

Registration Number 8961426 | Charity Number 1160251

Birch Hall Adventures

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report to the Trustees & Financial Statements

For the Period to Year End 31st March 2025

Report of the Trustees

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Reference & Administrative Details

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the consolidated financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practices (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

Company Details

Birch Hall Adventures
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Company Registration Number 8961426
Charity Registration Number 1160251
For the Period to Year End 31st March 2025

Trustees

Revd Mark Holdaway (Chairman)
Mr Guy Main
Mr Richard Myers
Mr Nicholas Singleton
Revd Andrew Winter
Revd Peter Law
Jo Bingham
Rachael Hurst

Company Secretary

Mr Jordan Alex Phillips

Address (Registered Office)

Birch Hall Adventures
Birch Hall
Kirby-le-soken
Frinton-on-sea
Essex
CO13 0EL
UK

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

Mr John Lower

Structure, Governance & Management:

Birch Hall Adventures was established in 2014 as a registered charity. It is operated on a daily basis by the centre director, Alex Phillips, and office manager Naomi Lower. The charity is governed by a board of trustees. The board sits formally three times a year but is available for the Centre Director throughout the year informally. Trustees have general areas of expertise, which ensures that the activities of the charity are monitored and feedback given to the full board. Some trustees have a more active role, getting involved in group activities, or work parties.

Objectives & Activities:

Objects of the Charity

1. to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the statement of beliefs appearing in the schedule hereto in the United Kingdom or elsewhere as the trustees may from time to time think fit.
2. to advance education, including in the areas of outdoor pursuits, environmental studies, sport, music, arts and crafts, by such means as the trustees may consider appropriate in the United Kingdom or elsewhere as the trustees may from time to time think fit.
3. to provide facilities for recreation, sport or other leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare for persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances with the object of improving the conditions of life for such persons in the United Kingdom or elsewhere as the trustees may from time-to-time think fit.

Activities

Ensuring our work delivers it aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. The review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. This on-going process reviews our key strategies for the charity, the benefits it has brought to the groups, individuals, local community and people we work with. The review also helps to ensure our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purpose.

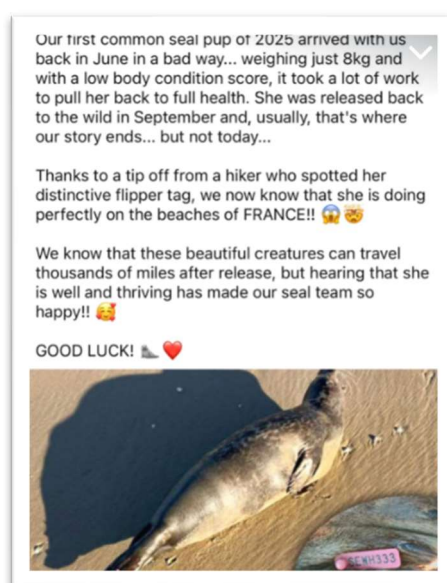
The main business of the centre is in providing day and residential visits for local schools and groups. Many of the schools that we work with are from areas of high deprivation in Clacton on sea and the surrounding area, who would not have opportunities for this type of visit unless we were in the local area. We make it a priority to allow local schools to visit over those from out of the district, and we are able to subsidise trips for the poorest schools.

The current offering of Birch Hall Adventures includes camping, bushcraft, climbing, archery, high ropes and low ropes, secret bunker, sailing, kayaking, seal watching, beach trips, crafts, cooking. In summer we run summer camps, which provide all the adventure activities and also an opportunity for spiritual reflection on the bible stories and work of Jesus. Also, in line with our spiritual aims we open the centre at weekends for church groups.

Public Benefit

The Centre is open to all people of all ages and benefits individuals, groups, staff volunteers and the local community in a wide range of ways. Our public benefit is demonstrated in these ways:

- Outdoor education has been demonstrated to develop confidence, resilience and teamwork in young people and has been shown to have positive outcomes on performance in class.
- Affordability for schools in areas of high deprivation.
- Access to outdoor education in the local area
- A venue for churches and other groups to meet in the outdoors
- Developing life skills in young people when staying away from home
- Building transferable employability skills in volunteers and employees
- Education – through school residentials, adventure activities, through Royal Yachting Association, and leadership & development training.
- Community links – with local primary schools, youth groups, sailing clubs and churches.
- Engagement with and work with the local wildlife reserves and seal rescue teams (see below).
- Promotion & development of physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.



This little fella was abandoned as a pup and rescued from the backwaters by the centre's jetty. It was released in the same spot in September and is doing well across the channel in France.

Achievements & Performance:

Context

Birch Hall Adventures occupies the site of a former dairy at Birch Hall Farm. The farm covers 400 acres comprising arable land, wooded areas and coastal saltmarshes. The centre benefits

from the generosity of the farm partners in being able to access the farm and sea for activities in and around the centre.

Visitors come from school groups both local to the centre and further afield, but the majority come from within the Tendring peninsular. Many local groups, such as scouts, guides, church youth groups and other organisations also make use of the centre. Traditionally most groups visited for the day, but now many schools will stay overnight and make use of either our bunkhouse or tents belonging to the centre. The emphasis of the remains to encourage young people to grow through enjoyment of the outdoors as well as learning about themselves and abilities through teamwork and challenge. The Christian message underpins the work of the centre with Christian staff supporting visitors and participants and where appropriate getting visitors to consider life's deeper questions.

Facilities

In April 2024, we completed the work on the kitchen, opening it out into what was the old office.



The floor was tiled and the equipment reinstalled. Unfortunately, our Hobart dishwasher (bought for 99p) was no longer functional, nor worth repairing, so we had to manage another year with a domestic washer, and many hours for standing at the sink, but we'll be looking out for another one for summer 2025!

The office was moved to the Granary building which provided more space for the existing staff team and summer staff.

During the autumn the former equipment room was emptied and prepared for work in spring 2025 to convert to a new dining room. The new dining room then becomes adjacent to the kitchen making for easy flow and greater convenience for serving and clearing

The old dining room, which was also known as The Classroom, reverts to its former use and makes a great

area for crafts and useful as our 'Café' for events. We're looking forward to autumn 2025 when we hope to build a new office, as first planned in 2023.

Staffing

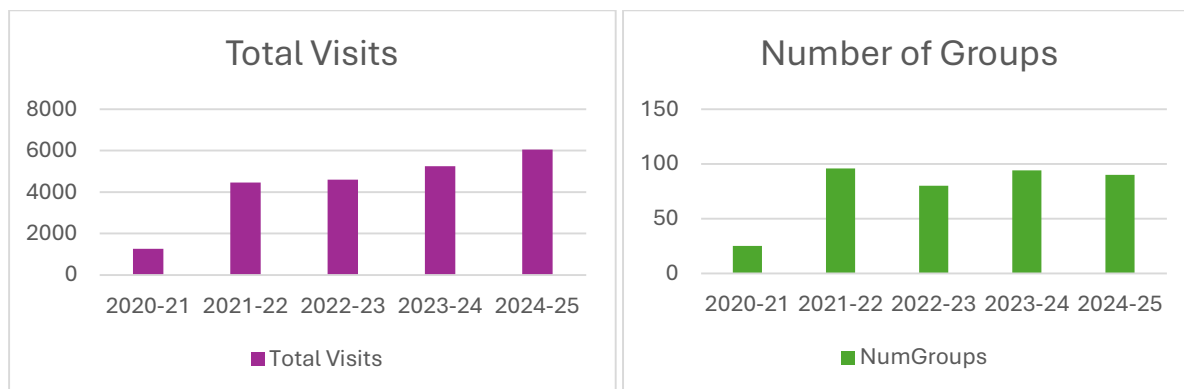
We took on a good crowd of new instructors and put them through some kayak training on a farm pond, with the aim of seeing how the activity would perform compared to previous years when we have kayaked on the backwaters. We're hoping that this activity will become more convenient and easier to operate.

Emma Hall completed the season but decided to move on in January 2025 to a role out of catering. The trustees would like to thank her for her service to the centre and the variety of new meals and cakes which she bestowed on the schools and groups, who were equally appreciative of her role.

Our trustees continued to support and encourage us though with no new additions nor resignations during this period.

Groups and visitors

Our visitor numbers were slightly higher than previous years, although some of our groups were smaller than anticipated. Two events also caused an increase in numbers with over 250 attending both the Tendring Cross Country and Free Church Fireworks

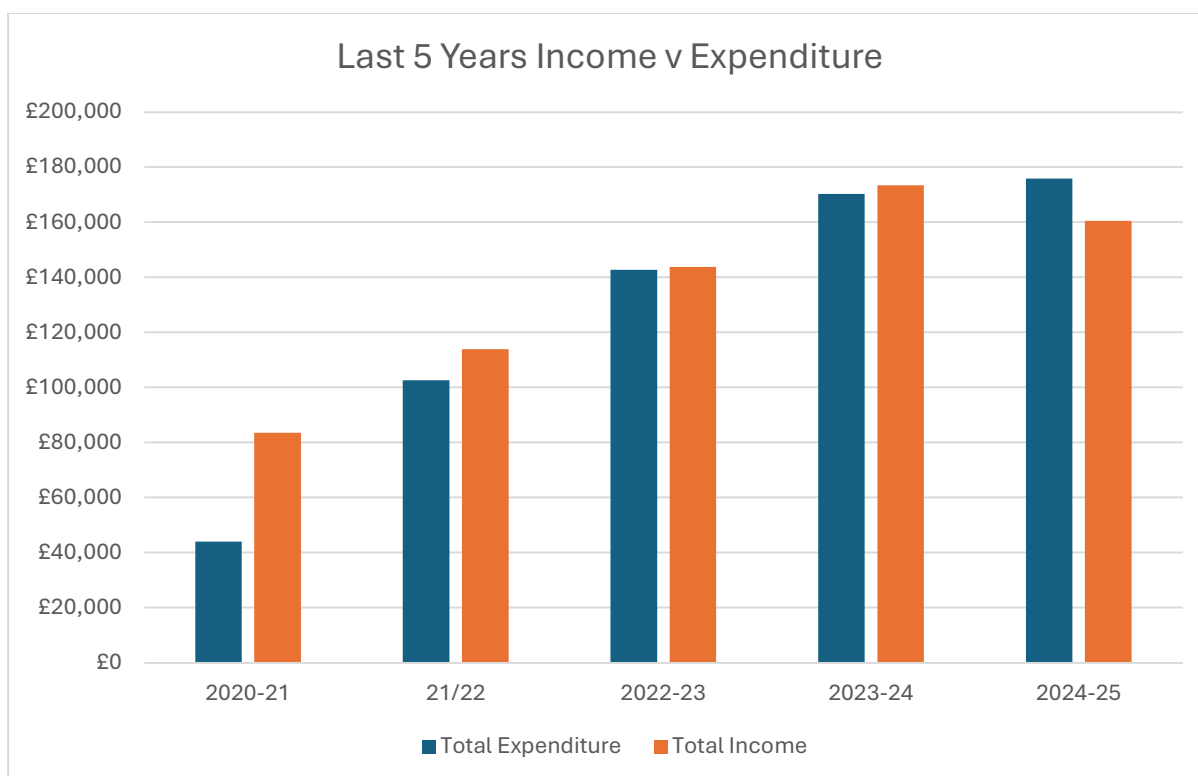


Summer camps continue to be popular and this year we expanded our provision for assistant leaders. Our first large cohort of 16+ pupils made a huge difference to the running of camp. They were split into two teams for duties in the kitchen or around the building and changing rooms and came together in the afternoon for their own bible study looking this year at the book of Ephesians. Several AL's attended multiple camps, and they were fantastic role models for the younger campers both in their service to camp and their involvement in activities.

Income

This year the centre as almost entirely supported itself from earned income with a small rise to 5% in contribution from donations, this mainly due to additional funds raise during the 10th Year Celebrations. This level is still lower that we would like, and we will be investigating ways in which we can look to raise this in the coming year.

Turnover was lower than anticipated due to contraction in numbers for some of the paying groups and this coupled with raise staffing cost (increase in minimum wage and statutory holiday pay for seasonal workers) meant for the first time the centre suffered a loss. This affected the Centre's cash flow in the autumn but with good bookings for 2025 we were able to secure financial support from the Slavanka Trust and we able to repay this in May 2025 from a National Insurance rebate. The trustees would like to express their gratitude for the support of the Slavanka Trust.



Financial planning

The trustees recognise the need for careful stewardship of limited funds but also the need to invest in a growing business. The financial health of the charity is reviewed on a regular basis and spending plans reflect the income available.

Looking forward to 2025-2026, we will aim to consolidate much of the recent development and focus on ensuring that the work done over the past ten years is fit for another 10. We will be focusing on raising funds for future projects with centre growth in mind.

Structure, Governance and Management Report of The Trustees

Governing Document

The Company was formed on 26 March 2014. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members. All members of the trustee board give their time voluntarily and receive no benefit from the charity. Every effort is made to ensure that we have a broad range of skills on the board, with training and support where appropriate. Members of the board volunteer and support the centre throughout the year in various forms.

Risk Management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to mitigate those risks as necessary.

Organisation

The Directors/Trustees determine the general policy of the charity. The day-to-day management of the Centre is delegated to the staff team members led by the Centre Director. The Centre has a team of experienced instructors who deliver the various activity and residential programmes.

Financial Results

The results for the year to 31 March 2025 are set out on pages 9 to 12.

Resources

As stated, the funds are split between those held for restricted purposes and those available for the day-to-day requirements of the Centre.

Restricted Funds

Funds raised for specific purposes are disclosed in the notes and show balances held towards future expenditure. The Centre's assets are sufficient to meet its current obligations. Additional, fund-raising efforts are being made to support the core costs of the centre as well as towards the funding of future projects.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Company law requires the directors/trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those accounts the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

Prepare the Accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

This report and the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the board on 14/10/2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Mark Holdaway

Chairman

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of Birch Hall Adventures

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 11 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

- 1) That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
- 2) That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
- 3) That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice CCNI ARR07 – supporting document 7 August 2016 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
- 4) That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: John Lower

Relevant professional qualification if any: FCA (retired)

Address: 91 Chesterton Avenue, Harpenden, Herts AL5 5ST

Date: 23/12/2025

Financial Review:

Accounts April 2024 - March 2025

Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31 March 2025

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22
INCOME				
Group Income	152,596	166,121	141,922	95,713
Restricted donations	1,362	0	0	4,052
Unrestricted donations	6,563	4,516	1,785	14,146
Total Income	160,521	170,638	143,707	113,911

EXPENDITURE

Activity Costs	6,520	6,027	6,576	11,764
Centre Costs	22,238	16,277	12,393	5,429
Catering Costs	17,703	18,074	10,355	
Equipment	2,486	4,260	5,142	3,951
Marketing	2,617	710	542	564
Office Costs	4,842	5,874	7,734	7,128
Staff cost including training	102,178	100,337	87,020	64,077
Insurance	3,202	2,838		
Depreciation	14,091	13,810	12,926	8,672

Total Expenditure	175,877	168,208	142,687	101,585
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Surplus for year	(15,356)	2,430	1,020	12,326
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Movements in Funds

Unrestricted Funds at beginning of year	74,430	72,000	70,980	58,654
Add: Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(15,356)	2,430	1,020	12,326
Unrestricted Funds at end of year	59,074	74,430	72,000	70,980

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025

	31/03/2025	31/3/2024	31/3/2023	31/3/2022
Fixed Assets				
Fixed Assets-Cost	102,575	100,690	91,852	69,679
Less: Depreciation	(50,505)	(36,414)	(22,604)	(9,678)
Net Fixed Assets	52,070	64,276	69,248	60,001
Current assets				
Cash at Bank	10,385	10,154	7,442	12,326
Debtors	13,619	0	0	0
	24,004	10,154	7,442	12,326
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	0	0	(818)	0
Net Current Assets	24,004	10,154	6,624	12,326
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	0	0	0	0
Total Net Assets	76,074	74,430	75,872	72,327
 Represented by:				
Funds/Reserves				
Unrestricted funds	59,074	74,430	72,000	70,980
Restricted funds	0	0	872	1,347
Trustee loans	4,000	0	0	0
Trust loan	13,000	0	3,000	0
Total reserves	76,074	74,430	75,872	72,327

Journal Analysis

Journals/Analysis

Fixed Assets	at 1/4/22	additions in year	at 31/3/23	additions in year	at 31/3/24	additions in year	at 31/3/25
Bunkhouse etc	42,579.53	11,862.12	54,441.65	5,893.21	60,334.86	960.00	61,294.86
Office	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,944.92	2,944.92	0.00	2,944.92
Other	27,099.27	10,311.06	37,410.33	0.00	37,410.33	924.72	38,335.05
	69,678.80	22,173.18	91,851.98	8,838.13	100,690.11	1,884.72	102,574.83

Depreciation	at 1/4/22	depn for year	at 31/3/23	depn for year	at 31/3/24	depn for year	at 31/3/25
Bunkhouse-10% pa on y/e bal	4,257.95	5,444.17	9,702.12	6,033.49	15,735.60	6,129.49	21,865.09
Office-10% pa on y/e bal	0.00	0.00	0.00	294.49	294.49	294.49	588.98
Other-20% pa on y/e bal	5,419.85	7,482.07	12,901.92	7,482.07	20,383.98	7,667.01	28,050.99
	9,677.80	12,926.23	22,604.03	13,810.04	36,414.08	14,090.99	50,505.06

Net Fixed Assets	60,001.00		69,247.95		64,276.04		52,069.77
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Restricted Funds	at 1/4/22	addns	utilised	at 31/3/23	addns	utilised	at 31/3/24
Tesco Groundworks	475.00	0.00	475.00	0.00			
Tendring District Council	872.00	0.00	0.00	872.00	0.00	872.00	0.00
Total	1,347.00	0.00	475.00	872.00	0.00	872.00	0.00

Current assets-Cash	At 1/4/22	At 31/3/23	At 31/3/24	At 31/3/25
Current Assets-CAFBank	12,106.58	4,469.82	8,673.66	2,953.70
Current Assets-Paypal	219.75	2,922.74	1,464.55	3,760.21
Current Assets-CAFBank-Gold				3,512.06
Current Assets-Petty Cash		49.89	15.60	158.54
	<u>12,326.33</u>	<u>7,442.45</u>	<u>10,153.81</u>	<u>10,384.51</u>

Movement in Unrestricted Funds

Balance at 1/4/22	70,980.33
Add: Surplus for the year	<u>1,019.67</u>
Balance at 31/3/23	72,000.00
Add: Surplus for the year	<u>2,429.85</u>
Balance at 31/3/24	74,429.85
Add: Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(15,356.29)</u>
Balance at 31/3/25	<u>59,073.56</u>

In approving these financial statements as directors of the company, we hereby confirm:

- i. that for the period in question the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 249a(1) of the Companies Act 1985,
- ii. that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 249b(2) requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31st March 2025,
- iii. that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
 - a. ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221, and
 - b. preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial period and of its profit for the period then ended and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.
- iv. the directors have taken advantage of certain exemptions from disclosure conferred by Schedule 8, Companies Act 1985, on the grounds that the company is a small company as defined in that Act.

Notes to financial statements

Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2005 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in March 2005.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Incoming resources

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the conditions for receipt are met and there is a reasonable assurance of receipt. It comprises donations, fees and charges excluding VAT. The following accounting policies are applied to income:

Fees and similar income

Fees receivable are accounted for in the period in which they are received.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on a payments and receipts basis. Expenditure is allocated to expense headings either directly or apportioned according to time spent.

Charitable Activities comprises all expenditure directly related to the objects of the centre.

The Centre is not registered for Value Added Tax.