We won the environment award in November, and the young people were thrilled to achieve this milestone.

This year also saw our fourth annual Iftar organised in collaboration with the Dialogue Society. The event was well attended by various representatives from the community, such as the Mayor, the High Sheriff of Northumberland, the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, police and fire service personnel, local councillors, and many other community representatives. This day was enjoyed by all and brought the community together as a whole to celebrate as one. Everyone had a wonderful time, enjoying the entertainment and food, as well as networking, which helped support other projects within the community.

International Women's Day was another well-attended event this year, with women of many differing cultures coming together to celebrate. They all enjoyed different foods that are traditional dishes from various cultures.

We celebrated Ukraine Day this year in the park pavilion with outdoor games and food for the families to enjoy. It was smaller, as many families are now settled into the community and have found employment, etc.

This year, our centre has hosted sessions aimed at supporting new carers. These sessions cover topics such as powers of attorney, disability benefits, the blue badge application process, equipment, and other relevant support services. They are well-attended and serve as an excellent support network for those who provide care for others.

In October, we hosted the Week of Action at the centre. It was attended by various representatives from the community, such as the council, police, fire and rescue, Northumberland Recovery Programme, and community volunteers. The event was well attended by all. We conducted training on recycling, litter picking, and clearing fly-tipping, as well as sessions to educate the public on how to use bins correctly. At the end, we also held a social gathering for everyone involved to discuss the outcomes of the work we all did over the week.

The yoga sessions have been held here for the past year and have now concluded because the group grew too large for the hall space available, and the instructor decided to branch out on her own and acquire a building. Her future looks very promising, and we are pleased to have supported her throughout her journey into this new adventure.

We have worked with various training providers over the past year who have delivered courses to help people back into employment. Other courses we have had here include CSCE card training for construction sites, training for warehouse work and health and safety. These courses are always well attended and enjoyed by the community.

We have recently replaced the fire escape staircase at the rear of the building, as it was becoming worn due to age and weather conditions. It has now been upgraded to galvanised steel, ensuring it will last a very long time and improving the building for future generations. We have had the flat roof replaced, which is located under the fire escape. We also identified that the other flat roof, which is for the boiler room and gas cupboard, also needs replacing. This will be done towards the end of the year. Other works are planned as we always aim to keep the building in a good state of repair.

We held a coffee morning at the centre to support a local club that had a fire, which affected the building's operation. They needed to raise funds quickly to carry out repairs so they could continue generating income. We managed to raise over £80 in just a couple of hours to support them.

Dale has been actively participating in the Town Deal Board meetings, which is giving him valuable insight into what's happening in Blyth. It also provides him with the opportunity to ensure that the community has its say in matters discussed at the Blyth business network meetings.

Jo and Dale are part of the Blyth Better Together meetings which have proved thought-provoking, good for networking; with a lot of information sharing about local issues and positive outcomes from the community working together. The youth aspect has been particularly interesting, with very little antisocial behaviour reported thanks to effective youth work in the area.

Our staff have taken part in certified training to ensure they are up to date with new laws and legislation for first aid, food hygiene, allergies and safeguarding.

The youth clubs have been very successful over the past year, attracting a lot of new young people to our sessions. We have worked with them on various topics such as healthy eating, food hygiene, drug and alcohol awareness, energy drink risks, smoking, vaping, and bullying, to mention a few. Each week, over 70-80 young people attend, which is fantastic to see. This attendance shows that young people enjoy and learn from the sessions, as they tend to engage more willingly when it is their choice, unlike statutory activities like school. The young people were over the moon with the new Nintendo switch that was donated from one of our other groups who use our building, they have all really enjoyed playing games on it. The youth workers along with karbon Homes have been able to secure a gated outside green space for outside youth activities.

Our SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability) group attended a course from a local training provider called Winnovation Training, where they learnt skills in independent living and emergency first aid. All the young people participated in and enjoyed the sessions. One young person has since moved out and is now living in supported living.

This year has been busy in the centre, and a lot of changes are going on, but the team has worked well together to ensure the best for our community.

Celebrating a Remarkable Milestone! 🌟

We are absolutely thrilled to share that our incredible Chair, Foster Burt, has been honoured by the High Sheriff of Northumberland for an astounding 51 years of volunteering with our charity.

Foster's dedication, compassion, and tireless commitment to our community have shaped the very heart of our organisation. From championing local causes to supporting generations of volunteers, his impact has been nothing short of extraordinary.

This award is a well-deserved recognition of a lifetime of service — and we couldn't be prouder. ❤️

Please join us in congratulating Foster on this wonderful achievement. Here's to his legacy of kindness and leadership!



We would like to thank all of the funders and partners who have supported us in order to achieve our goals, together we can support the community we serve to the best of our ability.

Funders who have support us over this past year:

James Knott
 Garfield Western
 William Leech
 High Sheriff
 Ballinger Trust
 Arnold Clark
 RW Mann
 Bernard Sunley
 JH Burn
 Scofield
 Barbour Foundation
 NCC
 Community Foundation
 County Council VE Event
 Hadrian trust
 Catherine Cookson
 St Hilda's Trust

Baily Thomas
 Karbon Homes
 Joicey Trust
 Croft Lodge Freemasons
 De Oyly Carte
 Shears foundation
 Carr Ellis
 Open circle



4th Annual Iftar



VE Day



Saint Georges Day



Fused Glass Workshop



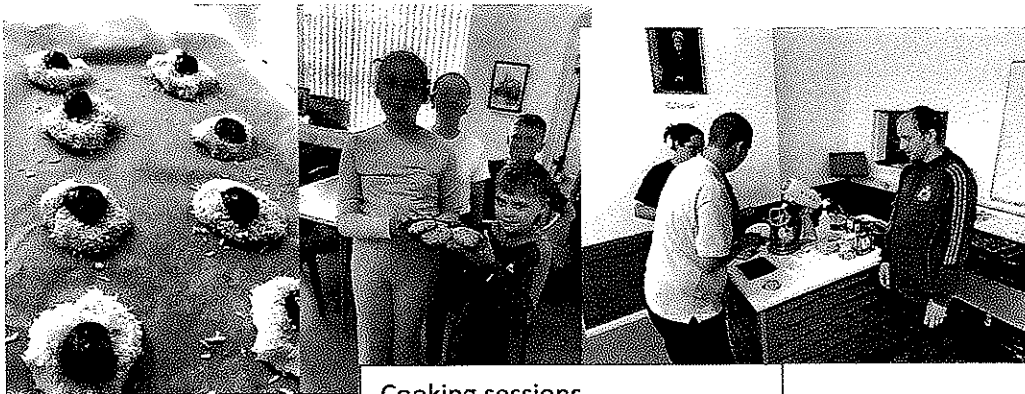
Litter pick around local
 area



Visit from Northumberland Fire and Rescue



When Newcastle won the Carabao Cup



Cooking sessions



Receiving Environment award



First aid training



Young people receiving their certificates



Busy session



Comfy corner



Taking Nora her 90th birthday cards from the youth club

Steve Hancock Consultancy

16 Appleby Park, North Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE29 0PL

Cowpen Quay Community Association
55 Regent Street
Blyth
Northumberland
NE24 1LL
25th November 2025

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of Cowpen Quay Community Association for the year ended 30th September 2025.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees of the charity are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirement under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 does not apply. It is my Responsibility to:

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

Basis of 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 in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Examiner's Statement

Based on my examination, no matter has come to my attention;

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and with the provisions of Companies Act 2006.
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act and with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 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.

Independent Examiner
Stephen Hancock

