

## ***"Creating a welcoming space where everyone belongs"***

Supporting Our Community Through Food, Connection and Care



## **Trustees Overview of 2025**

This year has been another significant year for Community Chest as we continue responding to the growing needs of our community.

Rising living costs, increasing social isolation, and pressure on public services have made accessible community spaces like ours, more important than ever. Our café and community support and activities provide more than meals – they offer connection, dignity, advice and a sense of belonging.

We have seen first-hand how small acts of kindness and practical support can make a huge difference to people's lives. From families accessing food support, to older residents reconnecting with their community, our work continues to bring people together and our space supports community belonging for people on their terms and in turn a sense of resilience because we have a local safety net.

We also work together with our service partners offering a space to come and deliver their important support for our community, these relationships offer mutual benefit, and we embrace anyone who wants to come along and work together.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers, partners, funders and the many local residents who support our work. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

## What have we done this year?

Throughout the year we provided direct support to over 450 people in our community.

### Food and Practical Support

- **6,171 meals** served through the community café
- **4,002 food parcels** delivered to households in need
- **236 Christmas hampers** delivered
- **309 toy parcels** distributed to children

### Additional support included:

- Furniture collections and deliveries to households in need
- Free school uniforms through our **Uniform Rail**
- Wheelchairs and mobility aids available for residents recovering from surgery or illness
- A **Pass It Forward board**, allowing visitors and residents to support others in need

These services help families manage financial pressures while ensuring that everyone can access essential support.

## Tackling rising living costs and food insecurities

Food insecurity continues to affect many households in our community.

Our café provides free meals and food support in a welcoming environment where people can access help without stigma. We use food as a fundamental leveller and something important for both connecting people together, but also it creates environments where people are much more willing to open up about the often complex and multiple issues they often are dealing with.

During the winter months we also ran our **Heat and Eat appeal**, providing blankets, flasks and essential items to residents struggling with rising energy costs.

We operated a **Warm Space from 1 October to 31 March**, ensuring residents had access to a heated space, food and community support during the coldest months.

Our Christmas **Hamper Scamper appeal** encouraged residents to purchase items from local businesses to donate to families in need, supporting both the community and the local economy.

We have a **dedicated support worker and IDVA** who is based in the café and is supporting many families in our community with responsive, face to face, reliable support from form filling to working with court proceedings.

We work closely with **South Dartmoor Community Energy** who co-locate in the cafe once a week to deliver energy help and support. Because people know them and know exactly where to find them, they have helped a lot of people in our community who may not have reached for help. At the same time, they are hitting their KPI with numbers and demographics, working together is a win win for all. They also do home visits and support sustainable energy changes, like home insulation, new boilers or upgrading white goods to be energy efficient models.

We work closely with Housing associations to provide co-locating spaces for tenants to access face to face information and support.

## Community support groups and activities for families

Supporting families and creating safe spaces for children is a central part of our work.

We run a **weekly family support group** including support for SEND families, homeschooling families and homework support for children.

Throughout the year we delivered a wide range of inclusive activities including:

- Easter messy play sessions with Easter eggs donated by Britannia Royal Naval College
- Half-term messy play days that always included food
- School holiday activities including swimming, woodland activities and park events
- Educational visits to the council and local museum
- Storytelling sessions at the library and community film events

Working with **The Flavel Centre**, we funded two inclusive cinema screenings allowing SEND families to attend in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Seasonal events included pumpkin carving sessions and a **Halloween party** at the football club.

We support **Candlelit Dartmouth** by creating events around lantern making with our local families

## Community Wellbeing & Social Connection

One of the most important roles of our café is reducing loneliness and strengthening community connections.

Regular activities included:

- Natter sessions and social gatherings

- Arts and crafts groups on Saturdays
- Community film screenings
- Community days including litter-picking activities
- Little Cotton residents' meetings and community events

We maintain strong links with local care homes, welcoming residents to the café and making regular visits so older residents can remain connected to their community.

Highlights included a **tea dance in the Guildhall** as part of the VE and VJ commemorations, bringing together pensioners and care home residents.



## Partnerships, volunteers and learning

Our work is made possible through strong partnerships and dedicated volunteers.

This year we worked closely with:

- **LiveWest Housing** putting on events together, like skip days.
- **University of Exeter**, where we became teaching partners supporting Masters in Public Health students through community learning placements.

- Staff from **Dartmouth Royal Castle Hotel**, while the site was closed for refurbishment, volunteered with us for several months, supporting our work while maintaining their employment.
- We also hosted a **Research Hub day** and worked with local partners to explore ways of improving community wellbeing. We also work in partnership with research that impacts our community and have support several projects, one in particular is the Veteran Connection programme,
- To recognise our volunteers' dedication, we organised a **Volunteer Appreciation Day**, taking volunteers to Paignton by ferry and bus.
- We have been working closely with many local organisations like the Dart Harbour, bringing our local families into full view and supporting social value work ( they are supporting free swimming lessons for our local children for who the current provisions are just too expensive)

## Looking Ahead

Our café has become a trusted space where people feel safe asking for help.

During the year we were able to support many safeguarding situations, both with community responses and often with a shared response with statutory services. Knowing people, their connections and families and providing a level of unconditional support, means we can be more responsive, more practical and often more effective in supporting many of the more complex issues and also supporting our most vulnerable.

We continue to maintain high standards in everything we do. During the year the café received a **5-star Environmental Health rating**.

Demand for our services continues to grow. In the coming year we aim to:

- Expand food and household support services
- Develop additional activities for families and SEND children
- Strengthen partnerships with local organisations and services and take a key role in reestablishing the TQ6 community Partnership
- Continue providing welcoming spaces where people can access support and connection
- Have a dedicated support worker for the organisation.
- Start the process of finding a larger venue to support for health creating activities that our community want to happen.

With the continued support of our funders, partners and volunteers, we will keep working to ensure no one in our community feels alone or unsupported.

We are grateful to all the volunteers, partners, businesses and funders who support our work and help us make a difference in the community.

**We thank you all.**







CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY CHEST

1181605

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01/01/2025

To

Period end date  
31/12/2025

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
END OF YEAR BALANCE	15,997	-	-	15,997	-
DEVON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	11,400	-	-	11,400	-
NORMAN FAMILY GRANT	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
DWF FOUNDATION	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
ST PETROX	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
DEVON COUNCIL	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
NATIONAL LOTTERY	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
FUNDRAISING	13,603	-	-	13,603	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
RENT/STORAGE/EVENT HIRE	19,388	-	-	19,388	-
FOOD	10,156	-	-	10,156	-
INSURANCE/LICENCES/STATIONARY	3,295	-	-	3,295	-
COMMUNITY VAN COSTS/PETROL	4,511	-	-	4,511	-
SESSIIIONAL WORKERS	14,190	-	-	14,190	-
EMERGENCY CLOTHES(HOMELESS)	195	-	-	195	-
FUEL POVERTY	1,360	-	-	1,360	-
TRAINING	317	-	-	317	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>53,412</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,412</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>53,412</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,412</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>31,588</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,588</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>31,588</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,588</b>	<b>-</b>



## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		56	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	56	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date of approval

felix grad.  
happ

Dr Felix Gradinger  
LYNN CARTON

23.04.26
23/04/25





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name

DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY CHEST

On accounts for the year  
ended

2025 (1/1/25 - 31/12/25)

Charity no  
(if any)

1181605

Set out on pages

1/2

(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 DD / MM / YYYY.

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:

16.3.2026

Name:

ALASDAIR HOOPER AATQB

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

BOOKKEEPER (AAT LEVEL 3)

Address:

49, HERMITAGE ROAD

DARTMOUTH

TQ6 9TD



**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).

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

*[Faint, illegible handwriting visible through the paper, likely from the reverse side. Some words like "disclosure" and "examiner" are faintly visible.]*





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY CHEST

1181605

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CC16a

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<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
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## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

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		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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			-	-
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			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date of approval

felix grad.  
happ

Dr Felix Gradinger  
LYNN CARTON

23.04.26
23/04/25





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name

DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY CHEST

On accounts for the year  
ended

2025 (11/12/24 - 31/12/25)

Charity no  
(if any)

1181605

Set out on pages

1/2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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Signed:

Date:

16.3.2026

Name:

ALASDAIR HOOPER AATQB

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

BOOKKEEPER (AAT LEVEL 3)

Address:

49, HERMITAGE ROAD

DARTMOUTH

TQ6 9TD



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