

# VISION OF ADVENTURE

CHARITY 1180451

ENABLING BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED ADULTS  
TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS



Annual Report and Accounts  
Year to 31st October 2022



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
<b>From</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2022</b>

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **Vision of Adventure**

Other names charity is known by **VoA**

Registered charity number (if any) **1180451**

Charity's principal address **16, Gowan Close, Staveley, Cumbria**

Postcode **LA8 9NW**

### 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	Mark Colman	Chair		
2	David Corso	Treasurer		
3	Stephen Bateman			
4	Paul James			
5	Francesca Higgins			
6	Emily Banks			

### 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 and policies to be adopted.

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 (again) this year. It remains a priority for the future.

The main programme of courses and activities was impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. We have started to return to our pre pandemic level of provision. We have continued with some of remote activities which we developed during the Covid pandemic as they have proved very popular for keeping participants connected and fit during the winter months.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

Volunteers have again this year played a key role in allowing us to run the courses we did. This year we have actively recruited new volunteers and provided training for them. 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.

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

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

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

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

**Courses and events**

This year we have welcomed back many of our regular participants and guides. Some have still not been able to attend due to our Covid vaccination policy.

We have been well supported by some regular funders as well as some who have not supported us before.

In the Winter we ran Zoom Online fitness and exercise sessions which not only provided a way for people to keep fit but also a regular chance to meet online and socialise. We also ran a popular one to one mentoring scheme, where people could have fortnightly remote meetings with a coach who could help them plan their fitness and training activities.

In early 2022 we ran 2 “Learn to Swim” courses in response to requests from our participants. These were very successful, and we hope to repeat them.

We also ran an early season fitness / triathlon prep weekend which kick started people’s fitness coming out of the winter.

In the Spring and Summer, we focussed on our core offering of residential weekends and ran a further 13 courses, providing over 100 places overall.

We ran courses in triathlon, climbing, cycling, open water swimming, canoeing and multi activity. Our climbing and cycling and open water courses continue to be well oversubscribed.

Although most of our courses were fully booked, in practice most ran with spaces due to last minute cancellations. The main reasons for this were last minute positive covid tests and train strikes. We were quite generous with refunds for people unable to attend but we cannot continue to sustain loss of course fees in this way. In 2022/ 2023 we will need to address this problem

Some of our triathletes have competed in mainstream events this year and this is something we wish to promote especially by encouraging long term guide/ athlete partnerships where possible.

**Staffing**

Dave and Jill Corso continue to be the main driving force behind the charity. Jill has continued as operations manager. 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).

We have had an unsettled year in the admin team as Lucy left us in April. Anthony Emmet, who had recently joined us to assist Lucy, stepped up and has been running the admin team. We were also joined by Rachel Duncan who works 10 hours per week on course admin and Lisa Kenton working 10 hours per week on accounts and the fundraising database.

We are, still, dependent on zero hours staff who work as needed on our courses. We have a stable team of 6 staff who work with us on an ad hoc basis.

### **Trustees**

We continue to be well supported by our existing trustees. Mark Coleman (Chair), Dave Corso (Treasurer), and Paul James (Safeguarding and Safety), Fran Higgins (HR). Steve Bateman and Emily Banks.

Four of our six trustees are visually impaired, and we can truly say that we are a Visually Impaired led organisation.

### **Volunteers**

We are still very well supported by our volunteers. This year we have welcomed back many of our regulars. For the first time we have actively advertised and recruited new guides for whom we have provided specialist training. We now have a well-defined process for safe recruitment.

### **Equipment & facilities**

With the help of donations and grant funding we replaced one of our ageing tandems. Additionally, we received a donation of 3 nearly new tandems from Eden Sight Support charity. Our tandem fleet now stands at 13.

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

We have this year moved the office from the attic of the founder's home. We now rent a small office in Stricklandgate House, Kendal. Stricklandgate House is itself a charity and provides low cost office space to other charities. We are very grateful for this facility.

We continue to use minibuses hired from Cumbria Community Transport, another charitable organisation without whom we could not operate.

Much of the transport of the equipment used on courses and all the towing of trailers is still undertaken using the staff and trustee's own vehicles.

## **Fundraising**

We continue to be very well supported in by many Trusts and Foundations and finish this year in a healthy financial position.

## **Notes on Restricted and Unrestricted funds**

Cash at bank at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 was **£30,931 in Restricted Funds**.

We have included our Contingency/Emergency reserve of £16,000 in the Restricted Funds.

The amount in the Restricted Fund has drastically reduced from the previous year when unused grants and donations were rolled over and spent this year.

Cash at bank at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 was **£12,234 in Unrestricted Funds**.

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).



## Section E

## Financial review

### **Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Our target policy is to maintain Contingency/Emergency Reserves of 4 months core costs (permanent staff costs and fixed overheads). This will ensure the charity can continue to run in the event that there is a shortfall in income or any unforeseen expenditure.

We normally review this policy on an annual basis, but because Corona Virus has highlighted the financial threats that the charity is susceptible to, we aim to consider this more regularly.

Currently the level of Contingency/Emergency Reserve is set at £16,000

(An increase of £4,000 from last year which reflects increased employment costs of additional staff). At existing expenditure levels this meets our target of 4 months cover.

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. We are delighted that to say that for the coming year we have provisionally put aside £2000 from our unrestricted funds for this.

**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.

We continue to be aware that we need to diversify and develop more sustainable funding streams.

## Section F

## Other optional information

### Future Plans

Our main aim for 2023 is to build more resilience into the charity for the future.

We are aware that the functioning of the charity is still very dependent on a very small number of people. This will need to be addressed in order to improve the charities sustainability.

Jill continues to carry much of the responsibility for managing the admin team, although Ant Emmet has started to take responsibility for much of the day-to-day management. Jill also has responsibility for designing, managing, and running the courses and activities and ensuring we are adequately funded.

This position is not sustainable in the long term so we will seek funding for a more senior member of office staff.

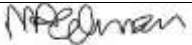

The demand for places on our courses continues to be high and we will look at ways of expanding our provision without 'overreaching'.

We aim to produce a separate Impact Report each year by surveying our participants. We hope to publish our first one in April of the coming year.

## Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures		
Names	Mark Colman	David Corso
Position	Chair	Treasurer
Date	01/03/23	01/03/23



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 11/1/2021	To	Period end date 10/31/2022
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### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
Direct Donations	2,643	1,000	-	3,643
Gift Aid	176	-	-	176
Donations via Charity Collection Agency	317	-	-	317
Fundraising	-	-	-	-
Participant Course fees	-	22,420	-	22,420
Covid 19 Business Support Grants from Govt and Lottery	-	-	-	-
Grants	8,150	64,728	-	72,878
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	<b>11,286</b>	<b>88,148</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>99,434</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>				
Sale of tandems	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>11,286</b>	<b>88,148</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>99,434</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>				
<i>Fixed and Admin costs</i>				
<i>Salaries and On-Costs</i>				
Operations Mgr - course delivery	14,387	-	-	14,387
Operations Mgr - office	5,465	-	-	5,465
Other Admin	20,656	-	-	20,656
Storage costs	4,240	-	-	4,240
Insurance	1,722	-	-	1,722
IT - Web and Software costs	163	-	-	163
Staff Training	17	-	-	17
Transport	107	-	-	107
Office Sundries	452	-	-	452
<i>Course and Event costs</i>				
Accommodation	12,410	-	-	12,410
Transport	2,412	-	-	2,412
Food costs	3,543	-	-	3,543
Event entry fees, Certificates	-	-	-	-
Bike Maintenance	148	-	-	148
General costs and sundries	343	-	-	343
Additional Venue hire	1,545	-	-	1,545
<i>Additional Course Employment Costs</i>				
Casual Employee wages	12,017	-	-	12,017
External coaching costs	4,752	-	-	4,752
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>84,379</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84,379</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>				
<i>Asset Purchases:</i>				
Box trailer	-	-	-	-
Canoe	-	-	-	-
Tandems & biking equipment	4,936	-	-	4,936
Computing equipment	852	-	-	852
Climbing equipment	-	-	-	-
Swim equipment	1,835	-	-	1,835
total of other smaller purchases	345	-	-	345
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>7,968</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,968</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>92,347</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,347</b>

**Net of receipts/(payments)**

-	81,061	88,148	-	7,087
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<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>70,626</b>	<b>- 70,626</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>22,669</b>	<b>13,410</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,079</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>				
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>12,234</b>	<b>30,932</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,166</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash at Bank	12,234	30,931
		-	-
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	12,234	30,931
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mark Colman

David Corso

## CC16a

Last year

to the nearest £

2,943
227
195
9,118
12,910
12,507
11,856
49,756

1,350
1,350

51,106
--------

10,516
7,201
10,575
3,260
1,160
324
200
33
247
5,774
1,979
1,791
-
127
119
250
12,711
4,430
60,697

-
-
-
5,249
-
867
-
154
-
6,270

66,967
--------

-	15,861
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-	
51,940	
36,079	





**Endowment  
funds  
to nearest £**

-
-
-
-

OK

**Endowment  
funds  
to nearest £**

-
-
-

**Current value  
(optional)**

-
-
-

**Current value  
(optional)**

900
3,000
4,250
400
11,000
1,000
1,100
1,500
250
900
150
-

**When due  
(optional)**


**Date of  
approval**

3/1/2023
3/1/2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

**Vision of Adventure (VoA)**

On accounts for the  
year ended

31.10.22

Charity no  
(if any)

**1180451**

Set out on pages

11-13

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/10/22

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:

05.04.23

Name:

Mike Platten CPFA

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

Member Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

Address:

6 Uplands Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8BP

**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.**