

HOWDEN-LE-WEAR VILLAGE HALL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1156035

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-03-06

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Crook
County Durham
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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO ESTABLISH AND RUN A COMMUNITY BUILDING AND TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF HOWDEN-LE-WEAR AND THE SURROUNDING AREA("AREA OF BENEFIT?"WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX,SEXUAL ORIENTATION,AGE,DISABILITY,NATIONALITY,RACE OR POLITICAL,RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH,AGE,INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT,FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS.

Activities: We are a Village Hall providing rooms for various village societies, eg Cubs & Scouts, History Society & NH Healthy Eating classes. The rooms are also available for hire to local people for parties, fairs etc. The Village Hall is also used as a Polling Station for the village at National & Local elections

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Durham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£8,551	£10,570	-	-
2024-07-31	£9,702	£19,198	-	-
2023-07-31	£17,160	£10,333	-	-
2022-07-31	£12,689	£9,194	-	-
2021-07-31	£23,267	£10,600	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Shelley Dyson	Chair	2025-12-08
Anne Reed		2026-04-13
Christopher Dyson		2025-12-08
Eva Graves		2026-04-13
Jacqueline Gent		2025-12-08

HOWDEN-LE-WEAR VILLAGE HALL SOCIETY

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Howden le Wear Village Hall

Report for the Year Ending 31st July 2025

The number and variety of activities at the Village Hall continues to grow. Income from room hire for the year was £8083 an increase of more than 50% from the previous year. At the same time costs have been contained despite rising energy prices by remote control of the heating system so that energy costs for the year were £2843 compared with £3895 for the previous year. Excluding capital expenditure which was funded by grant monies the Society made a small operating surplus for the year, and it remains our policy to break even on a year-to-year basis maintaining the Society's reserves for repairs and investment in improved facilities which cannot be funded by grant monies. Unfortunately, no progress was made with our attempt to lease the land to the rear of the Village Hall despite employing a solicitor to pursue our case with Believe Housing and a grant of £468 received from Durham County Council in connection with this project may have to be repaid. We would like to thank all our user groups for their continued support, especially Village Friends whose events including a drop in café, a men's night, and a chair fitness class greatly enrich the life of the Village, the History Society which celebrated its thirtieth anniversary with a weekend exhibition at the Village Hall, our baby and toddler Group Tiny Feet, the Scouts, and the Craft Group. Despite our success we still have vacancies for new groups and if you have any ideas or suggestions, please come along to one of our regular monthly meetings and the Hall is available for parties, coffee mornings, funeral teas, and other events at a competitive rate.

Alan Bowman

Chair.

Howden le Wear Village Hall Society

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the twelve months 01/08/2024 to 31/07/2025

Income

Room Hire	8083.00	(5129)
DCC Grant Received	468.00	
Total	8551.00	

Expenditure

Energy	2848.38	(3895)
Water	388.40	(374)
Communications	713.76	(656)
Property Repairs/Maintenance	5105.06	(13044)
Insurance & Licences & Legal Fees	1494.42	(1111)
Sundries	20.00	(115)
Total	10570.02	

Notes to Accounts

1. Property Repairs and Maintenance includes expenditure of £2578.49 on a replacement floor for the main hall supported by a DCC Grant of £4000. £1080 deposit paid in previous financial year.
2. £468 received from DCC and paid to Hewitt's Solicitors in connection with lease of land
3. Restricted Funds Defibrillator Account

Balance 1/8/24	£989.16
Electricity Charge	30.00
Balance 1/8/25	£959.16

Trial Balance

Bank 31/7/24	33377.25
Cash 31/7/24	321.52
Income	8551.00
Expenditure	10570.02
Bank 31/07/25	31307.03
Calculated Cash 31/07/25	372.45
Cash Box 31/07/25	12.45
Unprocessed Credit	360.00

Signed A Bowman (Chairman), D Kidd (Treasurer), D Dixon (Independent Examiner) 13th October 2025

HOWDEN-LE-WEAR VILLAGE HALL SOCIETY

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Howden le Wear Village Hall

Report for year ending 31st July 2024

The year has seen further improvements to our facilities with the installation of new blinds for the windows and the replacement of the floor in the main hall following the installation of a new kitchen last summer. We would like to thank the councillors especially Patricia Jopling and Anne Reed for their continued support which is much appreciated. Numbers of members of the community using the Village Hall have increased with the introduction of new activities by our key user Village Friends including the Connect Group, Men's Night, and Chair Aerobics Session to supplement their popular weekly drop in café. We would also highlight the growth of the Tiny Feet baby and toddler group which means that our facilities are used by people of all ages from the local community including the Scouts, History Society, Craft Group, Art Group, Howden Live Music Group, Creative Writing Group and Zumba class. Financially conditions remain challenging with energy bills alone having increased by 28% in the past year while income has remained static even when boosted by donations from funerals and the use of the hall as a polling station in local and national elections. Reluctantly we would propose that the hire fees are increased to ensure that we can continue to afford to heat the hall to a comfortable level in the winter for the benefit of all users. We already have a music licence, and we would now propose that we obtain a motion picture licence at a cost of £326 + VAT per annum to allow us to introduce film nights as part of our regular range of activities. Negotiations for the lease of the garden are continuing with Hewitt's Solicitors of Bishop Auckland acting on our behalf and we are awaiting the return of local searches and other enquiries relating to the land before proceeding to the completion of the lease. Next year is the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of Howden le Wear History Society a thriving group which has made a great contribution to the life of the Village over the years, and we look forward to hosting an exhibition celebrating this milestone in the Society's history next year.

Alan Bowman

Chair

Howden le Wear Village Hall Society

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Twelve Months 01/08/2023 to 31/07/2024

Income

Room Hire	5129.00	(6110)
Donations	573.14	
Grants Restricted Funds	4000.00	
Total	9702.14	

Expenditure

Energy	3895.88	(3040)
Water	374.36	(359)
Communications	656.16	(629)
Property Repairs/Maintenance	13044.66	
Insurance & Licences	1111.11	(976)
Sundries	115.67	
Total	19197.84	

Bank Account Reconciliation 31/07/2024

Cash in Hand 31/07/2023	265.36
Bank 31/07/2023	42929.11
Income	9702.14
Expenditure	19197.84
Bank 31/07/2024	33377.25
Cash in Hand 31/07/2024	321.52

Notes to Accounts

1. Property Repairs and Maintenance includes expenditure of £10,137.30 on kitchen refurbishment supported by a DCC Grant of £8,000

2. Sundries are expenses relating to repairs to the Jubilee Park Mosaic and a donation to RBL Poppy Appeal

3. Donations are the collection at the funerals of Jean Maughan and Cyril Clement plus collections from the dog show and railway exhibition

4. Insurance cover for tenants improvements has been increased to cover the refurbishment of the kitchen.

5. Restricted Funds DCC Floor Grant

Grant Received	£4000
Cheques Issued	£3658.49

6 Restricted Funds: Defibrillator Account

Balance 1/8/23	£1091.10
New Pads	71.94
Electricity Charge	30.00
Balance 1/8/24	£989.16

7. £450 is due from DCC in respect of the use of the Village Hall as a Polling Station.

HOWDEN-LE-WEAR VILLAGE HALL SOCIETY

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Howden le Wear Village Hall Society

Financial Report for the year ending 31st July 2023

The Society made substantial improvements to the facilities at the Village Hall with the support of the Councillors in the last year. A smart TV was installed in the main hall allowing users to access material on the internet and show their own photographs, videos, and presentations to groups. The outdated kitchen was also replaced dramatically increasing the range and quality of meals that could be produced on the premises. These improvements are vital to secure the long-term future of the Village Hall and allow us to attract new users in a competitive market. During the year new Creative Writing, Music, and Toddler groups started and generally the use of the Village Hall for parties and other events increased so that our income from room hire was nearly £1000 above the previous year. We were able to control costs despite the cost-of-living crisis so that we made an operating loss of just over £1300, a significant improvement over the £2000+ expected. In the new financial year, the closure of two groups, CS Dance and Yoga, will result in the loss of more than £1500 of income annually so we will need to advertise our new facilities to attract new users and consider arranging fundraising events like a Summer Fair to maintain our income and meet our target of breaking even operationally. Unfortunately progress on the lease of the garden has stalled due to the escalating legal costs of completing the lease with the costs of both parties (£2000+) having to be born by the Village Hall along with the costs of cutting the grass and maintaining the trees. Negotiations are continuing and we have proposed that the Village Hall could have a much shorter-term lease (less than 5 years instead of 20 years where the legal costs and potential liabilities would be much less). As part of the planned maintenance of the Village Hall we anticipate that the wooden floor in the main floom will need to be replaced within the next 2 years and we will obtain quotes for this work in the next year.

Alan Bowman (chair)

David Kidd (treasurer)

Howden le Wear Village Hall Society

Accounts for the twelve months 01/08/2022 to 31/07/2023

Income

Room Hire	✓ 6110.00	(5250)
Unrestricted Grants		(5667)
Restricted Grants	✓ 11050.00	(1028)
Donations		(699)
Total	✓ 17160.00	(12644)

Expenditure

Energy	✓ 3040.03	(3244)
Water	✓ 359.98	(198)
Communications	✓ 629.78	(631)
Property Repairs/Maintenance	✓ 4690.51	(2948)
Insurance & Licences	✓ 976.63	(737)
Sundries	✓ 636.41	(1057)
Total	✓ 10333.34	(9194)

Bank Account Reconciliation 31/07/2023

Cash in Hand 31/07/2022	✓ 405.38
Bank 31/07/2022	✓ 35.962.43
Income	✓ 17160.00
Expenditure	10333.34
Bank 31/07/2023	✓ 42929.11
Cash in Hand 31/07/2023	✓ 265.36
Total Funds	<u>43194.47</u>

A. J. [Signature]
CHAIRMAN

D. J. K. [Signature]
TREASURER

Accounts Reviewed

[Signature]
21/9/2023

HOWDEN-LE-WEAR VILLAGE HALL SOCIETY

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Report

The Society remains in a strong financial position due to Covid Support Grants of £35904 received during the period of the pandemic. Income from hire fees has now recovered to its pre pandemic levels but we face challenges in the future from increased energy costs which will result in a projected loss of more than £5000 in the next financial year. Our plans for the future include the installation of a smart television and presentation system in the main hall for which a grant of £2850 from Durham county council has been agreed from the budget of Councillor Anne Reid. Negotiations for the lease of the garden are ongoing but it has proved possible to hold a number of events using the outdoor space including a Halloween Party, an Easter Egg Hunt, and a Jubilee Carnival. Our improved facilities have allowed the Village Hall to be used by the local Primary School and we are optimistic that our income will increase during the next year due to our improved offer to the community. Our aim of breaking even operationally on a day to day basis however will not be achievable due to rising energy costs. The Village Hall Committee will continue to monitor costs and consider increasing hire fees to reduce our operating loss while at the same time being aware of the need to support vulnerable members of our community by providing a warm and welcoming environment for our users in what will be a difficult winter.

Howden le Wear Village Hall Society
Accounts for the year ending 31/07/2022 (31/07/2021)

Income

Room Hire	5295.00	(2188)
Unrestricted Grants	5667.00	(20237)
Restricted Grants Notice Board & Jubilee	1028.00	(842)
Jubilee Events & Donations	699.44	
Total	<u>12689.44</u>	(23267)

Expenditure

Gas	2584.75	(2182)
Electric	659.41	(469)
Water	198.44	(165)
Communications	631.39	(439)
Property improvements/Maintenance	2948.19	(5639)
Insurance/Legal	737.10	(646)
Village Flower Displays	200.00	(1030)
Jubilee Celebrations	805.59	
Restoration of Mosaic in Park	205.34	
Sundries	224.59	(27)
Total	<u>9194.80</u>	(10600)

Bank Account Reconciliation 01/08/22

Cash in Hand 01/08/21	333.92
Bank 01/08/21	32539.25
Income	12689.44
Expenditure	9194.80
Bank 31/07/22	35962.43
Cash in Hand 31/07/22	405.38

Represented By

Restricted Funds		
Defibrillator 1/8/21	1151.10	
Less Electricity charge (Transfer)	30.00	1121.10
Unrestricted Funds		35246.71
Total Funds 31/7/2022		<u>36367.81</u>

Signed

David Kidd 13/9/22
Hon Treasurer

David Dixon 22/9/22
Independent Reviewer

Alan Bowman 10/10/22
Chair

HOWDEN-LE-WEAR VILLAGE HALL SOCIETY

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Howden le Wear Village Hall Society
Accounts for the year ending 31/07/2021 (31/07/2020)

Income

Room Hire	2188.00	(5438)
Unrestricted Grants	20237.71	(10000)
Restricted Grants Village Flowers and lights	842.04	
Total	<u>23267.75</u>	(15438)

Expenditure

Gas	2182.35	(2085)
Electric	469.92	(484)
Water	165.27	(261)
Communications	439.49	(437)
Property improvements/Maintenance	5639.04	(4375)
Insurance/Legal	646.70	(696)
Village Flower Displays and Christmas Lights	1030.00	
Sundries	27.98	(100)
Total	<u>10600.75</u>	(8482)

Bank Account Reconciliation 01/08/21

Cash in Hand 01/08/20	94.90
Bank 01/08/20	20111.27
Income	23267.75
Expenditure	10600.75
Bank 31/07/21	32539.25
Cash in Hand 31/07/21	333.92

Represented By

Restricted Funds		
Defibrillator 1/8/20	1269.18	
Less Pad Replacement	103.08	
Less Electricity charge (Transfer)	15.00	1151.10
Unrestricted Funds		31682.07
Total Funds 31/7/2021		<u>32873.17</u>

Signed

David Kidd
Hon Treasurer

David Dixon
Independent Reviewer
02/9/2021

Liabilities

The Society has a liability of £830 in respect of overpayment for room hire by standing order by Howden le Wear Scouts. The Scouts have agreed that the advanced payment should be held against room hire for the next financial year so this amount can be regarded as a reducing liability of the Society the balance of which could be reclaimed if for any reason the Scout Group ceases to meet at the Village Hall.

Grants Received

Unrestricted Funds include Covid Support Payments from DCC 20237.71

Property Maintenance/Improvements

The society has a 30 year full repairing lease over the village Hall premises from Believe Housing and maintenance includes the installation of CCTV at the premises (1845), installation of hand dryers in the toilets (680), and creation of a storage space in the loft (1590).

Report

Without government support this would have been a challenging year for the Society. Our income from room hire and other fundraising fell by almost 90% while costs increased so that over the 18 months of the pandemic the Society had a deficit of more than £10,000 on its normal activities. However the Society received a total of £30237.71 in respect of Covid support which more than offset the deficit and has put us in a strong position to resume our normal activities. Without these payments the bank balance would have fallen to £2775.81 but we can now look forward to the future with confidence and invest to improve our facilities. The proposed lease of the garden is a great opportunity for us to expand the number and range of our activities, while the closure of the chapel has made the Village Hall more important than ever to the life of the village. Completion of the lease has been delayed due to the reduced capacity of Believe Housing's legal Team because of Covid restrictions and the need to prioritise other work but should proceed in the next financial year. Our priority should be to increase the number of active volunteers who will be able to support a much needed expansion of the role of the Village Hall in the community as we open up after the pandemic.