



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/09/2024 Period start date To 31/08/2025 Period end date

Charity name: Blencogo and District Village Hall

Charity registration number: 1198251

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The Old School Blencogo together with such other property as may be acquired by the Organisation shall be held for the purposes of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the parish of Bromfield and neighbouring areas, without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for lectures, meetings, classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area (from CIO constitution)</p> <p>Objective 1: To be accessible, welcoming and affordable for individuals and organisations both in and outside the parish</p> <p>Objective 2: To provide attractive, clean, accessible and safe facilities for large and small meetings, social gathering, sporting events, lectures and educational events</p> <p>Objective 3: To generate income to maintain the facilities to a high standard</p> <p>Objective 4: To consult the community to identify and continue to meet its needs.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>The Hall Committee put on regular events (quizzes, ceilidh, carnival, food evenings etc) and it has regular weekly user-groups (scouts, art group, garden club, dog training, craft and chat, WI, book Club, Wine Circle etc). Everything is aimed at encouraging and protecting a sense of community.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There must be an identifiable benefit; and2. The benefit must be to the public or section of the public <p>(see achievements and performance below)</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Not applicable – the Village Hall does not make grants
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not applicable
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	A group of over 20 local volunteers (from teenagers to retired) help with the running and maintenance of the Village Hall (Cleaning, grounds maintenance, event organisation, minor maintenance etc.). All community events are organised by the volunteer committee
Other		Blencogo & District Village Hall has recently (15/3/22) changed its charitable status to be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity no. 1198251). Previously from 05 January 2001: Standard registration, Charity No. 1084346

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>A key objective of Blencogo and District Village Hall is to engender community spirit and a sense of communal worth. All the activities provided in the Village Hall aim to improve the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of people of all ages in the Parish and surrounding area by providing a range of activities that will help to improve an individual's overall health and contribute towards a collective feeling of 'being part of the community'.</p> <p>By continuing to widen the range of opportunities that Blencogo and District Village Hall can deliver it is hoped that individuals might try new experiences and take part in the hobbies and social activities that they enjoy; so engendering a sense of belonging, self-worth and improved wellbeing.</p> <p>Activities provided locally reduce the need for car usage (as noted earlier there is little/ no public transport serving the area) to</p>

		<p>travel to other local centres 5 miles or more away.</p> <p>Many in the community both young and old and have limited incomes. The activities provided in the hall are priced so as to encourage their participation (hence there is not a 'standard' letting fee). Similar activities at other venues in Wigton or Aspatria are considerably more expensive. It is the ethos of Blencogo and District Village Hall to keep fees low to maximise participation.</p> <p>It is hoped that participation in a wide range of community activities will continue to build a strong community and create better mental and physical health for everyone.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Blencogo and District Village Hall has had a vibrant and eventful year. Following the expiration of our 25-year lease in February 2025, we entered negotiations for a new agreement. During this process, the landlord offered the charity the opportunity to purchase the building. After consulting with the local community and key stakeholders, we decided to develop a business case for funding and to seek community support through financial pledges and fundraising initiatives.</p> <p>Thanks to generous donations and successful fundraising efforts, we were able to offset the initial purchasing costs. Our income this year is broadly in line with last year, boosted by generous donations and contributions to the purchase fund. Despite improved cost controls, the charity has faced significant challenges, including a tripling of electricity costs due to increased usage and rising prices. While we remain financially viable, the increase in rental costs could place this delicate balance at risk.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	A small amount roughly 10% plus interest of the finances is retained in a reserve account which is retained at a higher interest because of its limited access
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£1283
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<p>If the charity is unable to purchase the Village Hall, its long-term future will face significant uncertainty. The landlord has confirmed that any new lease will no longer include the previously agreed discounted rate. Instead, it would be a full commercial lease with a substantial 400% increase and a longer-term commitment. To mitigate this risk, the trustees and committee are working tirelessly to strengthen cash flow and secure additional donations. However, at current funding levels, the charity's cash reserves would be rapidly depleted, making continued operations unsustainable over time.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The dog training classes and scouts continued to be the highest regular revenue income for the hall. Events like the Race night, Harry's Quiz and Murder mystery night return the most Non-Charitable Trading Income
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	N/A
Other		N/A

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<p>Eligibility for trusteeship (from constitution):</p> <p>(a) Every charity trustee must be a natural person.</p> <p>(b) No one may be appointed as a charity trustee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or • is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision) <p>(c) No one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the charity trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of charity trustee.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	N/A
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Blencogo and District Village Hall
Other name the charity uses	BLENCOGO AND DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL: 1084346
Registered charity number	1198251
Charity's principal address	The Old School Blencogo WIGTON CA7 0BZ

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	Gary Bickley	Chairman		
2	Paul Benson			
3	Andrew Scott			
4	Rebecca Blake	Secretary		
5	Melanie Woolfenden	Treasurer		
6	Sarah Chapman			
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20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

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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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Gary Bickley	Melanie Woolfenden
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	25/11/2025	



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31/08/2025

Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £

Sub total (Gross income for AR)

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,578	-	-	11,578	12,558

A3 Payments

Caretaker		-	-	-	180
Rent	4,257	-	-	4,257	1,312
Insurance	2,273	-	-	2,273	2,207
Electric	1,641	-	-	1,641	597
Gas	187	-	-	187	-
Oil	1,503	-	-	1,503	1,454
Water	781	-	-	781	888
Repairs & Maintenance	521	-	-	521	2,457
Mowers	98	-	-	98	446
Sundry Expenses	549	-	-	549	924
Surveyor costs	-	-	-	-	1,500
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	11,810	-	-	11,810	11,966

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments			-		

Net of receipts/(payments)	11,578	-	-	11,578	12,558
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	11,578	-	-	11,578	12,558

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	Current Account	7,663	-	-
	Reserve Account	-	1,278	-
	Cash in Hand	4,713	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,376	1,278	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments)	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK



	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Purchase Grant	-	3,000	-
	Purchase Donation	-	3,138	-
	Purchase Fund Raising	-	200	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Ride-on Mower	Unrestricted	2,000	-
	Push Lawn Mower	Unrestricted	500	-
	20 Tables and 150 Chairs	Unrestricted	-	1,000
	Kitchen Equipment	Unrestricted	-	5,000
	Misc/ Hall Equipment	Unrestricted	-	1,000
	Scaffold Tower	Unrestricted	-	1,200
	Staging	Unrestricted	-	3,000
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Scouts	Unrestricted	1,236	
	PCC Contribution	Unrestricted	3,500	
	Unpaid Rent	Unrestricted	2,750	
		Unrestricted	-	
		-	-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	G.BICKLEY	16/03/2026
	M.WOOLFENDEN	16/03/2026