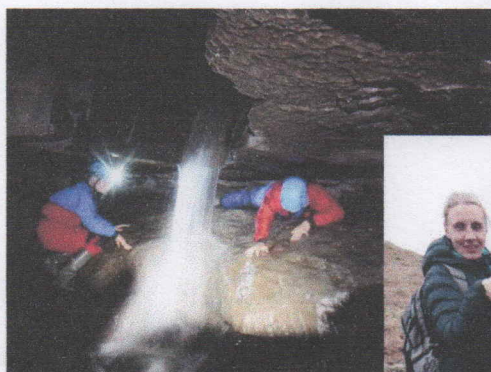


VISION OF ADVENTURE

CHARITY 1180451

ENABLING BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED ADULTS
TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS



Annual Report and Accounts
Year to 31st October 2024



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year	
From	1	11	2023	To	31	10	2024

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		Until 12/04/24	
4	Paul James		Until 12/04/24	
5	Francesca Higgins			
6	Emily Banks			
7	Nazia Aslam			

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

Operations Manager – Jill Corso

Business Manager (from Jan 1st 2023) – Anthony Emmet

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.

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. It remains a priority for the future.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

We are still very well supported by our volunteers. This year we have welcomed back many of our regulars. We have not actively advertised but have recruited some new guides by recommendation. We have a well-defined process for safe recruitment.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

This was Vision of Adventure's sixth year of activity.

Courses and events

This year we have welcomed back many of our regular participants and guides. We have also welcomed a number of new participants.

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 cycle sessions which not only provided a way for people to keep fit but also a regular chance to meet online and socialise.

Over the year most of our efforts were focused on our core offering of residential weekends and we ran 18 courses, providing around 108 places overall.

We ran courses in, climbing, caving, tandem cycling, open water swimming, canoeing, multi activity and walking. In addition, this year we added "Hike and Dip" which proved very successful. Our climbing and cycling and open water swimming courses continue to be well oversubscribed.

Most of our courses were fully booked, and we ran with far fewer spaces due to last minute cancellations than in recent years. We continued to commit to refund course fees if a VI was unable to attend due to a train strike. This is a potential unwanted cost to the charity but without this commitment people were reluctant to book their course place for fear of losing their course fee as it is not possible to insure against train strikes. In practice we were fortunate that effect of train strikes this year were minimal.

Some of our triathletes, cyclists and swimmers 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

The founders Dave and Jill Corso continue to be very active in 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 in his role as Treasurer.

A major emphasis during last year was to work towards reducing the charity's dependence on Jill and Dave for its day to day, hands on running. Unfortunately this year, due to unforeseen circumstances this trend was reversed.

This year we lost Anthony Emmet as Business Manager and Pippa Archer as Engagement Officer. These 2 resignations although, unrelated, came at short notice and close to the start of the busy season. This stretched our admin

capabilities to the limit. Once again our founders Jill and Dave Corso had to pick up the slack.

The trustees recognise that this situation is a big risk for a small charity and are urgently looking at ways of guarding against similar situations in the future.

Pippa was replaced in the short term by Katy Colman who stepped in as engagement officer for 5 months to fulfil our commitment to the funders who had funded this position. Katy did an excellent job and her appointment was notable as she was our first blind employee. Due to funding constraints on our part and other work commitments on Katy's part we were unable to extend her contract.

The staff team has been greatly enhanced by the appointment of Sheila Tarpey as course host. Sheila now takes responsibility for everything to do with food and providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere on our residential courses.

Late this year we welcomed husband and wife team Chris and Vicky Binks.

In June Chris was taken on as part time admin assistant with a view to him becoming Business Manager in October. Chris has a background of running admin for outdoor companies and has for the past 6 years run his and Vicky's own company specialising in outdoor activities for people with disabilities.

In October we welcomed Vicky as Operations Manager to take over from Jill. Vicky, like Jill, worked for many years at Bendrigg Trust and has a strong outdoor background specialising in delivering activities to participants with a disability.

Jill will continue to run the cycling and swimming programmes.

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

Trustees

We continue to be well supported by our existing trustees. Mark Colman (Chair), Dave Corso (Treasurer), Fran Higgins (HR), Nazia Aslam and Emily Banks. In April, Steve Bateman and Paul James, who were instrumental in starting the charity in 2018, resigned. We thank them for the great support they have given.

Four of our five trustees are visually impaired, and we can truly say that we are a user led organisation.

Volunteers

We are still very well supported by our volunteers. This year we have welcomed back many of our regulars. We have not actively advertised but have recruited some new guides by recommendation. We have a well-defined process for safe recruitment.

Equipment & facilities

This year our volunteer bike mechanic has been supported by a paid, professional bike mechanic. This is something we feel is essential to continue.

With the departure of Ant and Pippa and other staff's ability and desire to work from their own home office we ended the lease on our small office. We are grateful to the Sticklandgate House charity for the very affordable office provision and will rent an office there again should our ongoing staff team require office space.

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 an adequate financial position.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Total Cash at bank at 31st October 2024 was **£33,923**

£12,877 of this was Restricted Funds This amount has halved compared to the previous year. All of our Restricted Fund income comes from grants and the timing of their receipt affects the amount of money at year end.

£21,046 was Unrestricted Funds. A figure similar to last year.

At this point we do not have any Contingent/Emergency Reserve. Fundraising for the future has been difficult over the summer as due to unforeseen circumstances (The sudden departure of our Business Manager) Jill has been fully committed in running the charity with little capacity remaining for fundraising.

The trustees continue to recognise that this is undesirable and consider that the appointment of a paid fundraiser is crucial to the future of the charity. This will be a priority next year.

Cancellation of our office lease will assist in reducing our overheads. We continue to look to raise further funds and monitor the situation closely.

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 are aware that it will be challenging to maintain our reserves at the desired level but feel that it is something we should strive for.

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.

Please note that an error has been discovered in the previous years (2022-2023) reporting. Whilst the overall cash at bank remained the same the split between Restricted and Unrestricted funds was incorrect by £75.00. This has been adjusted in this years accounts.

Overall, the charity continues to rely heavily on grants from charitable trusts.

We are extremely grateful to a number of individuals who undertook sponsored events for us this year – this is something we would like to build on in future years.

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 2025 is to build more resilience into the charity for the future.

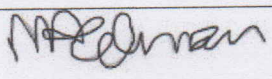
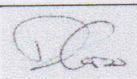
We are aware that the functioning of the charity is still very dependent on a very small number of people. This will need to be addressed in order to improve the charities sustainability.

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	20/04/25	20/04/25



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Vision of Adventure		No (if any) 1180451	CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from 01/11/2023	To 31/10/2024		

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	2,934	-	-	2,934	10,260
GiftAid	3,176	-	-	3,176	-
Donations, Fundraising via Charity Collection			-		
Agency	2,427	-	-	2,427	1,341
Grants	35,300	44,738	-	80,038	50,029
Course Participant Fees	-	34,860	-	34,860	32,361
Bank Interest	771	-	-	771	-
Merchandise Sales	10	-	-	10	10
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	44,618	79,598	-	124,216	94,001
A2 Asset and investment sales					
Tandem Sale	£ 550	£ -	-	550	-
Sub total	550	-	-	550	-
Total receipts	45,168	79,598	-	124,766	94,001
A3 Payments					
<i>Fixed and Admin Costs</i>					
Admin Wages incl on costs	47,327	-	-	47,327	41,969
Storage Costs	7,125	-	-	7,125	4,449
Office Rent	1,512	-	-	1,512	1,445
Insurance	1,887	-	-	1,887	1,581
Software	1,004	-	-	1,004	334
Training	385	-	-	385	-
Miscellaneous(both Admin & Course)	806	-	-	806	441
<i>Course and Event costs</i>					
Course Wages incl on costs	40,649	-	-	40,649	22,857
Accommodation	16,175	-	-	16,175	13,023
Transport	3,401	-	-	3,401	2,823
Food Costs	5,140	-	-	5,140	4,664
Bike Maintenance	343	-	-	343	268
Additional Venue Hire	190	-	-	190	814
External coaching costs	528	-	-	528	4,543
Sub total	126,473	-	-	126,473	99,210

A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Asset Purchases:					
Tandems	876	-	-	876	-
Course Equipment	415	-	-	415	1,035
Computer Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,291	-	-	1,291	1,035
Total Payments	127,764	-	-	127,764	100,245
Net receipts/ (payments)	- 82,596	79,598	-	- 2,998	- 6,244
A5 Transfers between funds					
Course Participant Fees	35,190	- 35,190		-	-
Grants	45,542	- 45,542		-	-
Donations	-	-		-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end					
	22,910	14,011	-	36,921	
Cash funds this year end	21,046	12,878	-	33,924	

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	21,046	12,878	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	21,046	12,878	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-

**B4 Assets retained
for the charity's own
use**

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Computers	Accum. Funds		-
Box trailer	Accum. Funds		-
Canoes and trailer	Accum. Funds		-
Tandems	Accum. Funds		-
Paddling gear	Accum. Funds		-
Climbing gear	Accum. Funds		-
Caving gear	Accum. Funds		-
Clothing	Accum. Funds		-
Other outdoor equip	Accum. Funds		-
Domestic equip	Accum. Funds		-

B5 Liabilities

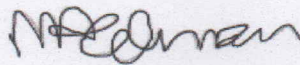
Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Credit Note	Accum. Funds		-
Restricted Participant Course Fees	Accum. Funds		680
Restricted Grants	Accum. Funds		12,198
Accumulated Funds	Accum. Funds		-

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

Signature

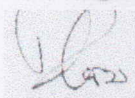
Print Name

Date of
approval



Mark Colman

20/04/2025



David Corso

20/04/2025



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/
members of

Vision of Adventure

On accounts for the year
ended

31st October 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1180451

Set out on pages

10 to 12

(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 / 2024**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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").

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.

Independent
examiner's statement

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:

24.6.25

Name:

Mike Platten CPFA

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

Chartered Institute Public Finance and Accountancy (Full Member)

Address:

6 Uplands Road

Farnham

Surrey

GU9 8BP

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

None