

VISION OF ADVENTURE

CHARITY 1180451

ENABLING BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED ADULTS
TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS



Annual Report and Accounts
Year to October 31st 2020



Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	1	11	2019	To	31	10	2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

Postcode

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Stephen Bateman	Chair		
2	David Corso	Treasurer		
3	Patrick Finn			
4	Paul James			
5	Francesca Higgins		4 th March 2020 onwards	
6				
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10				
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13				
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16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser

Name

Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Operations Manager (Part time) – Jill Corso

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution adopted 23/10/18 (amended 16/2/19)

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by existing Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

New trustees are expected to volunteer on some of the activities to ensure that they are fully conversant with the charities work, beneficiaries and outcomes.

Management and Trustees seek the views of both visually impaired and guide participants in deciding the activities to be run.

Courses we facilitate are fully risk assessed and are led by appropriately qualified staff with many years of experience. On our catered courses kitchen leaders must have food handling qualifications and we encourage our volunteers to also gain certification.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

THE RELIEF OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED ADULTS LIVING WITHIN THE UK BY PROVIDING AND FACILITATING RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, IN PARTICULAR THOSE CONNECTED TO ADVENTUROUS OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE SO THAT THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE SHALL BE IMPROVED.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have taken care to ensure that all our activities comply with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The courses, which are residential in nature and typically last a long weekend, allow participants to meet and socialise with like-minded others. Long term friendships develop among Visually impaired participants and also with the sighted guides. Isolation is reduced and mental and physical well-being are improved.

Participants on courses develop and increase their confidence by learning new or honing existing outdoor skills. The acquired skills may subsequently allow participants to join main-stream clubs and organisations to continue the activities. Skills gained and improvements to well being are transferred other areas of their lives.

We encourage participants and guides to organise their own outdoor activities and events. We do this by offering administration support, providing information and advice on trips and allowing equipment to be borrowed. However, due to the ongoing restrictions around Corona virus this has been limited this year. It is a priority for the future.

The main programme of courses and activities was seriously impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. However, when the restrictions were relaxed at the end of the summer we were able to offer a limited programme of activities.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Volunteers have again this year played a key role in allowing us to run the courses we did. These included not only our 'regular' volunteers but in order to comply with Corona virus restrictions we welcomed 'new' volunteers who formed part or some of the participants own 'bubble'. All are willing to travel considerable distances to help ensure that we could put on courses. We are extremely grateful for the selfless contribution they make.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

It has been a tricky second year for Vision of Adventure!

Courses and events

After a successful first season in 2019 we had a full programme of courses set up, funded and filled. There should have been 15 courses as well as 4 events.

Due to the global pandemic we were forced to cancel all these courses. As the situation eased in late August and the government advised that visually impaired people could receive assistance from sighted guides from outside their household, we were able to rapidly plan and implement a short series of courses.

This involved a lot of planning to ensure the safety of both participants and staff with relation to Corona Virus as well as complicity with Visit England's 'We're Good to Go' campaign.

Activities which we were able to run in a "Covid safe" way were rock-climbing, flat water canoeing, tandem cycling, archery and open water swimming.

In the end we managed to run several day activities, 4 open residential weekends and 2 privately booked courses.

We have been very fortunate that all our funders have been very understanding and helpful in the face of this year's difficulties. We were able to move funding from the original courses to the short autumn series and also carry over a large amount of funding towards next year's courses.

Staffing

Dave and Jill Corso continue to be the main driving force behind the charity. Jill has continued as operations manager (although she has been furloughed from this position for much of the year). Jill also continues in her voluntary capacity as fundraiser and has been successful in securing much needed funding from grant giving bodies and Trusts.

Dave has continued to manage all things financial in his role as Treasurer (a voluntary trustee role).

Chris Calvert has been a very welcome addition to the team in his role as Support Team Manager. Chris was appointed to this full time position in March. Just after his appointment we, along with the rest of the country, were plunged into a period of uncertainty by the Covid 19 crisis. He very generously agreed to take a reduced contract and worked, from home (in Glasgow) on a 0.5 basis for the first 5 months. At the start of October he finally became full time and will be moving down to the Kendal area shortly to take charge of the office. Chris's position is currently supported by joint funding from the government and the National Lottery.

We are, in normal times, dependent on zero hours staff who work as needed on our courses. This has of course been a difficult year for them and we have been pleased to be able to place them all on furlough and employ some of them in the autumn courses.

In March Sinead left us after a year as our admin assistant. We were sorry to see her go but appreciated that her other roles were expanding and life was just getting too full!

Trustees

We continue to be well supported by our original group of 4 trustees. Steve Bateman (Chair), Dave Corso (Treasurer), Paddy Finn (Safeguarding) and Paul James (Safety).

We were delighted when Fran Higgins joined us as a further trustee in March. Fran has a strong background in HR and led the process of appointing the Support Team Manager.

Volunteers

Sadly, due to Covid 19, we have not seen many of our regular volunteers this year. We were delighted to be supported by a small team of volunteer guides in the autumn. We recognise that many could not attend due to having vulnerable families or being at higher risk themselves. Additionally, we were pleased to welcome some new guides in the form of the family and friends of VI

participants who came along so the VI could be guided by someone from their own household or bubble.

Many of our volunteers have kept in touch and we look forward to welcoming them back as soon as we can.

Equipment & facilities

We have been donated 2 tandem bicycles this year suitable for our triathlon project and another which we aim to lend out for VI's who come to the Lake District on holiday.

Again, we have been grateful to a volunteer, who with the assistance of a local bike store has maintained the whole fleet of 11 tandem bikes for no charge.

We have been given small grants to purchase general outdoor equipment but because of Covid reasons we have delayed buying the items.

The charity runs its office, for no charge, from the attic of the founders home. Similarly, much of the transport of the equipment used on courses has been undertaken using the staff's own vehicles.

Fundraising

With Corona Virus dominating the year fundraising has been a challenge.

However, our supporters have once again done us proud. One competed in one of the country's hardest mountain-based triathlons and through sponsorship raised just under £1800. One of our Trustees along with his pilot raised over £1300 cycling 3500Km around Britain.

Additionally, some of our participants donated their refunded course fees after their courses were cancelled because of Covid.

'Go Ape', a local Tree Top Challenge company, awarded us their 'Charity of the Year' status. They collected money on our behalf by way of collecting tins at their venue. We are still waiting to collect this donation due to issues surrounding Corona Virus and changes in Go Ape's Management.

We have had a generous pledge from a supporter, which combined with backing from a charity champion enables us to take part in December's "Big Christmas Give" a matched funding campaign through which we aim to raise £6000 to start next season's fundraising.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Cash at bank at 31st October 2020 was **£34,700 in Restricted Funds**.

The Restricted Fund includes £8000 of Emergency Reserves. (Up by £2000 from last year which reflects increased employment costs of additional staff). This covers approximately 2 months operational costs in the event of loss of income or to meet any unforeseen expenditure. Corona Virus has highlighted the need to hold a sufficient reserve and over the next few years we aim to double our existing amount.

We have been fortunate that in the final month of our financial year we have been awarded a £10k grant by the National Lottery to help fund employment over the next 6 months. This too, is held in the restricted fund.

The Restricted Fund also holds money designated for future courses or asset purchases. This is typically money that has been paid in advance by course participants or donated grant money. Currently this is approx. £17k and has significantly increased over last year because we have not run the number of courses we planned. Thanks to the grant providers, we have been able to roll these grants over to next year.

We have previously declared that we would like to establish a small bursary fund to subsidise course fees for individuals who would otherwise not be able to participate. Unfortunately, we do not feel in a position to do so yet.

Cash at bank at 31st October 2020 was **£17K in Unrestricted Funds**.

We have been fortunate this year in that a significant proportion of our costs have been covered by Covid related and core-funding grants.

Funding levels in the Unrestricted Funds are not uniform throughout the year. They tend to be high at year end and low in late spring. This is explained by the fact that most of the Unrestricted Fund's income (the transfers from the Restricted Fund) happens generally in late spring and summer. However, major

outgoings (staffing costs and advance course charges) still occur throughout the autumn and winter (when there are few courses).

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not Applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity continues to rely heavily on grants from charitable trusts.

A lot of our funding this year has been Covid related and we have been supported both by charitable trusts and the Government through grants and the furlough scheme.

We are aware that we need to diversify and develop more sustainable funding streams. This is something that Chris will take on in the future.

Section F

Other optional information

Future Plans

After a solid start in our first year of operation, our original aim of 2020 had been to consolidate what we had achieved, but this was impacted by Covid. At the time of writing there is still much uncertainty about how it will affect the future.

Therefore, our immediate aim is to keep overheads low and when the Covid situation eases we will start to run courses again. Optimistically, we are planning for 2021 to run a similar number of courses and activities to those first offered in 2020. In addition, we also hope to have more single day activities, where accommodation is not part of the course. It is hoped that we may involve more local people.

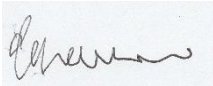

We would like to facilitate more self-led courses and expeditions. We see this as our main area of expansion in 2021. Jill is actively seeking funding to support this.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Stephen Bateman	David Corso
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	16/11/20	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Vision of Adventure

No (if any)
1180451

Receipts and payments accounts



CC16a

For the period from 01/11/2019 To 31/10/2020

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Direct Donations	3,030	3,513	-	6,543	18,710
Gift Aid	1,990	-	-	1,990	1,446
Donations via Charity Collection Agency	505	-	-	505	1,110
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	6,382
Participant Course fees	-	9,860	-	9,860	21,047
Covid 19 Business Support Grants from Govt and Lottery	-	24,411	-	24,411	-
Grants	900	25,809	-	26,709	42,738
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	6,425	63,593	-	70,018	91,433
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	6,425	63,593	-	70,018	91,433
A3 Payments					
<i>Fixed and Admin costs</i>					
<i>Salaries and On-Costs</i>					
Operations Mgr - course delivery	-	-	-	-	6,175
Operations Mgr - office	14,224	-	-	14,224	5,351
Other Admin	9,632	-	-	9,632	3,043
Storage costs	2,902	-	-	2,902	2,412
Insurance	1,111	-	-	1,111	1,302
IT - Web and Software costs	221	-	-	221	410
Staff Training	-	-	-	-	276
Transport	-	-	-	-	147
Office Sundries	308	-	-	308	76
<i>Course and Event costs</i>					
Accommodation	6,189	-	-	6,189	10,407
Transport	1,407	-	-	1,407	3,838
Food costs	833	-	-	833	2,495
Event entry fees, Certificates	-	-	-	-	1,050
Bike Maintenance	338	-	-	338	689
General costs and sundries	325	-	-	325	311
Additional Venue hire	-	-	-	-	451
<i>Additional Course Employment Costs</i>					
Casual Employee wages	8,003	-	-	8,003	8,584
External coaching costs	-	-	-	-	420
Sub total	45,493	-	-	45,493	47,437
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
<i>Asset Purchases:</i>					
Box trailer	-	-	-	-	5,157
Canoe	-	-	-	-	1,080
Tandem	-	-	-	-	2,353
Computing equipment	-	-	-	-	972
Climbing equipment	-	-	-	-	1,074
Caving equipment	-	-	-	-	1,209
total of other smaller purchases	442	-	-	442	4,294
Sub total	442	-	-	442	16,139
Total payments	45,935	-	-	45,935	63,576
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 39,510	63,593	-	24,083	27,857
A5 Transfers between funds	41,848	- 41,848	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,893	12,964	-	27,857	-
Cash funds this year end	17,231	34,709	-	51,940	27,857

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	17,231	34,709	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	17,231	34,709	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Computer equipment	unrestricted	-	500
	Box Trailer	unrestricted	-	3,500
	8 canoes and Canoe Trailer	unrestricted	-	4,750
	Paddling Gear (Bouyancy aids, helmets, paddles, canoe caps)	unrestricted	-	500
	11 Tandems	unrestricted	-	6,500
	Cycling gear (helmets, lights, panniers, multi-tools, spares & workshop equipment)	unrestricted	-	500
	Climbing gear (ropes, harnesses, helmets, hardware, rock boots)	unrestricted	-	1,300
	Caving gear (ropes, SRT harnesses, helmets, lights, caving suits, wellington)	unrestricted	-	1,700
	Clothing (cagoules, fleeces, fleece underwear, Yachting waterproofs)	unrestricted	-	250
	Other outdoor equipment (archery equipment, rucksacks, kit bags, drybags)	unrestricted	-	400
	Domestic equipment (kitchen equipment, bedding, workshop trolley)	unrestricted	-	150
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Stephen Bateman	16/10/2020	
		David Corso	16/10/2020	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
VISION OF ADVENTURE

On accounts for the year
ended

31ST OCTOBER 2020

Charity no
(if any)

1180451

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/10/2020
As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent
examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

16th February 2021

Name:

Amanda Beuselinck

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACMA
MICB

Address:

11 Tewkesbury Avenue
Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 5LQ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.