



ANNUAL REPORT

Registered Charity 1160538

Covering the period April 2023-March 2024

Our Mission:

To enhance the life of the Eastcott Community through the provision of events, activities and opportunities.

Our Vision:

To be a successful and innovative organisation, managing a vibrant and inclusive community resource.

Our story: Since Eastcott Community Organisation became a constituted group in February 2013. In May 2014 we took over community management of Eastcott Community Centre (formerly Savernake Street Social Hall), with the vision to create a community hub for us all to enjoy. We are a registered charity and Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Public benefit

We are mindful of our responsibility to run our charity in a way that is beneficial to the public; and to demonstrate this in accordance with the Charities Act 2022.

1. There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits
2. The benefit must be to the public – or a section of the public.

Our mission and aims support our constitutional objectives to increase opportunities for people in our area of benefit, and this is a constant reference point for all our activities.

There are two aspects to our activity;

1. Managing a community resource
2. Organising community events and activities.

We believe that our activities this year have enabled us to follow our **mission**, by increasing opportunities for local residents to:

- attend a range of classes and activities close to home.

- join community activities at low cost to participants due to grants or other funds.



MANAGING A COMMUNITY RESOURCE:

In **February 2023**, the committee agreed to re-introduce the hire of the hall to the residents of Eastcott for private celebrations. The previous private hire taking place in March 2020. This was a milestone in the Charity's operational recovery from Covid-19. While Covid-19 was still a factor in our risk management of the centre, it is no longer prohibitive in the letting of the centre to groups and residents.

There were 22 regular bookings in the week in which Saturday, **1st April 2023** fell. On 1st April 2022 there were 12.

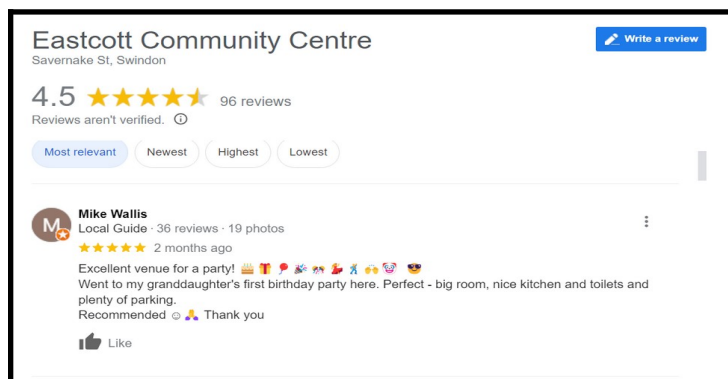
Long standing hirers such as Higashi Karate, Tai Chi, Jack and Jills Playgroup and U3A continue to thrive using the centre as a venue. Support and health groups, fitness activities and classes for children and young people have further increased the range of activities available.

In **June 2023**, the committee agreed to increase the hourly charge to hire the centre. This decision was made to safeguard the organisation in the midst of rising costs in centre management across the board, while remaining competitive in price in relation to other venues of similar size in Swindon.

In **March and April 2023** we recruited an experienced Community Centre Administrator to oversee the bookings for the Centre.

In **March 2024**, we began a trial period of moving our bookings paperwork fully electronic. This had mixed success and the Community Centre Administrator will work to be as efficient with our time and resources as possible, while still meeting the needs of a diverse hirer group.

Thanks to trustee Sara Fluck, we received a Level 3 Advancing certificate from the Royal Horticulture Society following our entry into the Your Neighborhood in Bloom Competition arranged by the Friends of Old Town Society/group.



ORGANISING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

Of note, the organisation in its current form will reach its 10th Anniversary in **May 2024** - plans are underway to celebrate this milestone with staff and volunteers, past and present.

We have seen attendance at the Repair Cafe and Free Shop events return to pre-Covid levels. We offer our thanks to Dave Foster and the Repair Cafe and Free Shop volunteers for their commitment to continuing these events following Covid-19. Open Door, a small charity based in Swindon, has been running the refreshments cafe during these events, providing opportunities for those with learning disabilities and mental health issues to build confidence through volunteering.

"Visited the repair cafe for the first time today. Lovely friendly repairers, nice to hear live music and the lady selling the cakes is an awesome baker! Thanks to all who run the events. We'll be back. 😊"

We held an ECO Fest in **June 2023**, incorporating ECO Talks from Ben Bell, Councillor Jane Milner-Barry, Scarlet Leowin and Steve Russell, covering a diverse range of topics centered around sustainability and the natural world. This event was made possible by funding from the Westmill Solar Co-op Ltd and included a lunch and market stalls selling a variety of handmade and sustainable items.

In **August 2023**, the organisation secured 3 years worth of funding for the Community Inclusion Co-ordinator role from the Wiltshire Community Foundation. This enabled the organisation to forward plans for events in a way that has not been possible before.

We held the sixth Eastcott Window Wanderland in March 2024 involving 112 window makers creating a magical illuminated walking trail for all the community to enjoy. The theme was "Favourite Book, Film or TV Programme". We are grateful for the support of Richard James Estate Agents for printing the Window Wanderland Map.

"I love the community feel and wandering around at night seeing other people's creativity. I love seeing other people enjoying it and getting out with their families."



"I like the fact it's a creative endeavour and brings the community together. It's also a nice thing to do post Christmas whilst still in Winter."

In **December 2023**, Jaine Blackman, our Community Inclusion Co-ordinator, produced a collaborative cookbook, inviting members of the community to submit their recipes. With over 30 people taking part, the "Eastcott Community Cookbook" has been well received by the community.

Clothes Swap events, hosted by Ellen Wray from Kapada, continue to be popular and well attended.

We have continued to share news and information pertaining to the centre on social media platforms. In **March 2023**, a social media volunteer joined the team with a view to create inclusive and diverse content as well as grow our following across existing platforms.

Funding has been secured for an over 60s event in October 2024 from the Wiltshire Community Foundation Older People's Programme, with a special extension to spend the funds by the end of 2024.

FINDING OUT WHAT OUR COMMUNITY WANTS

This year we have collected feedback which has directly influenced our plans for 2024/2025 and beyond:

Feedback forms are available at all community events. We have collected and reviewed over 50 feedback forms as well as received feedback through meaningful 1-2-1 conversations with our community. Throughout 23/24 the impact of the cost of living crisis can be seen in the feedback, with deep appreciation for events that are free to attend or are fairly priced, such as the clothes swap.

Feedback forms and comment books will continue to be available at events going forward.



FINANCE

Funding and support

We have two main income streams – **grant funding/fundraising** and **revenue from hiring out** the community centre.

We have generated **69.8% (£34692)** of our annual income from lettings. An increase of 15% (up from 54.4% last year). We have received **16% (£8415)** of our income from grants. This is almost a 42% decrease from the previous reporting period. A factor in this decrease is the (understandable) move from funders to prioritise activities and programmes that address the cost-of-living crisis as well as community inclusion. Even though our income from fundraising activities has remained the same it now makes up **3.9% (£1920)** of our income. With the increase in income generated by lettings, the organisation has started to invest money into community events, where it has not been possible to secure a grant e.g. Window Wanderland 2024.

Grant funding:

We would like to thank our funders for 2023/24: Wiltshire Community Foundation and Westmill Solar Co-op.

Revenue from hirers:

We would like to thank all our hirers for supporting a community resource. We recognise that this year has continued to be difficult for small businesses and organisations.

We also thank the residents who chose to hold their private celebrations at Eastcott Community Centre.

Reserves policy

We have seen an increase in our expenditure as expected in the current economic climate. Our previous reserves policy was six months running costs for the centre (£1916 x 6). For this reporting period our reserves reflect six months of running costs (£2000 x 6), not including our restricted funds of £8139.

We believe that this more accurately represents the current costs associated with running Eastcott Community Centre.



COMMITTEE AND STAFFING

At our online AGM in November 2023, six trustees joined the volunteer board. Six were re-appointments. We conclude our current reporting period with six trustees. Our trustees' experience includes finance, charity work, social work, project management, marketing, administration, IT, journalism, environmental issues and engineering.

Chair: Stephanie Newton

Vice-Chair: Anna Smart

Secretary: Barrie Hudson

Treasurer: Anne Stone

Garden and Grounds: Sara Fluck

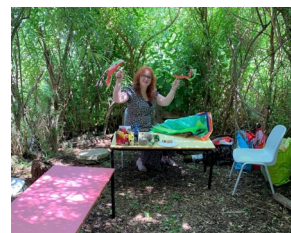
Trustee: Lauren Wallis

Our committee is appointed in line with our constitution and has met monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month 7.30 – 9pm. This is the first reporting year since 2020, that the committee has met fully in person.

We would like to thank trustee Steve Russell, who stepped down in **November 2023** after serving on the committee for 7 years overseeing Health & Safety and facilities, for his significant contribution to Eastcott Community Organisation and Centre.

We have retained two part time positions.

- A Community Centre Administrator, Sophie Ashton, who oversees the booking of the centre and daily operations.
- A Community Inclusion Co-ordinator (previously Events Co-ordinator) Jaine Blackman, who plans and delivers community events and co-ordinates community inclusion projects.



VOLUNTEERS

As always, our biggest thanks this year goes to our volunteers. The volunteers have given their time generously to the organisation.

Current Volunteer Roles include:

- Committee members (Trustees)
- Keyholders to support regular hirers and residents for their booking.
- Events volunteers
- Social Media volunteer
- Newsletter volunteers
- Repair Cafe and Free Shop volunteers
- Gardeners

Recruitment of volunteers has centered around Health and Safety, Facilities and Volunteer Management.

30 volunteers contribute to the success of Eastcott Community Organisation. 11 Operational volunteers who serve on the committee and those hold keys for the centre, supporting regular hirers. And 19 volunteers supporting community events and the delivery of the newsletter and flyers.

This year the organisation has benefitted from group volunteering, with groups from Network Rail attending to help clear the gardens and grounds.

THE FUTURE

We continue to learn, grow, and respond to interest within the community.

In the year ahead we plan to:

- **Celebrate the 10 year Anniversary of Eastcott Community Organisation in its current form.**
- **To maximise the use of Centre** for regular hirers, community events and private parties.
- **Continue to proceed towards a mutually beneficial lease** to improve our organisational security and ability to access funding.
- Continue discussions about **improvements to the building**
- Offer **innovative community activities**

- Continue to **advertise for trustees and volunteers** as appropriate, to strengthen our skills base.
- **Buy in specialist help** where appropriate



THANK YOU to the following for help this year :

The **members of our community** who have participated in our activities and supported us.

The volunteers

Our hire groups

Our staff: Sophie and Jaine

Our centre, event and newsletter volunteers

Our funders

ACRE, Community First and Voluntary Action Swindon

Annual report approved by committee at a meeting held on 09/09/2024

EASTCOTT COMMUNITY ORGANISATION
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1160538
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT				2023
INCOME	TOTAL	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	TOTAL
Grants Received	8,415	8,415		14,615
Donations Received	37		37	122
Income from Fund Raising	1,725		1,725	1,957
Lettings	34,692		34,692	21,998
Sale / Hire of Equipment	293		293	217
Book Sales	195		195	5
Deposits	3,900	3,900		1,200
Waste Collection/Grit	434		434	360
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£49,691</u>	<u>£12,315</u>	<u>£37,376</u>	<u>£40,474</u>

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1160538
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

				2023
EXPENDITURE	TOTAL	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	TOTAL
On Restricted Expenditure	9,107	9,107		11,451
Expenditure on Fund Raising Events	504		504	1,034
Rent	4,500		4,500	4,500
Cleaning	5,396		5,396	4,465
Insurance	948		948	911
Newsletters/Flyers	350		350	433
Waste /Sanitary Collection	1,055		1,055	776
Grit Bin Re-fill	126		126	0
Printing/Stationery/Postage	240		240	200
Accountancy Payroll	459		459	457
Accountancy	180		180	175
Music / Media /Premises Licence	139		139	289
Equipment	200		200	812
Gardening	0		0	63
Maintenance /Decorating/Repairs	484		484	881
Harvest Supper	0		0	48
Miscellaneous	440		440	235
Subscriptions & Memberships	430		430	430
Training	54		54	30
Staff	11,641		11,641	10,795
Window Wanderland	529		529	0
Cookery Book	283		283	0
Wi-Fi	288		288	288
TOTAL	£37,353	£9,107	£28,246	£38,273
Net Surplus (Deficit for the Year)	£12,338	£3,208	£9130	£2,201

EASTCOTT COMMUNITY ORGANISATION
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1160538
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

BALANCE SHEET

		2023
Bank & Cash		
Lloyds Bank Account	40,186	27,848
Cash in Hand	68	68
	_____	_____
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>£40,254</u>	<u>£27,916</u>
 Represented By		
Unrestricted Funds	32,115	22,985
Restricted Funds	8,139	4,931
	_____	_____
TOTAL	<u>£40,254</u>	<u>£27,916</u>

Approved by Eastcott Community Organisation Committee on 8th July 2024

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1160538

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

1 Movement on Restricted Funds

	Balance	Income	Expenditure	Balance
	At	in	in	at
	31/03 /2023	Year	Year	31/03/2024
Deposits	1,395	3,900	3,000	2,295
ECOFEST 2023	3,174	0	2,841	333
Window W 2023	362	404	766	0
WCF Grant (1)	0	5,000	2,500	2,500
WCF Grant (2)	0	3,011	0	3,011
	<u>£4,931</u>	<u>£12,315</u>	<u>£9,107</u>	<u>£8,139</u>

2 Fundraising Even

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
Repair Cafe/Freeshop	329	39	290
Clothes Swap	398	83	315
Wine Night	<u>998</u>	<u>382</u>	<u>616</u>
	<u>£1,725</u>	<u>£504</u>	<u>£1,221</u>

3 Reserves

	TOTAL	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED
As at 31 March 2023	27,916	4,931	22,985
Surplus (Deficit) for Year	<u>12,338</u>	<u>3,208</u>	<u>9,130</u>
As at 31 March 2024	<u>£40,254</u>	<u>£8,139</u>	<u>£32,115</u>

Eastcott Community Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1160538
Financial Statements For The Year Ended
31st March 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Eastcott Community Organisation

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 which Are set out on pages 2 to 4

Respective responsibilities of Management committee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 " The Act" and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of The Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5) (b) of The Act; 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 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.

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 section 130 of The Act
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of The Act

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.

Robert Raynes FCA
85 Priors Hill Wroughton
Swindon
Wilts
SN4 ORL

Robert Raynes

Date

12/7/24

Eastcott Community Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1160538
Financial Statements For The Year Ended
31st March 2024

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Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

A M Stone

Eastcott Community Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1160538
Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended
31st March 2024

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