

THE GATHERING PLACE

England & Wales · Charity number 1189467

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-05-13

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 18 Queen Street
Neath
West Glamorgan
SA11 1DL

Phone 07554575830

Email THEGATHERINGPLACEUK@GMAIL.COM

Website WWW.THEGATHERINGPLACEUK.ORG

Activities

Objects: THE PREVENTION, RELIEF AND SUPPORT OF THOSE TRAPPED IN POVERTY CYCLES AND THOSE IN NEED THROUGHOUT SWANSEA / SOUTH WALES BY PROVIDING ITEMS, RESOURCES, AND COUNSELLING SERVICES. WE ENCOURAGE AND TRAIN VOLUNTEERS AND LOCAL LEADERS AND NETWORK WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO DIRECTLY IMPACT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Activities: We utilise boots-on-the-ground processes to restore hope and encourage those in need. Whether it's providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to NHS staff, care packages and warm clothing to hospital wards, or by giving a rough sleeper a warm cup of coffee, toiletries, or blankets, we offer our services free of charge in a non-judgmental, non-invasive environment.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THROUGHOUT SWANSEA / SOUTH WALES
- Bridgend
- City Of Swansea
- Neath Port Talbot

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£53,801	£48,489	-	-
2024-04-30	£45,023	£48,071	-	-
2023-04-30	£77,240	£83,468	-	-
2022-04-30	£35,238	£31,444	-	-
2021-04-30	£35,158	£50,223	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
KENNETH ARRINGTON	Chair	2020-05-01
Brent Clifford Hemus		1947-02-18
Katherine Jenkins-Sojko		2025-01-01

THE GATHERING PLACE

England & Wales - Charity number 1189467

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period									
		Period start date			Period end date				
From	1	5	2024		30	4	2025	To	

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

18 Queen Street	
Neath	
Wales	
Postcode	SA11 1DL

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	Kenneth Arrington	Director / Chair		
2	Katherine Jenkins-Sojko			
3	Brent Clifford Hemus			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
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)

CLARE BELL – COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity’s trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution enacted 1 January 2020
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO Constitution
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed for 2 year terms at end of year returns meeting / review

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.

Volunteers and volunteer counsellors are vetted based on experience, education, and agreement with principles set out in all related charity documents, including Wales safeguarding procedures, and additional documentation and statements of belief.

The director oversees day to day aspects and duties of running the charity, including the power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. The director moves and works under the auspices of voting trustees and also seeks guidance and views of volunteers in deciding activities to be undertaken and run for the public benefit.

Safeguarding policies are in place and checks are taken out on those dealing directly 1:1 with the public at large.

The Gathering Place partners with local associations, churches, help houses, councils, homes for the elderly, mental health wards, and hospitals in order to provide tangible products, care packages, and resources for the betterment of public health.

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

Section C Objectives and activities

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

The prevention, relief and support of those trapped in poverty cycles and those in need throughout Neath / South Wales by providing items, resources, and counselling services. We encourage and train volunteers and local leaders and network with regional organisations to directly impact the local community.

In planning our activities for the year, The Gathering Place, its director, trustees, and volunteers kept in mind the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit at our meetings and within our communications.

The planned activities upon listing as a registered charity were as follows:

- Prevention, relief, and support of those trapped in poverty cycles and those in need by offering free clothing, toiletries, food, drink, and dry goods procured via donations and purchase
- Vehicular delivery of needed goods such as clothing and food to those in need, the hospitalised, isolated, elderly, the disabled, the impoverished, and the general public; as well as to other charities or voluntary bodies
- Offering a safe and warm space for sanctuary at our 18 Queen Street, Neath, SA11 1DL location, free teas/coffees/refreshment, warm hub, recharging of devices, as needed counselling services, and care package pickup – including sleeping bags, tents, shoes, coats, and gear
- Free general counselling / weekly meetings across multiple spectrums provided by approved volunteer counsellors – women’s outreach, homeless outreach, general outreach, and personal fulfilment
- To provide free hosted dinners and luncheons for our women’s outreach, and community and homeless outreaches, stirring interest through signposting, social media, and word of mouth. These meetings provide counselling and volunteer opportunities to gauge the needs of the public and provide essential immediate services to those in need
- Weekly programmes of adult oriented events, trainings, and activities designed to inspire creativity, music, and art; and provide a safe space and equipment free of charge to do so. We believe it is through discovering one’s creative nature that one can aspire to changing their lives and reality and that anyone that is in need can find hope and companionship through listening ears and willing hearts.

These activities benefit those in need within our community by providing them with essential goods, services, counselling, and training to better their lives, induce self-confidence, and most importantly provide help in times of dire need. These activities also provide opportunities for volunteer and leadership growth, helping volunteers to become leaders, and those receiving services to become volunteers.

We serve all people who may need our services regardless of age, gender, religion, or personal circumstances.

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)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

We are grateful for the hours that our volunteers have contributed to listening, offering ideas, and taking the weight of the charity upon their shoulders to see objectives through. Without the valuable contribution of our volunteers' time, creative thinking, energy, and focus we would not have been able to re-adjust and achieve so much in so short a period.

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

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

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1st Quarter (May – July 2024)

The first quarter of 2025 marked a continuation of structured growth and consolidation within The Gathering Place. Entering its fifth full operational year, the charity focused on stabilising existing programmes while increasing accessibility for individuals and families experiencing poverty, housing instability, and relational crisis across Neath.

Demand for services remained consistently high. In response, the directorship maintained emphasis on predictable provision rather than short-term intervention. The Community Shop continued operating multiple days per week, providing clothing, toiletries, and essential items without referral or eligibility barriers. Compassionate Cuisine, operating from the newly completed kitchen facility, provided regular hot vegetarian meals and takeaway food options, strengthening the charity's ability to address food insecurity alongside relational support.

In light of potential expansion into additional retail space in 25/26, and to allow flexibility for infrastructure development, it was unanimously agreed to continue the temporary £5,000 expenditure approval threshold originally introduced during capital works. Trustees determined that reinstating the previous £500 threshold would be premature given ongoing strategic considerations. This arrangement will remain under review through 2026.

Partnership working remained central. Collaboration with Neath Port Talbot Council continued, particularly in relation to family support and crisis response. The charity's established reputation as a safe and stable environment resulted in sustained referrals from local services. Trustees noted that reliability of opening hours and physical presence within the town centre has become a significant component of public benefit.

The Warm Hub provision remained active through the colder months, distributing heating equipment, warm packs, and energy-saving resources. Additional external support secured through NPTCBC, National Grid, and Community Matters Fund ensured continuity of this work without interruption.

Volunteer engagement increased during this period. The Gathering Place remained entirely volunteer-led, with no salaries drawn from unrestricted funding streams. Trustees monitored capacity carefully to ensure that programme growth did not compromise safeguarding standards or operational oversight.

Throughout Q1, the directorship continued to prioritise long-term stability over rapid expansion. The focus remained clear: consistent presence, predictable access, and dignified support for women, children, and families navigating complex circumstances.

2nd Quarter (August – October 2024)

The second quarter of 2025 reflected both consolidation and measured expansion across core service areas. Trustees continued to prioritise stability while responding to sustained demand across food provision, family support, and crisis intervention.

Compassionate Cuisine operated at full capacity throughout the quarter from the completed community kitchen facility, and our new partnership with Food for Life has provided consistency when needed most. Regular

preparation and distribution of vegetarian meals strengthened the charity's food insecurity response while maintaining compliance with food hygiene and storage regulations. The integration of the kitchen into daily operations has allowed The Gathering Place to address nutritional need alongside relational and emotional support, reinforcing a holistic model of care.

The Community Shop remained a central point of access for individuals and families requiring clothing, toiletries, and basic household goods. Trustees observed continued patterns of repeat attendance, indicating that the building has become part of the weekly rhythm for many households experiencing instability. The computer lab remained available throughout the week, enabling individuals to apply for housing, manage benefits, seek employment, and reconnect with statutory services in a private and supported environment.

Mindful Mamas continued to operate weekly, supporting mothers navigating early parenthood in the context of trauma, isolation, or limited external support. Attendance remained steady, and trustees noted the importance of providing preventative relational support rather than only crisis-based response.

Home education sessions also continued to grow, with multiple families gathering weekly for collaborative learning, music, science, and creative exploration. These sessions provided structured yet relational support for children who had struggled in traditional educational settings due to trauma, anxiety, or unmet needs. Parallel tutoring sessions supported children whose education had been disrupted by instability or neurodivergence.

Partnerships deepened during this quarter. Western Bay Adoption Services continued to utilise the space for sensitive family meetings. The trustees remain aware that these meetings carry significant emotional complexity and require a stable, predictable environment. Maintaining safeguarding, confidentiality, and environmental consistency remains a priority.

Town Centre Outreach continued in its established format, engaging individuals facing street-based vulnerability, with particular attention to women at risk. Trustees have been made aware through local feedback that visible street-based exploitation indicators have declined in certain areas. While multiple factors contribute to such changes, the board recognises that consistent relational presence may play a supportive role.

The Friday Hobby Group for men continued to strengthen, providing structured space for skill-building and connection. Trustees remain committed to addressing isolation and mental health among men through activity-based engagement rather than formal intervention models.

Throughout Q2, the organisation remained entirely volunteer-led. No trustee or volunteer remuneration was drawn from Moondance funding. Governance oversight continued to ensure compliance with safeguarding requirements, financial controls, and public benefit obligations.

Trustees continued preliminary discussions regarding the newly remodelled upstairs space and its potential use in future programming. Any expansion will proceed cautiously and only where sustainability can be assured.

The second quarter reinforced the trustees' strategic direction: careful growth, relational depth, and operational consistency over scale.

3rd Quarter (November – January 2025)

The third quarter of 2025 demonstrated sustained operational strength alongside thoughtful development of creative and relational programming. Under the strategic oversight of the Chair and Board, day-to-day operational decisions continued to be led by the Community Director, who remains empowered to make programme adjustments as required without the need for full formal trustee approval in routine matters.

The Community Shop and Compassionate Cuisine continued operating at consistent capacity. The integration of food provision within the daily rhythm of the building has reduced short-term crisis presentations, allowing individuals to engage more gradually and relationally rather than only at points of acute need.

Preparations for the Warm Hub season began during this quarter in anticipation of colder months. The Chair secured and coordinated additional support streams to ensure continuity of heating resources, warm packs, and winter supplies. Given ongoing cost-of-living pressures within the region, early preparation was prioritised to prevent service interruption.

Creative programming continued to expand steadily. Partnership work with Studio 40 and Queen Street Art Gallery provided ongoing free art workshops for families and children with limited access to creative resources. During the local Arts Festival, artwork created by participating children was publicly displayed, contributing to positive identity development and community inclusion.

The Friday Hobby Group maintained steady attendance and has become an established relational environment for men experiencing isolation. The Director continues to oversee this programme as part of the charity's broader commitment to preventative mental health support delivered through accessible, non-clinical environments.

Youth engagement broadened through partnership with Pathfinders, offering structured gathering space for young people navigating complex home circumstances. Attendance patterns indicate the programme is becoming embedded within participants' weekly routines.

Tutoring and school support sessions continued, focusing on rebuilding trust and confidence among children whose education has been disrupted. Outcomes remain relational and developmental rather than immediately measurable. A significant benefit arising from secured STEM project funding has been the ability to bring in guest speakers and specialist teachers from local businesses, museums, and music centres. This has broadened the educational exposure available to participating children, introducing them to applied science, creative industries, technical skills, and vocational pathways that would otherwise be inaccessible.

Access to external professionals has strengthened both engagement and aspiration, helping children connect learning with real-world possibility. It

has also reduced social isolation by embedding participants within wider community networks beyond the immediate programme setting. The Director continues to oversee this element carefully to ensure safeguarding standards and educational alignment are maintained while maximising opportunity for participating families.

Planning discussions regarding utilisation of the remodelled upstairs space continued under Chair and Director leadership. Any future expansion, if any, will proceed cautiously, ensuring safeguarding capacity, volunteer sustainability, and financial stability are preserved before new programming is introduced.

This quarter reinforced that the charity's impact continues to rest on consistent presence, relational stability, and delegated leadership operating within clear governance parameters.

4th Quarter (February – April 2025)

The fourth quarter of 2025 marked a period of consolidation and forward planning as the charity prepared to enter 2026 on stable footing. Operational consistency remained the primary focus, particularly as seasonal pressures increased across food insecurity, fuel poverty, and family crisis presentations.

The Warm Hub operated at full capacity throughout the colder months, distributing heating equipment, warm packs, coats, blankets, and energy-saving resources. Due to early preparation during Q3, provision continued without interruption. Increased winter demand was met through coordinated supply management and volunteer scheduling. The building remained open and heated throughout operational days, ensuring predictable access for vulnerable individuals and families.

Compassionate Cuisine maintained steady meal provision through the community kitchen, with hot vegetarian meals prepared and distributed weekly. Integration of food provision within the wider relational environment of the building continued to reduce crisis-only engagement and encouraged sustained participation.

Town Centre Outreach remained active, focusing on women and individuals experiencing heightened vulnerability during winter months. Consistent presence rather than episodic intervention continues to define this work.

During this quarter, two new funding partnerships were secured to support the launch of a free community music programme beginning in Spring 2026. The Director led planning and safeguarding preparation to ensure the programme could operate independently without drawing resources away from existing core services. The programme will provide structured access to instruments, volunteer-led instruction, and end-of-term performances. The design remains intentionally relational and limited in scale to preserve quality and sustainability.

Significant progress was also made regarding the long-anticipated redevelopment of the upstairs space within the building. With structural works nearing completion, the Chair and Director began discerning potential uses for the space in the coming year. Any new programming will proceed only where financial sustainability, safeguarding capacity, and volunteer infrastructure are secure. The emphasis remains on strengthening existing work rather than rapid expansion.

Throughout Q4, The Gathering Place remained entirely volunteer-led. No salaries were drawn from Moondance funding or other unrestricted support. Financial oversight continued under the extended £5,000 expenditure threshold, which remains in place in anticipation of potential retail space expansion in 2026. The Chair and Board maintained governance oversight while operational authority remained appropriately delegated to the Director.

As 2025 closed, the organisation entered 2026 with strengthened infrastructure, secured programme funding for new initiatives, and stable core services. The consistent operational rhythm of the building continues to provide measurable public benefit through predictable access, relational support, and preventative engagement across women, children, families, and isolated individuals within the Neath community.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At close of the day 30/4/2024, cash on hand at the bank was £4878.00 in unrestricted funds. Due to potential relocation and/or expansion in 2026, we agreed to maintain our former reserves policy from 2 months/£6,000 reserves policy in 2022/23 to 1 month/£3,000 in 2024, with a return to a 2 month/£6,000 reserves policy in 2026.

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.

In 2024/25, our **primary sources of funding** have remained **grants and donations**, accounting for **96.4%** of all funds received. As a charity dedicated to **maximizing public benefit**, we ensure that the **vast majority of our general funds** are directed towards **our outreach programmes**, directly supporting those in need across our community.

This year marked another period of **substantial growth**, with the expansion of our **Compassionate Cuisine Programme, STEM programme running alongside our Home-Ed Hangout, ASPIRE Teens at Risk Group, Mindful Mamas, addiction recovery partnerships, and expanded Warm Bank operations**. Alongside these, our **Free Bookshop and Lending Library and Borrow and Bring Back Rail** have continued to **provide vital resources at no cost to the public**.

As in previous years, our **primary funder** continues to provide an **annual £20,000 grant by January 5th**, with an **agreement in principle for continued annual funding** as long as we remain aligned with the **established aims of our charity**. These funds primarily cover **operational costs (17.1%) and training and resources (2.7%)**, with the remainder allocated to **outreach programmes and community support (75.6%)**.

Additional funds secured through **grants and donations** have allowed us to launch **new pilot programmes** and strengthen existing services, ensuring **we can meet the growing needs of our community**.

This year, we were grateful to receive funding from the following **foundations and grant-making agencies**:

- **The Moondance Foundation**
- **The National Lottery Wales**
- **Community Foundation Wales**
- **Community Matters Fund (National Grid)**
- **LocalGiving**
- **NPTCBC**

As always, we remain **entirely volunteer-run**, with **no paid staff, trustees, or volunteers**. This ensures that every pound received is **maximized for direct public benefit**, allowing The Gathering Place to continue **serving, uplifting, and empowering those in need throughout Neath and beyond**.

Introduction

The year 2025 has been one of consolidation, strengthened infrastructure, and careful forward planning for The Gathering Place. Building on the expansion achieved in previous years, the charity has focused on operational stability, safeguarding consistency, and measured programme development in response to sustained community demand.

Throughout the year, emphasis has remained on predictable access, relational support, and long-term sustainability rather than rapid growth. As we move into 2026, this same principle will continue to guide development decisions.

Facility Development and Use of Space

Significant progress has been made regarding the long-anticipated redevelopment of the upstairs space within our existing premises. Structural works have advanced, and internal discussions between the Chair and Director have focused on ensuring that any future use of this space strengthens existing services without overextending volunteer capacity or financial sustainability.

No programme expansion into the upstairs area will occur without safeguarding readiness, operational viability, and secure funding streams in place. Discussions also continue regarding potential additional retail space in order to increase access to essential goods distribution. In light of this, the extended £5,000 expenditure approval threshold remains in place to allow appropriate flexibility for infrastructure decisions.

Warm Hub and Cost-of-Living Response

The Warm Hub has continued to operate as a core seasonal initiative, responding to ongoing fuel poverty and cost-of-living pressures across Neath. Heating equipment, insulation materials, blankets, coats, and warm packs were distributed throughout the colder months. Planning cycles now begin earlier in the year to ensure uninterrupted provision.

The Community Shop continues to provide clothing, toiletries, and household essentials without referral requirements, ensuring low-barrier access for individuals and families experiencing hardship.

Food Provision and Compassionate Cuisine

Compassionate Cuisine operated throughout 2024/2025 from the completed community kitchen facility. Weekly hot vegetarian meals and takeaway options have strengthened our response to food insecurity while allowing relational engagement within a safe and consistent environment.

The kitchen operates in full compliance with food hygiene and storage regulations. The integration of food provision into the daily rhythm of the building has reduced crisis-only engagement and encouraged sustained participation from vulnerable individuals.

Youth, Education, and STEM Development

Educational support remains central to our charitable objectives. Tutoring sessions and school support programmes continued throughout the year, focusing on children whose education has been disrupted by trauma, instability, or neurodivergence.

Through secured STEM project funding, we have been able to bring in guest speakers and specialist teachers from local businesses, museums, and music centres. This has broadened educational exposure and connected learning to practical, real-world applications.

Our home education community continues to gather weekly, providing collaborative learning environments for families seeking alternative educational pathways. Youth engagement has also expanded through structured partnerships offering safe, relational gathering space.

In 2025, new funding partnerships were secured to support a free community music programme launching in Winter 2025/Spring 2026. The programme will provide access to instruments, volunteer-led instruction, and structured practice opportunities. It has been intentionally designed to operate sustainably without drawing resources away from core services.

Support for Women and Families

Targeted support for women and families remains a defining focus. The Mindful Mamas group continues to provide relational and preventative support for mothers navigating isolation, trauma, or early parenthood challenges.

Our partnership with Western Bay Adoption Services remains active, providing a calm and consistent meeting environment for adoptive families, birth parents, and children. This work requires careful safeguarding oversight and environmental stability, both of which remain priorities.

Town Centre Outreach continues to engage women experiencing street-based vulnerability, offering consistent presence rather than episodic intervention. Feedback from local stakeholders indicates reduced visibility of exploitation in certain areas, reflecting broader community efforts.

Men's Engagement and Preventative Support

The Friday Hobby Group continues to provide structured, activity-based engagement for men experiencing isolation. The group has developed into a stable relational environment supporting confidence, contribution, and connection.

Partnership working with addiction recovery and street outreach teams remains active, ensuring individuals facing substance misuse or homelessness have access to supportive referral pathways and safe space.

Governance and Leadership

Operational leadership remains delegated to the Director, who is empowered to make routine programme and delivery decisions within agreed governance parameters. Strategic oversight and fiduciary responsibility remain with the Chair and Board.

The charity continues to operate entirely through volunteers. No salaries were drawn from Moondance funding or other unrestricted support during 2025. Financial controls remain robust, and the temporary £5,000 expenditure threshold remains under review pending infrastructure considerations.

Financial Sustainability

The charity continues to pursue diversified funding streams to ensure programme stability. Secured project funding for specific initiatives has allowed targeted expansion without compromising core services. Financial management remains cautious, prioritising continuity of provision over speculative growth.

Conclusion

As 2025 concludes, The Gathering Place enters late 2025/2026 with strengthened infrastructure, secured funding for new initiatives, and sustained core services. The focus remains on careful growth, relational depth, and predictable access for women, children, families, and isolated individuals across the Neath community.


All development decisions continue to be guided by sustainability, safeguarding capacity, and long-term public benefit.

Section F Other optional information

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)	Kenneth Arrington	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	14-12-2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Gathering Place
No (if any)
1189467

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 5/1/24	To	Period end date 4/30/25
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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					
Grants & Donations	52,561		-	52,561	44,508
Refunds from purchasing public benefit goods	520	-	-	520	515
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	53,081	-	-	53,081	45,023
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	53,081	-	-	53,081	45,023
A3 Payments					
Outreach - Women, Youth, Homeless Support	35,443	-	-	35,443	33,259
Training / Reference Library	210	-	-	210	441
Fundraising (inc travel fees for conference)	340	-	-	340	1,024
Operational Costs (inc utilities)	11,047	-	-	11,047	9,842
Office Needs (inc technology upgrades)	525	-	-	525	1,279
Remittance	924	-	-	924	2,225
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	48,489	-	-	48,489	48,071

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	48,489	-	-	48,489	48,071
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,592	-	-	4,592	- 3,048
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	285	-	-	285	-
Cash funds this year end	4,878	-	-	4,878	285

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

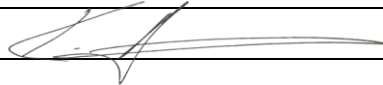
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	4,878	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,878	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	none	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	none		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Car	Unrestricted	-	1,070
	Computer & Media Equipment	Unrestricted	-	11,245
	Office Furniture - Décor	Unrestricted	-	
	Clothing - Shelters - Trailer - Toiletries for distribution	Unrestricted	-	-
	~1,000 clothing items inc shoes, boots, coats womens mens kids	Unrestricted	-	-
	Library and Resources	Unrestricted	-	-
		-	-	

B5 Liabilities

		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
none		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Kenneth Ray Arrington	6/6/25



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE GATHERING PLACE

On accounts for the year
ended

30 April 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1189467

Set out on page

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 30 April 2025.

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 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.

Signed:

Date:

24 February 2026

Name:

Chaweevan Williams FCCA

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body :

Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:

Verdant Accountants Limited

20-22 Wenlock Road, London N1 7GU

THE GATHERING PLACE

England & Wales - Charity number 1189467

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	From	1	5		2023	To	30

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

18 Queen Street	
Neath	
Wales	
Postcode	SA11 1DL

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	Kenneth Arrington	Director / Chair		
2	Susan Rees			
3	Martyn Greenway			
4				
5				
6				
7				
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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)

CLARE BELL – COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity’s trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution enacted 1 January 2020
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO Constitution
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed for 2 year terms at end of year returns meeting / review

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.

Volunteers and volunteer counsellors are vetted based on experience, education, and agreement with principles set out in all related charity documents, including Wales safeguarding procedures, and additional documentation and statements of belief.

The director oversees day to day aspects and duties of running the charity, including the power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. The director moves and works under the auspices of voting trustees and also seeks guidance and views of volunteers in deciding activities to be undertaken and run for the public benefit.

Safeguarding policies are in place and checks are taken out on those dealing directly 1:1 with the public at large.

The Gathering Place partners with local associations, churches, help houses, councils, homes for the elderly, mental health wards, and hospitals in order to provide tangible products, care packages, and resources for the betterment of public health.

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

Section C Objectives and activities

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

The prevention, relief and support of those trapped in poverty cycles and those in need throughout Neath / South Wales by providing items, resources, and counselling services. We encourage and train volunteers and local leaders and network with regional organisations to directly impact the local community.

In planning our activities for the year, The Gathering Place, its director, trustees, and volunteers kept in mind the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit at our meetings and within our communications.

The planned activities upon listing as a registered charity were as follows:

- Prevention, relief, and support of those trapped in poverty cycles and those in need by offering free clothing, toiletries, food, drink, and dry goods procured via donations and purchase
- Vehicular delivery of needed goods such as clothing and food to those in need, the hospitalised, isolated, elderly, the disabled, the impoverished, and the general public; as well as to other charities or voluntary bodies
- Offering a safe and warm space for sanctuary at our 18 Queen Street, Neath, SA11 1DL location, free teas/coffees/refreshment, warm hub, recharging of devices, as needed counselling services, and care package pickup – including sleeping bags, tents, shoes, coats, and gear
- Free general counselling / weekly meetings across multiple spectrums provided by approved volunteer counsellors – women’s outreach, homeless outreach, general outreach, and personal fulfilment
- To provide free hosted dinners and luncheons for our women’s outreach, and community and homeless outreaches, stirring interest through signposting, social media, and word of mouth. These meetings provide counselling and volunteer opportunities to gauge the needs of the public and provide essential immediate services to those in need
- Weekly programmes of adult oriented events, trainings, and activities designed to inspire creativity, music, and art; and provide a safe space and equipment free of charge to do so. We believe it is through discovering one’s creative nature that one can aspire to changing their lives and reality and that anyone that is in need can find hope and companionship through listening ears and willing hearts.

These activities benefit those in need within our community by providing them with essential goods, services, counselling, and training to better their lives, induce self-confidence, and most importantly provide help in times of dire need. These activities also provide opportunities for volunteer and leadership growth, helping volunteers to become leaders, and those receiving services to become volunteers.

We serve all people who may need our services regardless of age, gender, religion, or personal circumstances.

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)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

We are grateful for the hours that our volunteers have contributed to listening, offering ideas, and taking the weight of the charity upon their shoulders to see objectives through. Without the valuable contribution of our volunteers' time, creative thinking, energy, and focus we would not have been able to re-adjust and achieve so much in so short a period.

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

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

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1st Quarter (May – July 2023)

The first quarter of our fourth year as a charity has been marked by growth and deepened community impact. Building on the strong foundation laid in previous years, we have expanded both our outreach and partnerships, increasing accessibility for those in need.

One of the most significant developments this quarter was the **board's unanimous approval of the Compassionate Cuisine programme**. This initiative will provide **free food offerings** to those experiencing food insecurity and **budget-friendly cooking classes** to help individuals and families make the most of their resources. To fully implement this programme, we have opened up **grant funding opportunities** to replace our aging kitchen with a new, fully-equipped community kitchen to support the scale of outreach required.

With the increasing demand for our services—due in part to **our Warm Bank status with Neath Port Talbot Council, exposure from last year's Wales Online feature, and our dedicated volunteers**—we have experienced exponential growth in community engagement. As a result, in late May, **Neath Port Talbot Council's Family Crisis Unit approached us for assistance**. The Annual Audit Summary for Neath indicated a **sharp rise in poverty, particularly child poverty, throughout 2022-2023**, straining the Council's ability to meet the needs of the public. With growing requests for aid and a shortage of available facilities, **The Gathering Place was asked to provide space for their family programmes two days a week, free of charge**.

Recognizing the impact of this collaboration, Neath Council, in turn, has provided a **dedicated team of volunteers** to assist in our ongoing projects. This additional support has enabled us to **extend our shopfront hours** and, as of October 1st, **move to a full five-day operational week with optional Saturdays**—a long-term goal that is now becoming reality.

To accommodate the continued development of our programmes, the **board unanimously voted to maintain the revised fiduciary policy** for the year. As in 2023, the £5,000 expenditure approval threshold will remain in place due to the scope of work required for the new kitchen installation. The original **£500 policy will be reinstated in 2024-2025** upon completion of the upgrades.

Even as we continue to expand our outreach, The Gathering Place remains committed to its mission: **to serve, to uplift, and to stand in the gap for those who need it most**. The first quarter of this year has already demonstrated the power of collaboration, and we are excited for what lies ahead.

2nd Quarter (August – October 2023)

The second quarter of our fourth year has seen **remarkable growth** in both our leadership and outreach. One of the most significant developments has been the **official naming of Clare Bell as Project Manager and Community Director**. This transition allows for expanded leadership within The Gathering Place, as **Ken Arrington steps back from daily operations to focus on chair and trustee responsibilities**. With Clare's leadership, we have been able to increase

the scope of our community engagement while ensuring that the heart of The Gathering Place's mission remains central to everything we do.

Throughout the quarter, our **commitment to community inclusion and accessibility** has driven new initiatives, such as the **Home-Ed Hangout**, launched in partnership with community relations director Clare Bell. This **non-faith-based** programme was developed to provide social and educational support for home-educated children and teens, offering access to **computing equipment, craft supplies, and tutoring in math and language**. The response has been overwhelming, with attendance reaching full capacity in recent weeks. To accommodate growing interest, we are actively seeking additional volunteer tutors to expand our offerings.

Additionally, our partnership with **Neath Port Talbot Council** has continued to open doors for greater community impact. Recognizing the **urgent need for fuel poverty relief**, we have been working to expand our **Warm Bank** operations for the upcoming holiday season. Last year, our Warm Pack initiative provided **£6,000 worth of heating support** to approximately **120 households** over 12 weeks, offering **flat fan heaters, fleece blankets, window insulation kits, draught excluders, hand warmers, and energy-saving guides**—all free of charge. Demand for these resources far exceeded availability, with weekly supplies depleted by noon every Monday. This year, our goal is to **at least double our reach**, extending distribution from **November through April 2024** to ensure vulnerable households remain warm and safe during the coldest months.

With the continued expansion of our services, we have also **increased our outreach capacity** to five days a week, offering a variety of vital programmes including **coffee mornings for high-risk groups, adoptive mother therapy services, addiction recovery and drug remediation, women and teen-at-risk outreach, and crisis intervention services**. Additionally, we continue to provide **free clothing, toiletries, and essential items** through our storefront, with a primary focus on **impoverished women, young mothers, and children**.

As we continue to evolve and adapt to the growing needs of our community, our mission remains the same: **to provide a space of refuge, support, and dignity for anyone in need, regardless of background**. The second quarter of this year has proven once again that **compassion and collaboration can truly change lives**, and we are eager to carry this momentum forward in the months ahead.

3rd Quarter (November – January 2024)

The third quarter of our fourth year has brought **unparalleled expansion** in our community outreach, with several new initiatives taking off at an incredible pace. From the launch of a **free bookshop and lending library** to **strengthened partnerships with local government and social services**, this quarter has been marked by both **unexpected successes and strategic growth** in response to the needs of the community.

One of the standout additions this quarter was the **launch of our Free Bookshop and Lending Library**. What began as a simple idea quickly became an essential resource, providing books to the public at **zero cost** while fostering literacy, empowerment, and recovery through reading. Additionally, our **Borrow and Bring Back Rail** has proven to be

a game-changer for families, allowing them to **borrow** high-cost items—such as **jumpers, work attire, and holiday outfits**—and return them when no longer needed. This initiative not only reduces financial strain but also **encourages a culture of sustainability and mutual care within the community.**

Another major development this quarter was our work with **Neath Port Talbot Council's Team Around the Family Unit** to establish **The School Uniform Partnership**. Paired with our long-standing **Backpacks of Hope programme**, this initiative has alleviated financial burdens for families by providing **free school uniforms** to children in need. With rising living costs, the importance of ensuring that no child goes without essential school attire cannot be overstated. By incorporating a **uniform bank**, we have reinforced our commitment to **both community support and environmental sustainability.**

As part of our ongoing **focus on women and youth**, we have continued to strengthen our **Mindful Mamas Group**, which now meets **every Wednesday**. This **safe, supportive space for mothers** has become a sanctuary for sharing, learning, and growing together. Additionally, we have deepened our partnership with **Western Bay Adoptions Partnership**, offering **practical and emotional support for adoptive families and children throughout the adoption process**. Recognizing that adoption affects families in profound ways, we have also become the **home of REFLECT, a programme that provides support for women whose children are in foster care or have been adopted**. Meeting once a month, REFLECT offers a space for **healing, understanding, and community**, ensuring that no woman navigates this journey alone.

Additionally, our community hub has continued to **expand its public services**, welcoming **numerous grants awarded to our Compassionate Cuisine programme**, with **construction on the new kitchen slated to begin in the fourth quarter.**

This quarter has demonstrated that **The Gathering Place is more than just a charity—it is a growing movement, a hub of care, and a vital support system for the people of Neath**. With each new initiative, we continue to **build a model of compassion, sustainability, and empowerment**, ensuring that **no one is left behind.**

4th Quarter (February – April 2024)

The fourth quarter of our fourth year has been a **milestone season of growth, transformation, and community impact**. As we closed out the year, The Gathering Place has continued to expand its outreach, develop new initiatives, and strengthen existing partnerships to serve Neath's most vulnerable populations.

One of the most significant achievements this quarter was the **completion of the Compassionate Cuisine kitchen in April**. After months of planning, grant writing, and construction, the kitchen was successfully completed **on budget** and is now fully operational. This newly upgraded space will allow us to **prepare and distribute more than 50 wholesome, vegetarian meals and sandwiches weekly for off-property consumption**—a critical step in addressing food insecurity in one of Wales' most deprived areas. With proper food inspection, storage licensing, and funding secured, this initiative is expected to impact **over a thousand individuals annually**. By integrating this service into our existing community hub, we're not only meeting

a **physical need** but creating a **sense of belonging and well-being** for those who rely on us.

This quarter also saw a **significant deepening of our partnerships with street outreach teams**. In collaboration with **FRESH** and **Challenge Valleys Collaboration**, The Gathering Place has become a **home base and safe haven** for individuals struggling with addiction and recovery. These partnerships allow us to extend our reach beyond our walls, meeting individuals where they are and providing a direct path toward support and transformation.

Looking ahead, we are **gearing up to launch several new initiatives** in early 2024. One of the most exciting is **NPT Together**, a **monthly gathering designed to provide peer support and companionship** for individuals living with **health conditions and disabilities**. This programme will offer a **social, creative space for making crafts, building friendships, and breaking down the walls of isolation and loneliness**.

Additionally, we are expanding our **youth initiatives** by introducing **creative arts and music instruction**. Plans are already in place to **acquire guitars, keyboards, and drums**, with professional music instruction and **non-religious choir and vocal practice sessions** led by **world-class musician and recording artist Clare Bell**. These sessions will provide a **creative and expressive outlet for young people**, fostering confidence, skill development, and artistic growth—all offered completely free of charge.

As we step into 2024, we do so **with a renewed sense of purpose, optimism, and dedication to those we serve**. With the **completion of the Compassionate Cuisine kitchen, the launch of new support programmes, and the strengthening of partnerships** across Neath and beyond, The Gathering Place continues to be a **beacon of hope, empowerment, and transformation**.

This past year has proven, once again, that **when a community comes together, true change is possible**.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At close of the day 30/4/2024, cash on hand at the bank was £550.00 in unrestricted funds. While this seemed worrisome, on May 4th a delayed grant came through, resulting in £10,550.40 on hand. Due to relocation and massive outreach needs with our Compassionate Cuisine buildout, we agreed to temporarily shift our reserves policy from 2 months/£6,000 reserves policy in 2022/23 to 1 month/£3,000 in 2024, with a return to a 2 month/£6,000 reserves policy in 2025.

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.

In 2024, our **primary sources of funding** have remained **grants and donations**, accounting for **98.9%** of all funds received. As a charity dedicated to **maximizing public benefit**, we ensure that the **vast majority of our general funds** are directed towards **our outreach programmes**, directly supporting those in need across our community.

This year marked another period of **substantial growth**, with the expansion of our **Compassionate Cuisine Programme, The School Uniform Partnership, Home-Ed Hangout, ASPIRE Teens at Risk Group, Mindful Mamas, addiction recovery partnerships, and expanded Warm Bank operations**. Alongside these, our **Free Bookshop and Lending Library** and **Borrow and Bring Back Rail** have continued to **provide vital resources at no cost to the public**.

As in previous years, our **primary funder** continues to provide an **annual £20,000 grant on January 5th**, with an **agreement in principle for continued annual funding** as long as we remain aligned with the **established aims of our charity**. These funds primarily cover **operational costs (17.1%) and training and resources (2.7%)**, with the remainder allocated to **outreach programmes and community support (75.6%)**.

Additional funds secured through **grants and donations** have allowed us to launch **new pilot programmes** and strengthen existing services, ensuring **we can meet the growing needs of our community**.

This year, we were grateful to receive funding from the following **foundations and grant-making agencies**:

- **The Moondance Foundation**
- **The National Lottery Wales**
- **Community Fund Wales**
- **Community Matters Fund (National Grid)**
- **LocalGiving**
- **The KFC Foundation**

As always, we remain **entirely volunteer-run**, with **no paid staff, trustees, or volunteers**. This ensures that every pound received is **maximized for direct public benefit**, allowing The Gathering Place to continue **serving, uplifting, and empowering those in need throughout Neath and beyond**.

Introduction

The year 2024 has been a defining period for The Gathering Place, marked by significant growth, strengthened partnerships, and an expansion of services. As we look ahead, we remain committed to **building on our successes, addressing evolving community needs, and increasing our long-term impact**. This report outlines the key initiatives and goals for the upcoming year based on our experiences and achievements throughout 2024.

Facility Expansion and Community Outreach

Following a year of increased engagement, we are now in discussions to **expand into the upper floors of our current facility**. This expansion would provide much-needed space for additional **support groups, educational programmes, and crisis intervention services**. Negotiations with the property owner have been promising, and we are actively seeking funding to secure this opportunity. As we move forward, we will also continue our **direct community outreach efforts, working closely with Neath Port Talbot Council and local organizations to expand our reach**.

Warm Hub Initiative and Free Resources Shop

With the rising cost of living continuing to impact low-income households, our **Warm Hub** will remain a vital initiative. Over the past year, we have seen an **increased demand for heating and insulation resources**, and we plan to **double our distribution efforts** to ensure families in need have a warm and safe living environment. In addition, our **free resources shop** will continue to provide **clothing, toiletries, and household essentials**, offering practical support in an inclusive and welcoming space.

Youth and Education Programmes

Educational support remains at the heart of our mission. In 2025, we will **expand our youth initiatives, offering more tutoring sessions, creative workshops, and skill-building opportunities**. Our Home Ed Hangout will continue to serve families, while our **IGNITING FAMILY INNOVATION** and **IGNITING YOUTH INNOVATION** programmes will grow to include **additional STEM-based learning experiences and academic support**. In addition, our new **music instruction programme** will provide access to **instruments, non-religious choir opportunities, and vocal coaching**, ensuring young people have creative outlets for self-expression.

Support for Women and Families

Our targeted support programmes for women and families will continue to grow in the upcoming year. The **Mindful Mamas group** will remain a core offering, providing a **safe and supportive environment for mothers**. Our **collaboration with Western Bay Adoptions and REFLECT** will also strengthen, ensuring that adoptive families and women navigating foster care challenges receive **ongoing emotional and practical support**. By deepening our relationships with these organizations, we can provide even more comprehensive assistance to families in need.

Men's Group and Addiction Recovery

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by men in seeking support, we will continue to develop our **men's meet-up and addiction recovery initiatives**. Through our partnerships with **FRESH and Challenge Valleys Collaboration**, we are working to **expand intervention services for individuals struggling with addiction and homelessness**. These programmes will continue to focus on **creating a safe and supportive environment for long-term recovery and reintegration into the community**.

Health and Wellness Services

Mental health and well-being remain a priority for The Gathering Place. In 2025, we aim to **introduce new support groups, workshops, and wellness initiatives focused on emotional resilience, abuse recovery, and holistic healing**. By working alongside mental health professionals and community organizations, we will ensure **free and accessible support** for those in need.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaboration remains essential to our ability to serve the community effectively. In the coming year, we will continue to **strengthen existing partnerships** while seeking new opportunities for collaboration with **local businesses, charities, and government bodies**. Our continued work with **Neath Port Talbot Council** will allow us to **expand access to key services**, ensuring that individuals in crisis receive the help they need.

Leadership and Governance

As we continue to grow, we are reviewing our **governance structure** to ensure strong leadership and sustainable management. Discussions are underway regarding **expanding our board of trustees and introducing new directors to support our increasing operations**. These steps will help maintain the integrity of our mission while ensuring The Gathering Place remains responsive to the community's evolving needs.

Financial Sustainability and Grants

Securing financial sustainability remains a top priority. In the coming year, we will **actively pursue grants, donor support, and funding opportunities** to maintain and expand our operations. By leveraging our strong track record of success, we will seek to attract additional funding that supports **long-term programme stability, facility expansion, and the introduction of new community initiatives**.

Conclusion

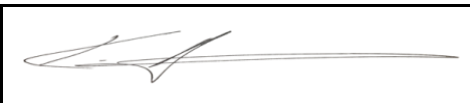
The Gathering Place is preparing for another transformative year ahead, with a clear vision and strategy for continued growth. By **expanding our facility, strengthening our core services, and deepening our partnerships**, we are committed to **providing meaningful support to those who need it most**. With the dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our funders, and the resilience of our community, we are confident that 2025 will be another year of **compassion, empowerment, and positive change**.

Section F Other optional information

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)	Kenneth Arrington	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	14-01-2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Gathering Place
No (if any)
1189467

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 5/1/2023	To	Period end date 4/30/2024
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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					
Grants & Donations	44,508		-	44,508	76,084
Refunds from purchasing public benefit goods	515	-	-	515	1,156
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	45,023	-	-	45,023	77,240
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	45,023	-	-	45,023	77,240
A3 Payments					
Outreach - Women, Youth, Homeless Support	33,259	-	-	33,259	63,088
Training / Reference Library	441	-	-	441	2,237
Fundraising (inc travel fees for conference)	1,024	-	-	1,024	967
Operational Costs (inc utilities)	9,842	-	-	9,842	14,261
Office Needs (inc technology upgrades)	1,279	-	-	1,279	1,599
Remittance	2,225	-	-	2,225	1,315
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	48,071	-	-	48,071	83,468
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	48,071	-	-	48,071	83,468
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,048	-	-	- 3,048	- 6,228
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,598	-	-	3,598	-
Cash funds this year end	550	-	-	550	3,598

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	550	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	550	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK


Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	none	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	none		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Car	Unrestricted	-	1,770
	Computer & Media Equipment	Unrestricted	-	9,245
	Office Furniture - Décor	Unrestricted	-	
	Clothing - Shelters - Trailer - Toiletries for distribution	Unrestricted	-	-
	~1,000 clothing items inc shoes, boots, coats, womens, mens, kids	Unrestricted	-	-
	Library and Resources	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	none		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Kenneth Ray Arrington	1/12/2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

THE GATHERING PLACE

**On accounts for the year
ended**

30 April 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1189467

Set out on page

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 30 April 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 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.

Signed:

Date:

24 February 2025

Name:

Chaweevan Williams FCCA

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

Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:

Verdant Accountants Limited

20-22 Wenlock Road, London N1 7GU

THE GATHERING PLACE

England & Wales - Charity number 1189467

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	5	2022		30	4	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

18 Queen Street
Neath
Wales
Postcode SA11 1DL

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	Kenneth Arrington	Director / Chair		
2	Susan Rees			
3	Martyn Greenway			
4				
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

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Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution enacted 1 January 2020
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	CIO Constitution
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Trustees are appointed for 2 year terms at end of year returns meeting / review

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Volunteers and volunteer counsellors are vetted based on experience, education, and agreement with principles set out in all related charity documents, including Wales safeguarding procedures, and additional documentation and statements of belief.</p> <p>The director oversees day to day aspects and duties of running the charity, including the power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. The director moves and works under the auspices of voting trustees and also seeks guidance and views of volunteers in deciding activities to be undertaken and run for the public benefit.</p> <p>Safeguarding policies are in place and checks are taken out on those dealing directly 1:1 with the public at large.</p> <p>The Gathering Place partners with local associations, churches, help houses, councils, homes for the elderly, mental health wards, and hospitals in order to provide tangible products, care packages, and resources for the betterment of public health.</p> <p>All trustees and volunteers give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other preferential benefits</p>
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In planning our activities for the year, The Gathering Place, its director, trustees, and volunteers kept in mind the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit at our meetings and within our communications.

The planned activities upon listing as a registered charity were as follows:

- Prevention, relief, and support of those trapped in poverty cycles and those in need by offering free clothing, toiletries, food, drink, and dry goods procured via donations and purchase
- Vehicular delivery of needed goods such as clothing and food to those in need, the hospitalised, isolated, elderly, the disabled, the impoverished, and the general public; as well as to other charities or voluntary bodies
- Offering a safe and warm space for sanctuary at our 18 Queen Street, Neath, SA11 1DL location, free teas/coffees/refreshment, warm hub, recharging of devices, as needed counselling services, and care package pickup – including sleeping bags, tents, shoes, coats, and gear
- Free general counselling / weekly meetings across multiple spectrums provided by approved volunteer counsellors – women's outreach, homeless outreach, general outreach, and personal fulfilment
- To provide free hosted dinners and luncheons for our women's outreach and homeless outreach, stirring interest through signposting, social media, and word of mouth. These meetings provide counselling and volunteer opportunities to gauge the needs of the public and provide essential immediate services to those in need
- A bi-weekly programme of adult oriented events, trainings, and activities designed to inspire creativity, music, and art; and provide a safe space and equipment free of charge to do so. We believe it is through discovering one's creative nature that one can aspire to changing their lives and reality and that anyone that is in need can find hope and companionship through listening ears and willing hearts.

These activities benefit those in need within our community by providing them with essential goods, services, counselling, and training to better their lives, induce self-confidence, and most importantly provide help in times of dire need. These activities also provide opportunities for volunteer and leadership growth, helping volunteers to become leaders, and those receiving services to become volunteers.

We serve all people who may need our services regardless of age, gender, religion, or personal circumstances.

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)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

We are grateful for the hours that our volunteers have contributed to listening, offering ideas, and taking the weight of the charity upon their shoulders to see objectives through. Without the valuable contribution of our volunteers' time, creative thinking, energy, and focus we would not have been able to re-adjust and achieve so much in so short a period.

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

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

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1st Quarter (May – July 2022)

The first quarter of our 3rd year charity started with a flourish. Relocating our offices to 18 Queen Street Neath Town Centre SA11 1DL, and due to our continued growing relationship with our funders, we immediately set to work. Throughout April and May we continued to work with local charities and other organisations to meet the needs of our community while preparing to move into our new facility. Due to the amount of forecasted work and outreach to be done on the new charity office, we made a number of temporary fiduciary policy shifts for the year. Prior to this year, any expenditure over £500 was required to have a signed receipt from the director to be submitted for approval. For 2023, this number was shifted to £5,000 due to the amount of building materials needed to remodel the new facility. This temporary adjustment was a unanimous decision, with the decision made that at the completion of the year and of moving into the new facility, the policy would shift back to the £500 approval policy. Additionally, after meeting with the new property's solicitors, we entered into agreement to pay a lump sum payment at the beginning of the year for the main floor rental of £11,500, removing the pressure of paying monthly payments. As we took possession of the building in late May, we agreed to pay the remainder of 2022's rent payment at £6991.89. It was forecast that the remodel of the building would take approximately 2 months, through the majority of 2nd quarter 2022, with the majority of work undertaken by the director, volunteers, and occasional day labour when fitting. Additionally, as the charity offices underwent extensive remodelling, we would still fulfil our mission by delivering items to those in need and by working with other local charities.

2nd Quarter (August – October 2022)

2nd quarter brought the opening of our new Gathering Place facility in Neath Town Centre. With the remodel moving at an accelerated pace, we

opened our doors in early August to host a kids' camp for children ages 5 to 15, offering children from all backgrounds and financial statuses access to the Gathering Place, providing kids' activities, games, social opportunities, and more. This was an opportunity to introduce Neath to our "Project:Heal Backpack Programme," primarily focusing on pre-teen and early teens school needs, offering backpacks filled with pens, pencils, rubbers, hi-liters, pencil bags, notepads, activity books, glue sticks, rulers, protractors, and activewear, and made available free of charge at our community hubs in Swansea before the start of term (and afterward by request via individuals, schools, councils, or other charitable organisations with whom we work). We would also resupply each "Backpack of Hope" throughout the year. The turnout for this programme was an undoubtable success, bringing awareness to Neath of our soon official opening.

In October, we officially opened the Gathering Place outwardly to the public. The front facing shop where "everything is free" provides resources to the community free of charge - clothing, toiletries, and other items. The primary demographic of these facilities were impoverished women, young mothers, and children. Additionally, we brought in coffee mornings on Wednesday, inviting others into our facility to deepen the sense of community. These measures brought a great deal of success and interest to the Gathering Place, with numerous news agencies contacting the Gathering Place for interviews.

While the shopfront got people in the door, it was our counsellors and volunteers who were the shining stars. Opening up a variety of projects to the public including free movement and exercise clinics, abuse counselling, young mother assistance, mindfulness groups, homeless assistance, and much much more, the Gathering Place quickly became known as a holistic community centre, whose excellent services were provided absolutely free of charge to those in need.

3rd Quarter (November – January 2023)

The 3rd quarter of our 3rd year provided a new opportunity for the Gathering Place, that of becoming Neath's first officially registered Warm Hub with both the Welsh and Neath Port Talbot county government. With this recognition, the Gathering Place began serving more than 100 visitors per week and distributing more than £750 in personal heating items per week to homes in need in the form of "Warm Packs" in addition to providing the public coats, gloves, scarves, clothing, and more (valued at over £1,000 p/wk). With rising fuel costs placing a bind on impoverished homes, we began distributing packs designed to reduce energy consumption in the homes of those we serve. These packs included flat fan heaters, draught protectors, window insulation, foam insulation, hand warmers, flannel blankets, and much more. Additionally, we handed out on average more than 300 clothing, toiletry, and food items per week to those in need in our community through our shopfront. Again, our 3rd Q focus was on women and children in need, providing necessary items for home and school, additionally expanding our homeless outreach. Additionally, we began to explore options to open up our facility to be used by smaller micro-organizations for the public benefit, offering therapeutic art classes, writing courses, training, and the like.

During this period, The Gathering Place made the national news (Wales Online), bringing increased attention to our programmes and bringing a dramatic increase in grants and awards and expansion of programmes.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Donations in the form of clothing and toiletries increased exponentially, and soon we began to provide surrounding charities and churches with clothing, food, and toiletries

Negatively, at the end of Q3, the facility above the Gathering Place's location (due to a tip from volunteers from the Gathering Place) was raided as an illegal cannabis factory. While we assisted the police department in its investigation, our power was shut off due to finding the illegal growers were siphoning off of our power supply. Our electric supplier and National Grid quickly reattached our power supply, however we would enter into a long dispute with EDF over payment of the siphoned electricity. While siding in our favour, EDF stated they would start a new account for the Gathering Place (which they did), and delete the old account. However, instead of deleting the old account, it was somehow sent to a debt collector. We are still in process in having this old account that EDF stated we were not responsible for deleted.

Even with the commotion of the take down of the illegal grow lab above us, the Gathering Place was still able to expand its mission focus outwards to the community, opening our computer lab to the public and beginning a Home Education and After School youth programme, providing community children from all walks of life access to tutors and teacher volunteers.

4th Quarter (February – April 2023)

Quarter 4 was undoubtedly our most successful quarter as a charity up to that date! With the expansion of programmes we brought on two new official Programme Directors - Rachel Edwards and Clare Bell. As the weight of work began to outweigh a single director (Ken Arrington), programme specific work began to be handed off to Rachel and Clare, with Rachel focusing on health and wellness directives and Clare handling all community relations. Clare, being a Neath native, quickly fell into a groove and began to shift to becoming the front face of the charity within the community. During this time, we additionally began to put an expansion in focus in place, beginning assessments to potentially bring on new trustees in 2023/2024 and new directorship as well, as Ken Arrington announced he would be relocating late 2023 to open a new charity opportunity. Additionally, we were approached by Neath Council to begin working in coordination with them to meet the needs of the community. Due to our immediate and increased success in meeting the needs of the community, meetings were held to allow Neath Port Talbot council use of our facilities free of charge, expanding service programmes to various groups such as adoptive mothers, mothers who have lost their children, trafficking and addiction recovery, providing school uniforms free of charge to children in need, and much more. This provides an even greater opportunity and holistic approach, addressing individuals' underlying needs by creating a supportive network that boosts their confidence, self-esteem, and sense of purpose within often overlooked communities. We empower them to break free from cycles of poverty, enhancing their access to vital services and opportunities, thereby enabling them to realize their full potential.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At close of the day 30/4/2023, cash on hand at the bank was £3,597.71 in unrestricted funds. Due to relocation and massive outreach needs, we agreed to temporarily shift our reserves policy from 2 months/£6,000 reserves policy in 2022 to 1 month/£3,000 in 2023, with a return to a 2 month/£6,000 reserves policy in 2024.

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.

In 2023 our primary sources of funding have been grants and donations (98.5%). We use the majority of our general funds towards our outreach programmes. As 2023 was a time of exponential growth for the Gathering Place, this was also time of massive expansion of our programme offerings, including all of our Project:HEAL programmes, Home School and After School offerings, health and wellness, lending library, official Warm Hub status, mindfulness programmes, and much more. The remainder of our general outreach funds go to upfitting our "in-needs" area which is designed to supply new coats, clothing, hats, scarves, shoes, and other related resources to any who may need assistance. We also provide teas/coffees/refreshment to anyone who wishes to stop by and come off the streets, as well as counselling and a listening ear.

Our primary funder continues to provide an annual £20,000 grant on January 5th and has agreed in principle to renew annual funding indefinitely as long as we can demonstrate we are committed to the established aims of our charity. These funds go to the operational costs of the charity (17.1% of our expenditures during this year in question) and training and resources (2.7%), with the remainder going towards outreach programmes and general support (75.6%).

The remainder of other funds raised (such as through the Lottery foundation) go to further funding of pilot programmes to meet the public benefit and reinforce programmes currently underway.

This year we received grants from the following foundations and grant making agencies:

- Community Fund Wales
- Arnold Clarke
- Morrisons
- The National Lottery Foundation
- The Moondance Foundation
- Leathersellers
- Foyle Foundation
- NPTCBC
- LocalGiving
- Community Matters

As we do not have any paid volunteers, staff, or trustees, funds received are maximised for public benefit.

Section F Other optional information

Future Plans and Developments for The Gathering Place

Introduction The year 2023 has been transformative for The Gathering Place, marked by significant achievements and challenges that have shaped our future plans and strategies. As we look ahead, we are focused on building upon our successes, addressing ongoing needs, and expanding our impact in

the community. This report outlines our key initiatives and goals for the upcoming period based on the experiences and outcomes of 2023.

Facility Expansion and Community Outreach Our move to the new facility at 18 Queen Street, Neath Town Centre has provided us with an expanded platform to deliver essential services and support to our community. Building on the success of our initial programs, we will continue to offer a wide range of initiatives, including our programmes for homeless outreach, at-risk youth, young mothers, and support for abused women.

Warm Hub Initiative and Free Resources Shop One of our major focuses will be continuing to establish The Gathering Place as a "Warm Hub" during the winter months. This initiative aims to address rising energy costs and provide essential heating resources to low-income households. Additionally, our free resources shop will expand its offerings, providing clothing, toiletries, and other necessities to those in need.

Youth and Education Programs We are committed to supporting youth development and education. We will continue to supply educational resources to disadvantaged youths, ensuring they have the tools they need for academic success. Additionally, we will launch new initiatives, such as after-school programs and tutoring services, to enhance learning opportunities.

Men's Group and Addiction Recovery Recognizing the specific needs of at-risk men in our community, we will establish a dedicated men's group focused on providing support, counseling, and resources for addiction recovery. This initiative aims to address the unique challenges faced by men in seeking help and creating a safe space for healing and growth.

Health and Wellness Services Expanding our health and wellness services will be a priority in the coming year. We will introduce new clinics and counseling programs to address mental health, abuse recovery, and overall well-being. These services will be provided free of charge, promoting holistic healing within our community.

Partnerships and Collaboration Collaboration with local organizations and government bodies will remain crucial to our success. We will strengthen existing partnerships and seek new collaborations to maximize our impact and reach more individuals in need. This includes working closely with Neath Port Talbot Council on joint initiatives and utilizing our facilities for community benefit.

Leadership and Governance As part of our growth strategy, we will review our governance structure and consider adding new trustees and directors. This will ensure effective leadership and management as we continue to expand our programs and services.

Financial Sustainability and Grants Securing financial sustainability is vital for our long-term success. We will actively pursue grants, donations, and support funding from various sources to sustain and grow our operations. This includes leveraging our increased profile and successful programs to attract funding opportunities.

Conclusion The Gathering Place is poised for a dynamic year ahead, with a clear vision and strategic plan to make a positive impact on our community. By focusing on key initiatives, partnerships, and financial sustainability, we are confident in our ability to continue serving those in need and fostering a supportive, resilient community.

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)

Kenneth Arrington

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

14-01-2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Gathering Place
No (if any)
1189467

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 5/1/2022	To	Period end date 4/30/2023
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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					
Grants & Donations	71,084		-	71,084	33,978
Refunds from purchasing public benefit goods	1,156	-	-	1,156	1,260
Foyle Foundation	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	72,240	5,000	-	77,240	35,238
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	72,240	5,000	-	77,240	35,238
A3 Payments					
Outreach - Women, Youth, Homeless Support	58,088	5,000	-	63,088	22,759
Training / Reference Library	2,237	-	-	2,237	1,927
Fundraising (inc travel fees for conference)	967	-	-	967	1,151
Operational Costs (inc utilities)	14,261	-	-	14,261	5,519
Office Needs (inc technology upgrades)	1,599	-	-	1,599	89
Remittance	1,315	-	-	1,315	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	78,468	5,000	-	83,468	31,444
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	78,468	5,000	-	83,468	31,444
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 6,228	-	-	- 6,228	3,794
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,825	-	-	9,825	-
Cash funds this year end	3,597	-	-	3,597	9,825

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	3,597	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,597	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK


Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	none	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	none		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Car	Unrestricted	-	1,770
	Computer & Media Equipment	Unrestricted	-	9,245
	Office Furniture - Décor	Unrestricted	-	
	Clothing - Shelters - Trailer - Toiletries for distribution	Unrestricted	-	-
	~1,000 clothing items inc shoes, boots, coats, womens, mens, kids	Unrestricted	-	-
	Library and Resources	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	none		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Kenneth Ray Arrington	1/3/2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

THE GATHERING PLACE

**On accounts for the year
ended**

30 April 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1189467

Set out on page

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 30 April 2023.

**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 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.

Signed:

Date:

02 April 2024

Name:

Chaweevan Williams FCCA

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

Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:

Verdant Accountants Limited

20-22 Wenlock Road, London N1 7GU

THE GATHERING PLACE

England & Wales - Charity number 1189467

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	1	5	2021	To	30	4	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The Gathering Place

Other names charity is known by

The Gathering Place UK

Registered charity number (if any)

1189467

Charity's principal address

18 Queen Street
 Neath
 Wales
 Postcode SA11 1DL

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	Kenneth Arrington	Director / Chair		
2	Susan Rees			
3	Martyn Greenway			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
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)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution enacted 1 January 2020
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	CIO Constitution
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Trustees are appointed for 2 year terms at end of year returns meeting / review

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Volunteers and volunteer counsellors are vetted based on experience, education, and agreement with principles set out in all related charity documents, including Wales safeguarding procedures, and additional documentation and statements of belief.</p> <p>The director oversees day to day aspects and duties of running the charity, including the power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. The director moves and works under the auspices of voting trustees and also seeks guidance and views of volunteers in deciding activities to be undertaken and run for the public benefit.</p> <p>Safeguarding policies are in place and checks are taken out on those dealing directly 1:1 with the public at large.</p> <p>The Gathering Place partners with local associations, churches, help houses, councils, homes for the elderly, mental health wards, and hospitals in order to provide tangible products, care packages, and resources for the betterment of public health.</p> <p>All trustees and volunteers give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other preferential benefits</p>
--	--

Section C Objectives and activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The prevention, relief and support of those trapped in poverty cycles and those in need throughout Swansea / South Wales by providing items, resources, and counselling services. We encourage and train volunteers and local leaders and network with regional organisations to directly impact the local community.</p>
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In planning our activities for the year, The Gathering Place, its director, trustees, and volunteers kept in mind the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit at our meetings and within our communications.

The planned activities upon listing as a registered charity were as follows:

- Prevention, relief, and support of those trapped in poverty cycles and those in need by offering free clothing, toiletries, food, drink, and dry goods procured via donations and purchase
- Vehicular delivery of needed goods such as clothing and food to those in need, the hospitalised, isolated, elderly, the disabled, the impoverished, and the general public; as well as to other charities or voluntary bodies
- Offering a safe and warm space for sanctuary at our 45 Mansel Street SA1 5SW and future 18 Queen Street, Neath, SA11 1DL location, free teas/coffees/refreshment, warm hub, recharging of devices, as needed counselling services, and care package pickup – including sleeping bags, tents, shoes, coats, and gear
- Free general counselling / weekly meetings across multiple spectrums provided by approved volunteer counsellors – women’s outreach, homeless outreach, general outreach, and personal fulfilment
- To provide free hosted dinners and luncheons for our women’s outreach and homeless outreach, stirring interest through signposting, social media, and word of mouth. These meetings provide counselling and volunteer opportunities to gauge the needs of the public and provide essential immediate services to those in need
- A bi-weekly programme of adult oriented events, trainings, and activities designed to inspire creativity, music, and art; and provide a safe space and equipment free of charge to do so. We believe it is through discovering one’s creative nature that one can aspire to changing their lives and reality and that anyone that is in need can find hope and companionship through listening ears and willing hearts.

These activities benefit those in need within our community by providing them with essential goods, services, counselling, and training to better their lives, induce self-confidence, and most importantly provide help in times of dire need. These activities also provide opportunities for volunteer and leadership growth, helping volunteers to become leaders, and those receiving services to become volunteers.

We serve all people who may need our services regardless of age, gender, religion, or personal circumstances.

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)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

We are grateful for the hours that our volunteers have contributed to listening, offering ideas, and taking the weight of the charity upon their shoulders to see objectives through, particularly in the arena of delivering care packages to those in need during this trying season in dealing with the scourge of Covid-19. Without the valuable contribution of our volunteers' time, creative thinking, energy, and focus we would not have been able to re-adjust and achieve so much in so short a period.

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

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

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1st Quarter (May – July 2021)

Beginning our 1st quarter as a 2nd year charity and coming out from the spectre of Covid was a unique challenge. Originally founded as a charity to meet the local needs of the neglected, the isolated, homeless, and those in need of support, the continuing coronavirus pandemic continued to challenge us on multiple fronts. However, now that we were invested as a charity and had a firm foundation with our location's remodel and upfit, our outgoing costs were significantly reduced from the prior year. We also benefited from large inventory stores of items from the previous quarter for distribution. Our care package programme (care packages consist of soap, shampoo, body wash, conditioner, deodorant, toilet paper, handkerchiefs, diapers, feminine needs products, brushes/combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and when requested, food (dry good breakfasts, lunches, dinners, teas/coffees, snacks, and drinks), clothing items (t-shirts, jumpers, joggers, leisure wear, underwear, and socks), and resources to assist those suffering from isolation (books, contact numbers, and apps), continued to be delivered to hospitals, mental health wards, nursing homes and individuals in need throughout the region. With the introduction of the "Rule of 6" in July, which allowed up to 6 individuals in an indoor environment, we were provided the opportunity for counselling sessions to resume while recognising the need for continued social distancing. Preparations begin in forecasting charity direction post-Covid.

2nd Quarter (August – October 2021)

On August 7th, 2021, virtually all Covid restrictions were lifted in Wales, allowing us to once again hold counselling sessions for larger groups and open our facility to those in need, providing access to our homeless closet with sleeping bags, tents, and more and providing refreshment to those coming in off the street. We continue to distribute care packages to local hospitals and delivering to those isolated with Covid. During our first open volunteer meeting, seeing all of our 12 volunteers and volunteer counsellors in one place in over a year was a refreshing change. During this meeting, the director announced the intention to begin looking for a larger facility due to demand and establishing projects for 2022.

Volunteers voted that 2022 will be focused on restarting outwards facing projects to benefit the public, paying particular attention to at-risk women and youth, the neglected, and impoverished while looking for additional office space in Neath Port Talbot to expand our footprint and street delivery of goods.

A first order of business was voting on a pilot programme for at risk youth called "Project:Heal Backpack Programme," primarily focusing on pre-teen and early teens school needs. These backpacks would be filled with pens, pencils, rubbers, hi-liters, pencil bags, notepads, activity books, glue sticks, rulers, protractors, and activewear, and made available free of charge at our community hubs in Swansea before the start of term (and afterward by request via individuals, schools, councils, or other charitable organisations with whom we work). We would also resupply each "Backpack of Hope" throughout the year.

3rd Quarter (November – January 2022)

Due to the repealing of all Covid restrictions, hospital admissions increased with the arrival of the Omicron variant increasing demand upon our delivery services once again. At the next volunteer meeting, final

votes were cast on the Gathering Place's 4 primary charitable directions in 2022, with special emphasis placed upon our "PROJECT:HEAL Backpack Programme" (designed to supply educational resources to over 350 disadvantaged youths under 16 in Swansea and Neath), in addition to our "Project:HEAL Homeless Outreach," our "To Restore a Dream" abused and battered women's healing outreach, and continuing to meet the needs of our NHS facilities and nursing homes with our "Covid Community Response and Supply Programme."

In December we were able to purchase 2 computers, a printer, desks and more for a small computer lab facility on our 1st floor due to a generous grant. This lab was designed with the intent of providing computing resources to abused women and at-risk youth, providing a safe place to find help and support.

In mid-December it was noticed that small water leaks were beginning to puddle in the basement, the location of our extensive homeless closet and supplies. Easily cleanable, the thought was that large rains were causing these leaks. However, by mid-December, upon opening on a Monday the director found that the entire basement was flooded with about 30 cm of water. The building next to our 45 Mansel Street location had building works on and had punched through the basement wall, allowing run off water from the street to slip inside and flood the basement. Nearly our entire inventory of clothing and supplies for our homeless outreach were destroyed by a mixture of water, damp, and quick mould.

Informing the landlord of our predicament, he offered the building to us in sale, as he was desiring to move on from ownership and not have to pay extensive repairs. We declined, as the amount of building repairs were too expensive, and we were already looking for a larger location anyway to handle service demands. The landlord agreed to let us out of the lease as soon as we found another location due to the damage to the building and searching began in earnest for a new primary office.

4th Quarter (February – April 2022)

Continuing to deliver products to those in need and isolated, counselling services continued at our 45 Mansel location. Unfortunately due to the basement damage, damp began to spread to the main meeting floor and the upper floors impacting service. However, the community response to us losing our "homeless closet" was fantastic. Within weeks we had replaced all items lost with newer donated items, some items with tags still on them!

After an extensive search, by the end of January a new potential Gathering Place location was identified at 18 Queen Street in Neath Town Centre, occupying the ground floor of a large former retail building. After initial assessments were made, budgets forecast for a move into a new facility and meeting with the letting agencies, we placed a bid for £11,500/yr for ground floor rental which was accepted on February 21st. In March we began moving our facility's activities towards Neath, working with additional volunteers from Calan and the Help House to meet the community needs while securing our new facility and storage from our former facility, with the target to open our new location in June of 2022.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At close of the day 30/4/2022, cash on hand at the bank was £9,825.47 in unrestricted funds. Remembering our lessons from the year prior and with the addition of our 2 months/£6,000 reserves policy in 2020, our funds were stable throughout the year, resulting in net positive funds

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.

In 2022 our primary sources of funding this year have been grants and donations (96%). We use the majority of our general funds towards our outreach programmes, including our Covid Support program – "Project Heal," which includes care package and PPE distribution to NHS hospitals, mental health wards, and nursing homes throughout South Wales. Each care package includes soap, shampoo, body wash, conditioner, deodorant, toilet paper, handkerchiefs, diapers, feminine needs products, brushes/combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and when requested, food (dry good breakfasts, lunches, dinners, teas/coffees, snacks, and drinks). If requested, we include clothing such as t-shirts and leisure wear for inpatients during their hospital stays. These items are also available for delivery to those in isolation, or anyone that contacts us and needs support. As our Covid support drew down with reduction of restrictions and vaccine uptake, funds went to our our "PROJECT:HEAL Backpack Programme" (designed to supply educational resources to over 350 disadvantaged youths under 16), in addition to our "Project:HEAL Homeless Outreach," and our "To Restore a Dream" abused and battered women's healing outreach. The remainder of our general outreach funds go to upfitting our "in-needs" area which is designed to supply new coats, clothing, hats, scarves, shoes, and other related resources to those who may need assistance. We also provide teas/coffees/refreshment to anyone who wishes to stop by and come off the streets, as well as counselling and a listening ear.

Our primary funder continues to provide an annual £20,000 grant on January 5th and has agreed in principle to renew annual funding indefinitely as long as we can demonstrate we are committed to the established aims of our charity. These funds go to the operational costs of the charity (17.6% of our expenditures during this year in question) and training and resources (6.1%), with the remainder going towards outreach programmes and general support (72.4%). The remainder of other funds raised (such as through the Lottery foundation) go to further funding of pilot programmes to meet the public benefit and reinforce programmes currently underway.

As we do not have any paid volunteers, staff, or trustees, funds received are maximised for public benefit.

Section F

Other optional information

Future Plans:

The coming year will see a move to our new facility at 18 Queen Street, Neath, SA11 1DL which enables us to expand our services in a more efficient manner throughout Neath Port Talbot and Swansea counties. With a larger more open multi-functional space, our facility will also be able to be used by smaller micro-organizations for the public benefit, offering therapeutic art classes, writing courses, training, and the like.

As the need for our Covid Support programme begins to taper off, instead of distributing care packages (including food, toiletries, clothing) directly to hospitals, mental health wards, nursing homes, our focus will turn to individuals and families in need of support. We will also work with local operations within Swansea, Neath, Bridgend, RCT, and Cardiff to provide various charities necessary goods to meet their community needs. For 2022-23, we are excited to expand our community outreach services from Swansea city centre to Neath town centre, with special emphasis placed upon our "PROJECT:HEAL Backpack Programme" (designed to supply educational resources to over 350 disadvantaged youths under 16), in addition to our "Project:HEAL Homeless Outreach," our "To Restore a Dream" abused and battered women's healing outreach, and continuing to meet the needs of our NHS facilities and nursing homes with our "Covid Community Response and Supply Programme."

With a new facility to outfit and uplift, we are very encouraged to launch various other pilot community programmes. One area we are interested in pursuing is opening up our facility as a "warm hub" in the winter months to combat rising energy costs and to be able to provide warm packs with blankets and heaters to warm lower income homes. Another concept we are looking at integrating is a front facing shop where "everything is free" providing resources to the community free of charge - clothing, toiletries, and other items. And we look forward to bringing back coffee mornings, offering social participation.

We aim to provide a holistic approach that considers an individual's underlying needs: establishing a support network around them, and instilling them with confidence and self-esteem, as they begin to find their sense of purpose within communities they feel may have disregarded them. We work to re-engage individuals and families on the fringe of society: empowering them to overcome cycles of poverty and disadvantage and improving their access to services and support, and increasing their opportunities so they may go onto achieve their potential.

By providing the basics of food/clothing in "judgment-free" environments, we will be enabled to provide 1-1 support to help address underlying reasons for why men, women, and youth turn to anti-social behavior or find themselves in abusive environments. For many, we understand that the lack of basic life skills, and the lack of community and sense of belonging, often leaves them feeling alone, isolated, and overwhelmed by the responsibility of handling things on their own.

We also look forward to once again hosting our bi-weekly programme of outreach events, gatherings, and trainings designed to benefit the public and raise up additional volunteers. Our new location will provide ample opportunities to do this.


Once our offices are relocated to a larger space, we will immediately begin holding our bi-weekly public gatherings and outreach dinners once again. We are also desiring to open up a creativity and mixed media lab for the public to use free of charge. This lab will be outfitted with multiple PC's, monitors, a large scale printer, and ethernet hub and preloaded with software designed to provide those in need with a way to access online documents, services, and other projects. This directly ties into our public benefit mission to positively transform lives and restore hope throughout South Wales.

Due to our increased profile with our larger space, we will also aggressively pursue new grant and support funding from various foundations and resources.

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)	Kenneth Arrington	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	14-01-2023	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Gathering Place

No (if any)
1189467

Receipts and payments accounts

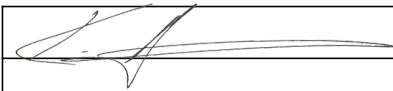
CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/05/2021	To	Period end date 30/04/2022
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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 £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants & Donations	33,978	-	-	33,978	34,503
Refunds from purchasing public benefit goods	1,260	-	-	1,260	656
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	35,238	-	-	35,238	35,159
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	35,238	-	-	35,238	35,159
A3 Payments					
Covid Support & General Outreach Costs	19,759	-	-	19,759	26,149
Training / Reference Library	1,927	-	-	1,927	3,251
Fundraising (inc travel fees for conference)	1,151	-	-	1,151	2,683
Operational Costs (inc utilities)	5,519	-	-	5,519	7,855
Office Needs (inc technology upgrades)	89	-	-	89	2,854
Payment Remittance	-	-	-	-	2,670
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	28,444	-	-	28,444	45,462
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Vehicle	-	-	-	-	2,900
Camera, Media Equipment and computers.	3,000	-	-	3,000	1,861
Sub total	3,000	-	-	3,000	4,761
Total payments	31,444	-	-	31,444	50,223
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,794	-	-	3,794	-15,064
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,032	-	-	6,032	21,096
Cash funds this year end	9,825	-	-	9,825	6,032

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	9,825	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	9,825	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	none	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	none		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Car	Unrestricted	-	2,200
	Computer & Media Equipment	Unrestricted	-	7,145
	Office Furniture - Décor	Unrestricted	-	
	Clothing - Shelters - Trailer - Toiletries for distribution	Unrestricted	-	-
	~1,000 clothing items inc shoes, boots, coats, womens, mens, kids	Unrestricted	-	-
	Library and Resources	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	none		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Kenneth Ray Arrington	13/02/2022	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE GATHERING PLACE

On accounts for the year
ended

30 April 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1189467

Set out on page

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 30 April 2022.

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 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.

Signed:

Date:

15 February 2023

Name:

Chaweevan Williams FCCA

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body :

Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:

Verdant Accountants Limited

20-22 Wenlock Road, London N1 7GU

THE GATHERING PLACE

England & Wales - Charity number 1189467

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	13	5	2020	To	30	4	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The Gathering Place

Other names charity is known by

The Gathering Place UK

Registered charity number (if any)

1189467

Charity's principal address

45 Mansel Street
Swansea
Wales
Postcode SA1 5SW

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	Kenneth Arrington	Director / Chair		
2	Susan Rees			
3	Martyn Greenway			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
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)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution enacted 1 January 2020
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	CIO Constitution
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Trustees are appointed for 2 – 4 year terms at end of year returns meeting / review

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Volunteers and volunteer counsellors are vetted based on experience, education, and agreement with principles set out in all related charity documents, including Wales safeguarding procedures, and additional documentation and statements of belief.</p> <p>The director oversees day to day aspects and duties of running the charity, including the power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. The director moves and works under the auspices of voting trustees and also seeks guidance and views of volunteers in deciding activities to be undertaken and run for the public benefit.</p> <p>Safeguarding policies are in place and checks are taken out on those dealing directly 1:1 with the public at large.</p> <p>The Gathering Place partners with local associations, churches, help houses, councils, homes for the elderly, mental health wards, and hospitals in order to provide tangible products, care packages, and resources for the betterment of public health.</p> <p>All trustees and volunteers give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other preferential benefits</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The prevention, relief and support of those trapped in poverty cycles and those in need throughout Swansea / South Wales by providing items, resources, and counselling services. We encourage and train volunteers and local leaders and network with regional organizations to directly impact the local community.</p>
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In planning our activities for the year, The Gathering Place, its director, trustees, and volunteers kept in mind the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit at our meetings and within our communications.

The planned activities upon listing as a registered charity were as follows:

- Prevention, relief, and support of those trapped in poverty cycles and those in need by offering free clothing, toiletries, food, drink, and dry goods procured via donations and purchase
- Vehicular delivery of needed goods such as clothing and food to those in need, the hospitalised, isolated, elderly, the disabled, the impoverished, and the general public; as well as to other charities or voluntary bodies
- Offering a safe and warm space for sanctuary at our 45 Mansel Street SA1 5SW location, free teas/coffees/refreshment, recharging of devices, as needed counselling services, and care package pickup – including sleeping bags, tents, shoes, coats, and gear
- Free general counselling / weekly meetings across multiple spectrums provided by approved volunteer counsellors – women’s outreach, homeless outreach, general outreach, and personal fulfilment
- To provide free hosted dinners and luncheons for our women’s outreach and homeless outreach, stirring interest through signposting, social media, and word of mouth. These meetings provide counselling and volunteer opportunities to gauge the needs of the public and provide essential immediate services to those in need
- A bi-weekly programme of adult oriented events, trainings, and activities designed to inspire creativity, music, and art; and provide a safe space and equipment free of charge to do so. We believe it is through discovering one’s creative nature that one can aspire to changing their lives and reality and that anyone that is in need can find hope and companionship through listening ears and willing hearts.

These activities benefit those in need within our community by providing them with essential goods, services, counselling, and training to better their lives, induce self-confidence, and most importantly provide help in times of dire need. These activities also provide opportunities for volunteer and leadership growth, helping volunteers to become leaders, and those receiving services to become volunteers.

We serve all people who may need our services regardless of age, gender, religion, or personal circumstances.

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)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

We are grateful for the hours that our volunteers have contributed to listening, offering ideas, and taking the weight of the charity upon their shoulders to see objectives through, particularly in the arena of delivering care packages to those in need during this trying season in dealing with the scourge of Covid-19. Without the valuable contribution of our volunteers' time, creative thinking, energy, and focus we would not have been able to re-adjust and achieve so much in so short a period.

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

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

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1st Quarter (May – July 2020)

The 1st Quarter of our first year as a registered charity was a growing experience that provided many challenges. Founded as a charity to meet the local needs of the neglected, the isolated, homeless, and those in need of support, the coronavirus pandemic completely turned our operation upside down. Prior to Covid, our outreach programmes were primarily boots on the ground and counselling based, driving interest through sign-posting, word of mouth, referrals, and various bi-weekly gatherings. With the introduction of Covid shutdowns, the delivery of our entire operation changed. Not knowing how long it would be until we could again meet face to face, we immediately switched gears to investing in care packages to deliver them directly to those in need instead. Working with local hotel suppliers whose revenue sources were cut off with the shutdowns, we were able to purchase massive amounts of resources at reduced cost to provide them to those in need. Within weeks of beginning our care package program (care packages consisted of soap, shampoo, body wash, conditioner, deodorant, toilet paper, handkerchiefs, diapers, feminine needs products, brushes/combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and when requested, food (dry good breakfasts, lunches, dinners, teas/coffees, snacks, and drinks), and resources to assist those suffering from isolation (books, contact numbers, and apps), we were soon supplying care packages and PPE mass-ordered from China and India to supply Singleton, Princess of Wales, and Royal Glamorgan hospitals necessary items/PPE for their inpatients and staff. We also began a delivery program to nursing homes and mental health wards throughout the region.

2nd Quarter (August – October 2020)

With the beginning of the easing of restrictions in Wales, in August we began making adjustments to the interior of our 45 Mansel Street location to potentially host small scale events and face to face counselling. We also added a kids' area on the first floor so children could be occupied while parents received services and counselling. These plans were immediately scrapped when Covid prevention measures were re-introduced on September 11th, limiting gatherings to less than 6 with the reintroduction of compulsory facemasks. On 25th of September, measures were introduced barring meeting outside of family bubbles, keeping our doors closed for meetings, counselling, and providing services from our facility. Using this as an opportunity, we converted the primary meeting area of our facility as an assembly line to prepare care packages more quickly for distribution, supplying hundreds of inpatients in South Wales with needed services, and continuing to supply hospital staff with necessary PPE. During this time we also upgraded our care packages to include t-shirts, jumpers, joggers, underwear, socks and other items to ease the experience of patients isolated within hospitals. We also opened a new phone line and email for home delivery of packages for those in need or placed into isolation. We also began our C-Support program, as we were alerted that many people were now living on campgrounds as they had lost their homes or incomes during the pandemic crisis. However, during our first planned food distribution event, the circuit breaker lockdown was instituted on October 23rd, suspending our deployment until lockdowns could be lifted.

3rd Quarter (November – January 2021)

In November and December, we were honoured to be recognised as the SA1 Hub of Covid19 Mutual Aid due to our efforts in supplying those in need with necessary items to weather the scourge of Covid. In the month of November alone we supplied over 400 care packages to hospitals, councils, and nursing homes. We were also given letters of appreciation from hospitals and nursing homes throughout South Wales describing the impact of our efforts. Unfortunately, during November and December our funds dipped dramatically, as expected donations and grants did not manifest. However, due to shrewd purchasing decisions and cash infusions from the director, the facility was able to keep the doors open and continue delivering care packages through the holiday season.

In January 2021, we were ecstatic to find that one of our initial funders had been made aware of our relief efforts through multiple channels and made the decision to authorize an annual grant of £20,000 as long as we could demonstrate we are committed to the established aims of our charity. With an infusion of finances, we began to quickly restock our Covid support cabinets and reset our agenda to finish out our first year as a registered charity.

4th Quarter (February – April 2021)

With lockdown restrictions firmly in place, we continued to commit our funds and resources to supplying local hospitals and homes with care packages, with volunteers delivering care packages as needed. As food banks began to be stretched to the max, calls began to increase for necessary services, including clothing from our homeless / in-needs closet. In many cases, we would deliver packages from our facility direct to door. In March we were able to test launch our C-Support program at a local campground, with 2 volunteers assisting with setup and test delivery. Deemed a success, this is an outreach that will have greater demonstrability during our next year. In March we were also able to finally assemble our volunteers together for the first time in months and recast vision for our upcoming season in how we can best meet the needs of the public, pledging to continue delivering care packages to any and all who needed them, as well as to committing to providing counselling services once again when allowed.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At close of the day 30/4/2021, cash on hand at the bank was £6,031.92 in unrestricted funds. The main financial risk for the charity was revealed during our low third quarter, where donations dipped considerably due to the second wave of the coronavirus between September 2020 and January of 2021. However, funding stabilised in late January 2021, enabling us to re-target our financial goals for our next fiscal year.

Due to the dip in funding in our fiscal 3rd Q in 2020, this has caused us to implement a 2-month reserves policy for the next fiscal year to cover potential Covid-19 lockdown risks and other emergency needs that arise. This information will be included in next year's annual return.

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.

Our primary sources of funding this year have been grants and donations (91%). We use the majority of our general funds towards our outreach programmes, including our Covid Support program – "Project Heal," which includes care package and PPE distribution to NHS hospitals, mental health wards, and nursing homes throughout South Wales. Each care package includes soap, shampoo, body wash, conditioner, deodorant, toilet paper, handkerchiefs, diapers, feminine needs products, brushes/combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and when requested, food (dry good breakfasts, lunches, dinners, teas/coffees, snacks, and drinks). If requested, we include clothing such as t-shirts and leisure wear for inpatients during their hospital stays. These items are also available for delivery to those in isolation, or anyone that contacts us and needs support. The remainder of our general outreach funds go to upfitting our "in-needs" area which is designed to supply new coats, clothing, hats, scarves, shoes, and other related resources to those who may need assistance. We also provide teas/coffees/refreshment to anyone who wishes to stop by and come off the streets, as well as counselling and a listening ear.

Our primary funder provides an annual £20,000 grant and has agreed in principle to renew annual funding indefinitely as long as we can demonstrate we are committed to the established aims of our charity. These funds go to the operational costs of the charity (26% of our expenditures during this year in question) and training and resources (6.5%), with the remainder going towards outreach programmes and general support (67%). The remainder of other funds raised (such as through the Lottery foundation) go to further funding of pilot programmes to meet the public benefit and reinforce programmes currently underway.

As we do not have any paid volunteers, staff, or trustees, funds received are maximised for public benefit.

Section F

Other optional information

Future Plans:

The coming year will see a continued heavy emphasis on the distribution of care packages to hospitals, mental health wards, nursing homes, and to individuals in need of support. We will also work with local operations within Swansea, Neath, Bridgend, RCT, and Cardiff to provide them necessary goods to meet their community needs. The vast majority of our budget will continue to go towards these programs for the public benefit. We also look forward to resuming face to face counselling as soon as allowed.

One of our most exciting new programs is our school backpack program. When children begin school, there are many financial costs associated with their attendance, which puts a large amount of pressure on parents to provide. When provision is difficult, it is well documented that many mothers turn to short-term prostitution and street-work as a means to provide for their children. Yet even short-term prostitution can have terrible lifelong repercussions in the form of shame, stigma, and potential disease. To remove that pressure to provide, we have invested in providing school backpacks for families in need- featuring newly purchased backpacks filled with writing and math activity books, notebooks, file folders, pencil pouches, 4 pencils, pens, highlighters, erasers, rulers, protractors, glue sticks, and children's sized T-shirts. These bags are available free of charge to any parent and child in need! We are working with local ministries, councils, and schools to distribute these schoolbags to anyone in need, which further helps us to resource other needs they may have!

With the promise of lifted government restrictions due to Covid-19, we again hope to host our bi-weekly programme of outreach events, gatherings, and trainings designed to benefit the public and raise up additional volunteers. However, due to social distancing requirements, we are faced with a number of challenges and opportunities in resuming larger (15+) events. Primarily, our 45 Mansel Street location is greatly limited in how many people we can host at one time with social distancing requirements in place. Before Covid our primary gathering room could handle 30 individuals at one time easily. With social distancing policies in place, we are legally obligated to not hold more than 10 people at one time in our facility. This has necessitated a need to procure a larger meeting space due to ever evolving social distancing measures, which is leading us to relocate our offices elsewhere in 2022.


Once our offices are relocated to a larger space, we will immediately begin holding our bi-weekly public gatherings and outreach dinners once again. We are also desiring to open up a creativity and mixed media lab for the public to use free of charge. This lab will be outfitted with multiple PC's, monitors, a large scale printer, and ethernet hub and preloaded with software designed to provide those in need with a way to access online documents, services, and other projects. This directly ties into our public benefit mission to positively transform lives and restore hope throughout South Wales.

We are also looking forward to once again allowing our facility to be used by smaller micro-organisations for the public benefit, offering art classes, writing courses, training, and the like.

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)	Kenneth Arrington	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	14-01-2022	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name The Gathering Place	No (if any) 1189467
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 13/05/2020	To	Period end date 30/04/2021
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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					
Grants & Donations	34,503	-	-	34,503	-
Refunds from purchasing public benefit goods	656	-	-	656	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	35,158	-	-	35,158	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	35,158	-	-	35,158	-

A3 Payments

Covid Support & General Outreach Costs	26,149	-	-	26,149	-
Training / Reference Library	3,251	-	-	3,251	-
Payment Remittance	2,670	-	-	2,670	-
Operational Costs (inc utilities)	7,855	-	-	7,855	-
Office Needs (inc technology upgrades)	2,854	1	-	2,854	-

Fundraising (inc travel fees for conference)	2,683	-	-	2,683	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	45,462	-	-	45,462	-

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Vehicle	2,900	-	-	2,900	
Camera & Media Equipment	1,861	-	-	1,861	
Sub total	4,761	-	-	4,761	-

Total payments	50,223	-	-	50,223	-
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Net of receipts/(payments)	- 15,065	-	-	- 15,065	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,096	-	-	21,096	-
Cash funds this year end	6,032	-	-	6,032	-

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	6,032	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,032	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK	OK	OK
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Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

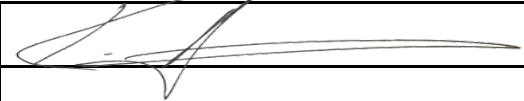
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Car	Unrestricted	-	2,900
Computer & Media Equipment	Unrestricted	-	4,145
Office Furniture - Décor	Unrestricted	-	
Clothing - Shelters - Trailer - Toiletries for distribution	Unrestricted	-	-
~1,000 clothing items inc shoes, boots, coats, womens, mens, kids	Unrestricted	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
none		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Kenneth Ray Arrington	03/01/2022



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE GATHERING PLACE

On accounts for the year
ended

Period from registration 13 May 2020 to
30 April 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1189467

Set out on page

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 30 April 2021.

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 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.

Signed:

Date:

09 February 2022

Name:

Chaweevan Williams FCCA

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body :

Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:

Verdant Accountants Limited

20-22 Wenlock Road, London N1 7GU