



Trustees Annual Report for period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Charity Name: **Open House Shaftesbury**

Registered charity number: **1184625**

Charity's principal address:	Father's House Christy's Lane Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8PH
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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Andrew Baddeley	Chair	
Alan Kirkham	Treasurer	
Sheela Upton		
Helen Jupp		
Gordon Clowrey		

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation adopted 29 th July 2019
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation [CIO].
Trustee selection	(a) Apart from the first charity trustees, every appointed trustee must be appointed for a term of 3 years by a resolution passed at a properly convened

Christy's Lane, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8PH – 01747 852994

info@openhouseshaftesbury.co.uk

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Registered Charity No: 1184625

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methods	<p>meeting of the charity trustees.</p> <p>(b) In selecting individuals for appointment as appointed charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.</p> <p>(c) Nominated trustees. Fathers House Shaftesbury (“the appointing body”) may appoint 1 charity trustee. Churches Together Shaftesbury (“the appointing body”) may appoint 1 charity trustee.</p>
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Additional governance issues

There were no changes in Trustees during the year but, under the term of the Open House constitution, Helen Jupp and Sheela Upton were re-elected as a Trustees at a meeting of the Trustees held on 7 February 2025.

Our Manager and Administrator are supported in, the day to day running of the charity by our Operational Team, comprising lead volunteers heading up various aspects of the charity's work with Operational Team meetings held regularly.

Objectives and activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The CIO is established for the following purposes for the public benefit in Shaftesbury, Gillingham and the surrounding villages. Such activities to be carried out within a Christian ethos:</p> <p>(1) To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, by reason of their youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage and in particular but not exclusively by the provision of advice, support and information.</p> <p>(2) To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.</p>
<p>Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects.</p>	<p>Open House is a community drop-in service. Within a friendly "coffee shop" environment, a number of different services are offered, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Aid, including distribution of food bank packs & non-food aid • Benefit advice [Trained & accredited counsellors]. • Housing Advice [Trained & accredited counsellors]. ,

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other support services, including letter writing, personal budgeting & help with preparing C.V. & job applications• Store House (Distribution of donated furniture & white goods to qualifying clients).• Open Fridge |
|--|---|

All these services are provided on a Tuesday between 10-2pm by a team of volunteers. *[Open Fridge – Mon, Wed, Fri]*

We also work with other local agencies and arrange networking events.

Additional details of objectives and activities

We are grateful for the many hours volunteers have spent assisting our clients. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise, we would not have been able to achieve so much.

We are also grateful to Father's House Church for providing the accommodation in which we hold our activities. Initially Father's House provided the accommodation free of charge but, given the increasing and substantial cost of heating, lighting and other energy costs, we have agreed to pay an annual service charge of £6,000.

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

The work of Open House and its associated activities continues to grow and in May 2025 we celebrate our 10th Anniversary since the original project was first launched

A summary of our main activities over the 12 months to 31 March 2025 was as follows:

Food parcels and/ or emergency aid packs – **289** distributions *[p. year 276]*

Benefits advice - **94** consultations *[p. year 65]*

Housing advice – **50** consultations *[p. year 62]*

Support services – **145** consultations *[p. year 118]*

Storehouse - 76 deliveries [p. year 94]

Dropping in for a “Chat and a drink” - 768 [p. year 579]

In addition to our volunteers, we are also very fortunate to have the services of three remunerated support staff:

- Our Project Manager, Nikki Hall
- Open House Administrator, Iris Phillips
- Fundraising Administrator, Helen Beecham [Appointed April 2024]

“**Open Fridge** has proved to be very popular and we are grateful for the many varied contributions of produce for this facility. From April 2024 to March 2025 Open Fridge distributed 15,565 (15,471) Kg of food and had 4,537 (5,238) customer visits. Food is sourced from many local supermarkets and businesses, local allotments, farms and individual donations. Food is largely from the surplus that these facilities generate that would otherwise go to landfill

Our Storehouse delivery service continues, but the running costs of delivery are higher and add significantly to the overall cost of running this project.

We publicise our services through several local channels, including “This is Alfred” and the Blackmore Vale Magazine. We have an active Facebook and Instagram page and do much of our advertising through social media.

Statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

Our policy is to hold sufficient funds to cover a minimum of 3 months operational costs in the event of any loss of income and to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur.

Supporting this is a policy to spread regular donations and grant applications over a wide base so as not to be dependent on a limited income source.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

No funds were in material deficit at 31 March 2025.

Further financial review details

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The accounts for the year to 31 March 2025 show a surplus of £5,719 compared with a deficit of £7,465 in the previous year. There were increases in both donations and grants. In particular grant income increased significantly [£21,730 of which £11,400 was restricted funding], thanks to the endeavours of our newly appointed Fundraising Administrator.

Expenditure also increased, reflecting the full year cost of the annual service charge of £6,000; additional pay costs of Fundraising Administrator and increases to minimum wage; and running costs of StoreHouse van.

We are grateful to our faithful regular donors, we also for the one off donations and grants received throughout the year, thus providing a relatively secure financial position at the end of the year. However, this level of income will need to continue throughout the coming year to ensure the continued development of the project.

We are so grateful to the following companies, organisations and trusts that awarded us grants during 202/25:

- Neighbourly who work with supermarkets such as Lidl and Aldi
- Hubbard Foundation
- AFC Bournemouth
- Shaftesbury Charitable Trust –including emergency Aid; client gas & electricity top-ups
- Action Funder
- Dorset Community [DCF]Fund
- Hall and Woodhouse
- Rotary Club of Shaftesbury
- SNG Thriving Communities Fund

Also, to Virginia Hayward for donation of food hampers distributed to clients at our clients' Christmas Party.

The charity provides a service to clients and does not award grants. Income received is therefore used to provide services over the ensuing 12 months and, as it is not in receipt of any significant legacies or endowments, it is not necessary or appropriate to invest any funds. A charity investment policy is

therefore not applicable

Other information

Open House continues to develop and expand its work with demand for its services continuing to increase

Levels of poverty are increasing across the country and although Shaftesbury and the surrounding area is to many an idyllic place to live, the effects of rural poverty, including lack of public transport and need to travel greater distances for medical, benefits, etc. appointments is a matter often overlooked.

Finally, Open House is blessed with many volunteers and although some have retired we have had a number of highly qualified and passionate individuals joining our team.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full name	Alan Kirkham
Position	Trustee; Treasurer
Date	12 Nov 2025

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 4/1/2024	To	Period end date 3/31/2025
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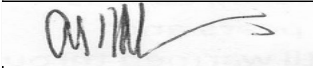
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	17,254	-	-	17,254	10,916
Grants	10,330	11,400	-	21,730	6,380
Gift Aid Recovered	1,460	-	-	1,460	1,548
Fundraising	2,105	-	-	2,105	-
Other Income	110	-	-	110	345
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,259	11,400	-	42,659	19,189
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,259	11,400	-	42,659	19,189
A3 Payments					
Children's Activities	40	-	-	40	30
Emergency Aid	1,431	1,348	-	2,779	2,679
Donation to charities				-	-
Client Events	719			719	782
Fundraising				-	-
Volunteer Training	779	216		995	331
StoreHouse project	2,130	790	-	2,920	1,438
Open Fridge	-	376	-	376	350
Staff Pay	14,378	5,187	-	19,566	15,380
Insurance		-	-	-	530
Services charge [Lighting & Heating]	6,000	-	-	6,000	3,500
General Administration & other costs	2,160	-	-	2,160	1,275
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	27,637	7,917	-	35,554	26,294
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Laptop computer		-	-	-	360
Open Fridge Proj. - Freezer		269		269	
Open Fridge Proj. Awning	-	1,118	-	1,118	
Sub total	-	1,387	-	1,387	360
Total payments	27,637	9,304	-	36,941	26,654
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,623	2,096	-	5,719	- 7,465
A5 Transfers between funds			-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	19,533	2,106	-	21,639	29,104
Cash funds this year end	23,155	4,202	-	27,358	21,639

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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	Balance Bank Account	23,107	4,202	-
	Balance Petty Cash	48		-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	23,155	4,202	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	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)
	Desktop Computer		-	-
	Storage container - Open Fridge Proj.		-	-
	Fridge - Open Fridge Proj.		-	-
	Freezer - Open Fridge Proj.	269	-	-
	Awning- Open Fridge Proj.	1,118	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	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
			Alan Kirkham	12-Nov-25
			Andrew Baddeley	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Open House Shaftesbury

On accounts for the year
ended

31/3/25

Charity no
(if any)

1184625

Set out on pages

(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 31/03/2025.

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 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.

Signed: Helen Hassall

Date: 1/10/25

Name: Helen Hassall

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

IAGSA

Address:

Unit 2 Shrublands Farm

Sherstock

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.

well set accounts.
PAYE Details from C. Courage.
All well documented.