

THE CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN VILLAGES TRUST

Report of the Trustee for the year ended 31st March 2025

The Parish Council as Trustee presents its report for the year ended 31st March 2025

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name	The Churchill and Blakedown Villages Trust
Charity registration number	1163029
Organisation type	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Governing document	Foundation CIO, Registered 06 Aug 2015
Registered Office	C/O The Clerk to the Parish Council,
Clerk to the Trust	Louise Harris, 18 Winds Point, Hagley, Worcestershire DY9 0PN
Auditor to the Trust	George Powell FCCA – Powell & Associates, 28-29 New Road, Kidderminster, DY10 1AF
Bankers to the Trust	Lloyds Bank plc, 25 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HN.

Structure, governance and management

The Trust has a sole corporate Trustee (the Parish Council) and has adopted Standing Orders parallel to those of the Parish Council. Councillors sit as a management committee to represent the Parish Council as Trustee.

Management committee	The members of the Parish Council of Churchill and Blakedown
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Our purpose, aims and objectives

The purpose of the Charity is to benefit the residents of the Parish of Churchill and Blakedown as set out in the governing document registered with the Charities Commission as summarised below:

To promote such charities and charitable purposes according to the laws of England and Wales in such ways as the Trustees shall think fit in the Civil Parish of Churchill and Blakedown, in particular but not exclusively, purposes concerned with recreation, conservation and local heritage.

What are our permitted activities in the Parish?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Charitable Purposes• Environment/Conservation/Heritage• Recreation
Who can benefit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The General Public/Mankind
How do we deliver our objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide Buildings/Facilities/Open Space

Our aim is to improve the wellbeing of residents in the Parish through general charitable purposes, including providing and maintaining facilities, and to support other Parish organisations which do the same.

The primary focus of our work during the year

The Trust's main current activity is to hold and manage the reconstructed former Churchill and Blakedown Signal Box as a community asset on a long lease from the Parish Council as a locally listed heritage asset.

The site was maintained and supervised by the Historical Society during the year in accordance with the Occupation Agreement dated 24th October 2024. After the business interruption caused by the Covid pandemic, April 2024 to March 2025 was the third full year of operation for the Signal Box, with the possibility of continuing to seek regular bookings and patterns of use. Throughout the year the Historical Society has been very effective in continuing to open the Box on two occasions in every month for coffee mornings which aimed to inform visitors about the story of the Signal Box, stimulate interest in the history of the locality, encourage local use of the facility and regular bookings, and at the same time provide a welcoming and supportive environment. The Signal Box also hosted private bookings for other events throughout the year although it has seen a decrease in the number of private bookings mainly due to a weekly user ceasing to operate.

The Villages Trust / Parish Council lost a key member under tragic circumstances during the year but his passion for the Signal Box lives on in those who have taken over his role as Chairman of the Signal Box caretaker group, the Historical Society. We intend to dedicate the new wildlife garden at the Signal Box to him and have a summer grand opening in late Summer of 2025.

The Wildlife Garden development commenced in October 2024 and involved the removal of an old piece of fake grass, digging out and removal of concrete and importing 16 tonnes of topsoil. We had new benches and planters built, a bee post put in and hedgehog arches cut out of the fence gravel boards. We planted over 100 native plants and received donations from a local garden centre. 70% of the project costs for this was funded by Natural Networks, a local grant making initiative funded by Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. The remaining 30% was funded by the Trust itself. We intend to continue this project into 2025/26 with more planting, bird boxes, a bat box and a hedgehog house being installed and an interpretation panel supplied to inform local passers-by of the garden's flora and fauna.

There was an increase in utility charges in the year mainly due to the installation of two new Wi-Fi controlled heaters being installed so that we could operate a warm space during the winter. This was well attended and was funded largely by the local Norman Dawson Trust both in terms of the supply and installation of the heaters, a contribution towards the energy costs and some insulation works. We also replaced an old, unfit for purpose wooden flooring on the first floor with a new engineered wood flooring that complements the environment nicely; this was also funded by the local Norman Dawson Trust.

During the year income to the Trust totalled £5576.32 and outgoings were £6406.80, showing a deficit of £830.48. The Trust has no creditors and its Reserves balance taken forward into 25/26 is £6890.24. The year saw the closure of the Trust's CAF account and the opening of a new Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account so that banking can be carried out locally through the branch and via the post office counter.

How our activities deliver public benefit

The Trust seeks to involve the public in its local heritage by continuing to hold and preserve the Signal Box for community use. Its other powers remain available.

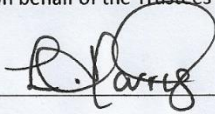
Plans for future periods

The committee are planning to continue with the Wildlife Garden project and the opening of it in the memory of the late Jim Long, in the late summer of 2025. It will also seek out funding for the redecoration of the Signal Box.

Financial review

The Trust has its own banking facilities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Date 24th June, 2025

(Clerk to The Churchill and Blakedown Villages Trust)

Churchill & Blakedown Villages Trust

Receipts & Payment Account 2024/2025

Year ending 31/03/2025

	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
RECEIPTS		
Private Bookings	£855.00	£1,160.00
Grants	£4,553.66	£0.00
Interest	£1.16	£15.34
Donations	£166.50	£168.70
	£5,576.32	£1,344.04
PAYMENTS		
Bank Charges	£20.00	£60.00
Utilities	£1,148.13	£1,082.04
Telephone & Communications	£0.00	£696.36
Repairs & Maintenance	£2,054.70	£439.00
Miscellaneous & Consumables	£96.12	£170.67
Professional Fees	£0.00	£125.00
PC Reimbursements	£3,087.85	£0.00
	£6,406.80	£2,573.07
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-£830.48	-£1,229.03

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank	£6,890.24	£9,931.91
	£6,890.24	£9,931.91
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors - Churchill & Blakedown PC	£0.00	£2,211.19
NET ASSETS	£6,890.24	£7,720.72
RESERVES		
Opening Balance	£7,720.72	£8,949.75
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-£830.48	-£1,229.03
BALANCE	£6,890.24	£7,720.72

Notes:

The Trust (1163029) was registered on 06/08/2015
The First meeting on the Trust took place on 20/07/2016
The Lloyds Treasurers Bank Account was opened on the 01/05/24

Accounts audited

Signed:

Auditor

Signed:

Clerk to the Trust




GEORGE POWELL
FCCA

LOUISE HARRIS.



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