

## ANNUAL REPORT

Registered Charity 1160538

Reporting period April 2024-March 2025

### 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:** 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.

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.

## Eastcott Community Centre

Savernake St, Swindon SN1 3LZ, United Kingdom

[Write a review](#)

4.5 ★★★★★ 103 reviews Reviews aren't verified ⓘ



RRC RRC

3 reviews · 3 photos

★★★★★ 5 months ago

Great place to meet and help people around Swindon. It's wonderful to have place to go like this. Keep up the amazing work you do. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️



## MANAGING A COMMUNITY RESOURCE:

This was the first reporting period since 2019/2020, where Covid-19 restrictions have not featured in our primary decision making regarding the hire of the hall. This has been a welcome change and we have seen community use of the centre steadily increase, particularly in the evenings and over weekends.

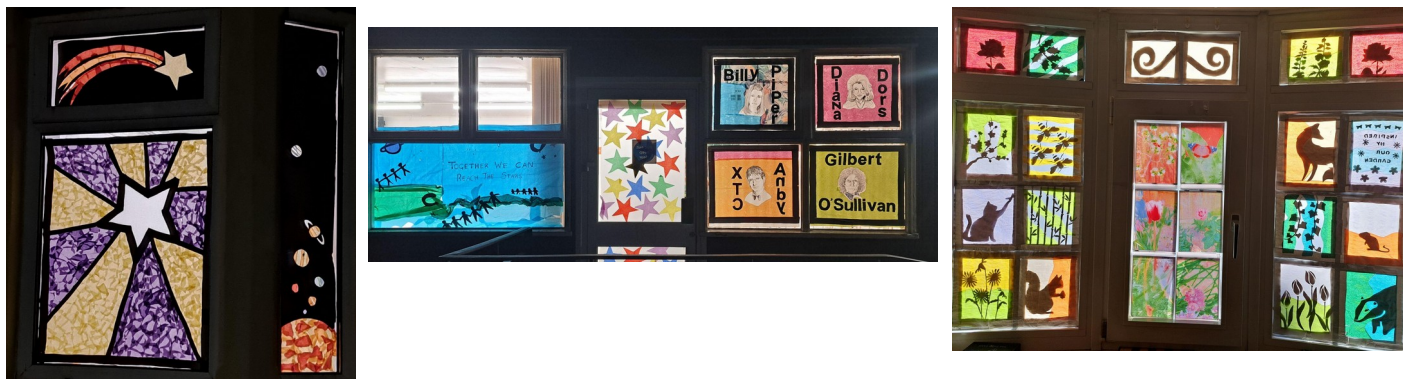
Regular hire has increased from 22 hirers in April 2024 to 26 regular hirers in April 2025. There has been a steep increase in the amount of requests received for private residents' parties, having received a total of 175 requests from residents this reporting period. We were able to accommodate 40 out of these, with hall availability coupled with the availability of volunteers.

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 further increased the range of activities available.

In **June 2024**, we recruited an experienced Community Centre Administrator to oversee the bookings and day-to-day running of the Centre. The Centre has been able to accommodate a steady increase in bookings under her supervision, providing vital income to carry out our charitable aims.

Throughout the reporting period, the trial period of moving our bookings paperwork fully electronic continued. 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 maintained a Level 3 Advancing certificate from the Royal Horticulture Society following our entry into the In Your Neighborhood, Britain in Bloom Competition arranged by the South Swindon Parish Council.



## ORGANISING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

Of note, the organisation in its current form celebrated its 10th Anniversary in **May 2024**. The celebration saw staff and volunteers, both past and present come together to celebrate. A commemorative pennant was made by local charity Stitch Social and hangs proudly in Raggy Powell Hall.

The Repair Cafe and Free Shop events continue to be popular and well attended. We offer our thanks to Dave Foster and the Repair Cafe and Free Shop volunteers for their commitment to these events. In September 2025, the Repair Cafe will celebrate its 10th Anniversary and plans are underway for this celebration. 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.

Our Community Inclusion Co-ordinator successfully added 3 new events to our programme of events for the reporting year:

- A sold out Sip and Paint Fundraiser  
*"I was dead impressed by how busy it was too so it's clearly popular! Great job and look forward to joining you again soon! ❤️"*
- A successful area wide Yard Sale, with IT support from Claire Flemming  
*"We thought it was great! A nice social thing for the community and a chance to grab some great bargains."*
- A wonderful and lively Silver Sunday event.  
*"Thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon"*  
*"Very well organised, many thanks to all involved - Well done!"*

This was the first Silver Sunday event hosted by Eastcott Community Organisation with support from the Wiltshire Community Foundation's Older Peoples Programme. The event saw three musical acts performing songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s.



The Community Inclusion Co-ordinator role received continued support from the Wiltshire Community Foundation (the second year of a three year grant). Further support was announced in January 2025 with funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to contribute to all community inclusion events for 2025.

We held the seventh Eastcott Window Wanderland in March 2025 involving 80 window makers creating a magical illuminated walking trail for all the community to enjoy. The theme was "Reach for the Stars" which saw Eastcott lit up with scenes of space, celebrities and inspirational images. This was the first year a fully online map was available. This received mixed feedback and next year we will have printed maps available again. There are concerns that the popularity of this event is waning across the entire network of organisers. Window Wanderland have invited the organisation to join a working group throughout 2025 to look at revitalising the Window Wanderland project nationally and it is hoped this will bring new energy and ideas to Window Wanderland 2026.

***"I love art and don't really have an outlet anymore so this is a nice annual event to look forward to."***

***"Loved the opportunity of being part of the community, we are new to Old Town, so it was a lovely way to become involved in the community."***

## **FINDING OUT WHAT OUR COMMUNITY WANTS**

This year we have collected feedback which has directly influenced our plans for 2025/2026 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. With events like the Big Lunch and Repair Cafes this year we've seen that attending free or low cost activities is still very important to those in our area but feedback stating this did not feature as prominently as the previous two years. Continued opportunities to come together as a community did feature in feedback received.

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 **56% (£32270)** of our income from lettings (down from 69.8% last year.) We have received **33% (£19000)** of our income from grants. A grant for all community inclusion activities was received from the National Lottery Community Fund, this is the first time one funder has supported a year's worth of events at the centre. **Fundraising made up 2% (£1150)** of our income. Plans are underway to upgrade the equipment at the centre and maintain the appearance of the building where possible.

### Grant funding:

We would like to thank our funders for 2024/25: Wiltshire Community Foundation and National Lottery Community Fund

### Revenue from hirers:

We would like to thank all our regular hirers for supporting a community resource. 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 (£2000 x 6). In January 2025, we increased our reserves to £18000 (£3000 x 6). Our reserves reflect six months of running costs, not including our restricted funds of £17149.

We believe that this more accurately represents the current costs associated with running Eastcott Community Centre moving forward. The Committee will review this regularly as the uncertainty of the current economic climate continues.



## VOLUNTEERS, COMMITTEE AND STAFF

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

32 volunteers contribute to the success of Eastcott Community Organisation. 12 operational volunteers who serve on the committee and those hold keys for the centre, supporting regular hirers. And 20 volunteers supporting community events and the delivery of the newsletter and flyers.

At our AGM in November 2024, eight trustees joined the volunteer board. Six were re-appointments. We conclude our current reporting period with seven trustees. Our trustees' experience includes finance, charity work, social work, project management, marketing, business development, administration, IT, journalism, environmental issues and engineering.

Chair: Stephanie Newton  
 Secretary: Barrie Hudson  
 Garden and Grounds: Sara Fluck  
 Trustee: Josh Sheppard

Vice-Chair: Anna Smart  
 Treasurer: Anne Stone  
 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.

We have retained two part time positions.

- A Community Centre Administrator, Tracey Costello
- A Community Inclusion Co-ordinator (previously Events Co-ordinator) Jaine Blackman





## 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 the Repair Cafe and Free Shop.**
- **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 **members of our community** who have participated in our activities and supported us.

**The volunteers**

**Our hire groups**

**Our staff:** Jaine, Tracey and Sophie

**Our centre, event and newsletter volunteers**

**Our funders:** National Lottery Community Fund and Wiltshire Community Foundation

**ACRE, Community First, Voluntary Action Swindon and the Base Camp Network** for their advice and support

***Annual report approved by committee at a meeting held on 11th August 2025***

**EASTCOTT COMMUNITY ORGANISATION**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1160538**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 MARCH 2025**

<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>				2024
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>RESTRICTED</b>	<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Grants Received	19,100	19,100		8,415
Donations Received	27		27	37
Income from Fund Raising	1,511		1,511	1,725
Lettings	32,270		32,270	34,692
Sale / Hire of Equipment	20		20	293
Book Sales	36		36	195
Deposits	4,125	4,125		3,900
Waste Collection/Grit	468		468	434
Window Wanderland	16		16	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£57,573</b>	<b>£23,225</b>	<b>£34,348</b>	<b>£49,691</b>

**EASTCOTT COMMUNITY ORGANISATION**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1160538**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 MARCH 2025**

				2024
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>RESTRICTED</b>	<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
On Restricted Expenditure	14,215	14,215		9,107
Expenditure on Fund Raising Events	434		434	504
Rent	4,125		4,125	4,500
Cleaning	7,838		7,838	5,396
Insurance	1,019		1,019	948
Newsletters/Flyers	0		0	350
Waste /Sanitary Collection	1,149		1,149	1,055
Grit Bin Re-fill	0		0	126
Printing/Stationery/Postage	319		319	240
Accountancy Payroll	477		477	459
Accountancy	180		180	180
Music / Media /Premises Licence	528		528	139
Equipment	1,492		1,492	200
Gardening	0		0	0
Maintenance /Decorating/Repairs	354		354	484
Neighbourhood Lunch	105		105	0
Miscellaneous	623		623	440
Subscriptions & Memberships	390		390	430
Training	24		24	54
Staff	12,646		12,646	11,641
Window Wanderland	260		260	529
Cookery Book	0		0	283
Wi-Fi	288		288	288
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£46,466</b>	<b>£14,215</b>	<b>£32,251</b>	<b>£37,353</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit for the Year)</b>	<b>£11,107</b>	<b>£9,010</b>	<b>£2,097</b>	<b>£12,338</b>

**EASTCOTT COMMUNITY ORGANISATION**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1160538**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 MARCH 2025**

**BALANCE SHEET**

		2024
Bank & Cash		
Lloyds Bank Account	51,293	40,186
Cash in Hand	68	68
	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>£51,361</u></b>	<b><u>£40,254</u></b>
Represented By		
Unrestricted Funds	34,212	32,115
Restricted Funds	17,149	8,139
	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£51,361</u></b>	<b><u>£40,254</u></b>

# EASTCOTT COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1160538**

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

**31 MARCH 2025**

### 1 Movement on Restricted Funds

	Balance	Income	Expenditure	Balance
	At	in	in	at
	31/03 /2024	Year	Year	31/03/2025
Deposits	2,295	4,125	4,275	2,145
ECOFEST 2023	333	0	315	18
WCF Grant (1)	2,500	0	2,500	0
WCF Grant (2)	3,011	0	2,945	66
WCF Grant (3)	0	5,000	1,250	3,750
National Lottery Grant	0	14,100	2,930	11,170
	<b><u>£8,139</u></b>	<b><u>£23,225</u></b>	<b><u>£14,215</u></b>	<b><u>£17,149</u></b>

### 2 Fundraising Even

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
Repair Cafe/Freeshop	300	10	290
Clothes Swap	225	92	133
Sip and Paint	367	224	143
Yard Sale	70	5	65
Wine Night	549	103	446
	<b><u>£1,511</u></b>	<b><u>£434</u></b>	<b><u>£1,077</u></b>

### 3 Reserves

	TOTAL	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED
As at 31 March 2024	40,254	8,139	32,115
Surplus (Deficit) for Year	<u>11,107</u>	<u>9,010</u>	<u>2,097</u>
As at 31 March 2025	<b><u>£51,361</u></b>	<b><u>£17,149</u></b>	<b><u>£34,212</u></b>

**Eastcott Community Organisation**  
**Registered Charity Number 1160538**  
**Financial Statements For The Year Ended**  
**31st March 2025**

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

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 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:

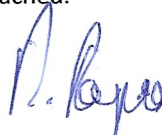
1 Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that ,in any material respect, the requirements

- 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



Date

14/7/25

**Eastcott Community Organisation**  
**Registered Charity Number 1160538**  
**Financial Statements For The Year Ended**  
**31st March 2025**

<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>				2024
	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
<b>Income</b>				
Grants Received	19,100	19,100		8,415
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<b>Expenditure</b>				
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<b>Net Surplus ( Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>£11,107</b>	<b>£9,010</b>	<b>£2,097</b>	<b>£12,338</b>

**Eastcott Community Organisation**  
**Registered Charity Number 1160538**  
**Financial Statements For The Year Ended**  
**31st March 2025**

**Balance Sheet**

2024

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	<u>£51,361</u>	<u>£40,254</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		
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 Represented By		
Unrestricted Funds	34,212	32,115
Restricted Funds	17,149	8,139
	<u>£51,361</u>	<u>£40,254</u>
<b>Total</b>		
	<u>£51,361</u>	<u>£40,254</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

*at M Stone*

**Eastcott Community Organisation**  
**Registered Charity Number 1160538**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended**  
**31st March 2025**

**1 Movement on Restricted Funds**

	Balance As at 31/03/2024	Income in Year	Expenditure in Year	Balance As at 31/03/2025
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**2 Fund Raising Events**

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
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	<u>£1,511</u>	<u>£434</u>	<u>£1,077</u>

**3 Reserves**

	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
As at 31st March 2024	40,254	8,139	32,115
Surplus (Deficit) for year	11,107	9,010	2,097
As at 31st March 2025	<u>£51,361</u>	<u>£17,149</u>	<u>£34,212</u>