

ALSTON COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

England & Wales · Charity number 1202099

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-02-27

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

Contact

Address High Mill Factory
Alston
ca9 3hs

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Activities

Objects: "THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, ARE:1. TO BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF THE CIVIL PARISH OF ALSTON MOOR AND THE NEIGHBOURING PARISHES, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS.IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTS BUT NOT OTHERWISE, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE POWER:A. TO ESTABLISH OR SECURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE AND TO MAINTAIN OR MANAGE OR CO-OPERATE WITH ANY STATUTORY AUTHORITY IN THE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF SUCH A CENTRE FOR ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE CHARITY IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE OBJECTS.2. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE (PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY MEN AGED OVER 18), IN THE CIVIL PARISH OF ALSTON MOOR AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY THROUGH THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN WHICH THEY CAN MEET JOINTLY OR INDIVIDUALLY TO UNDERTAKE CREATIVE, PHYSICAL OR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, LEARN OR PASS ON SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER SOCIALLY. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE 'SOCIALLY EXCLUDED' MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: UNEMPLOYMENT; FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; SOCIAL ISOLATION, BEREAVEMENT, YOUTH OR OLD AGE OR ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL)."

Activities: We run a Community Workshop in Alston, in the North Pennines. This is equipped with tools for a range of craft and making activities and supported by experienced volunteers. The workshop is a shared facility, to be used by a variety of activity groups. These groups aim to meet some of our charitable and social aims and include a Men's Shed group, a Repair Cafe, and workshop sessions open to all.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Recreation

Geography

- Cumbria

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£7,830	£16,575	-	-
2024-03-31	£24,078	£10,422	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Arthur Liquorice		2023-01-01
Dee Monk		2024-09-22
Gordon John Monk		2023-01-01
Jocelyn Louise Hattersley		2023-01-01
Stephen Lea Bentley		2026-01-18
Timothy Alan Haldon		2023-01-01

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Alston Community Workshop

Registered Charity No. 1202099

High Mill Factory
Alston
CA9 3HS

Trustees' Annual Report 2024/25

Alston Community Workshop is an umbrella group for several activities based in Alston Moor. During 2024 / 25 the total membership was 22 people.

Repair Mill

Another year with a steady flow of items through the Repair Mill. We saw 289 items and gave a new lease of life to 251 of them, an 87% success rate which is better than the previous year and much higher than the general Repair Café average!

These repairs brought in over £1,400 of donations, every penny of which goes to Alston Community Workshop to help keep the lights on for the Men's Shed, Busy Buddies and the Repair Mill. Not to mention the coffee warm and the Custard Creams flowing.

A huge thanks has to go to our enthusiastic Volunteers who turn up every month and do whatever they can to help the people of the Community to save money, rescue sentimental items and help to fight climate change in the process.

Busy Buddies

With the workshops move from the Town Hall Annex to High Mill Busy Buddies also moved to Thursdays so it didn't have to close at 1pm when the Wednesday, men only, Men's Shed session starts.

Crochet Group

A Crochet group was started late in the year, meeting in Woolly's Café rather than the Workshop. For the few months covered by this report it has been very popular.

Men's Shed

The Men's Shed has continued to be popular with half a dozen or so men ("Shedders") attending the Wednesday or Sunday sessions and not necessarily the same half dozen all the time.

Most Shedders make use of the facilities and tools of the workshop for repairing or

restoring their own items. Advice and guidance being available should it be required, either as ideas on how to fix the item or how to use an unfamiliar tool.

Not everyone has something to fix. The "Shedders" also repair and restore community assets such as parish benches at the request of the Parish Council.

For those of a less practical nature popping into The Shed provides an excuse to get out of the house, have a friendly chat, coffee and a Custard Cream (other biscuits are available).

During the year Alston Community Workshop was successful in getting a grant from Cumbria Community Foundation to equip the workshop with a colour A3 printer, a 3D printer, 3D scanner and laptop. The funding stemming from Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership through Westmorland & Furness Council's Rural England Prosperity Fund: a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda.

The 3D equipment requires a far warmer, dryer and less dusty environment than the main workshop space can offer. The Shedders set to work and partitioned off a small section of the workshop to create a suitable space for the 3D equipment, sewing machines and electronic test equipment, together with a shared workspace.

Alston Community Workshop

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Financial Statement for year 2024-25

	2024-25	2023-24
Income		
Grants	£ 4,192	£ 21,876
Donations (Repairs)	£ 1,447	£ 1,165
Donations (Other)	£ 399	£ -
Sales	£ 1,174	£ 647
Subscriptions	£ 260	£ 130
Interest	£ 358	£ 161
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	£ 7,830	£ 23,979
 Expenditure		
Rent	£ 7,031	£ 2,910
Utilities	£ 769	£ 1,253
Insurance	£ 388	£ 314
Tools & Equipment	£ 3,966	£ 927
Materials	£ 866	£ 758
Admin & Publicity	£ 371	£ 1,054
Training	£ 130	£ 493
High Mill Refit	£ 3,054	£ 2,713
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 16,575	£ 10,422
 Surplus / Deficit	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-£ 8,745	£ 13,557
 Year-end Bank Balances		
(as at 31 Mar 2025)	£ 12,931	£ 21,401

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First Annual General Meeting

2.00pm Held at The Community Workshop, High Mill Factory. 22nd September 2024

Present: Tim Haldon, Phil Pennefather, Richard Glover, Paul Burke, David Jackson, Dave Liquorice. Steve Bentley.

Apologies: Dee Monk, Gordon Monk, Jocelyn Hattersley, Susie Stafford, Graham Walker

1. Report by the Trustees

TH read out the report on the Repair Cafe prepared by Gordon Monk;

So far this year in the monthly Repair Cafe, we've looked at 195 items with 156 things successfully repaired, and another 21 items 'Work in Progress' with an excellent chance that they will mostly be repaired – that is a success rate of 88% Although we have failed to fix 18 items, that is still an excellent success rate, and is much better than last year.

As a result, we have had almost £1,000 in donations so far this year and every penny of this goes to the Community Workshop to help us to keep the lights on for the Men's Shed, Busy Buddies and the Repair Cafe, the coffee warm and the Custard Creams flowing.

Since we started at the Annexe in 2022, we have looked at a total of 574 items with an overall success rate of 83%, and that is a huge amount of landfill, or CO2 saved if you'd rather.

The most effective 'Green' energy and CO2 saving that we can implement here on Alston Moor has to be the continuing use of items that have just developed simple faults, rather than replacing them and adding to the current mountain of waste. The 'Greenest' item is usually the one that you have already!

A huge thanks has to go to our enthusiastic Volunteers who turn up every month and do whatever they can to help the people of the Community to save money, save sentimental items and help to fight climate change in the process.

Moving forward, now that we're settled in to our new home at the High Mill, we will be changing the name of the Repair Café to something more fitting to us, to be discussed as item 4 on the agenda, but we will remain aligned with the Repair Café Organisation and the international network of venues that continue this good work, and we will continue to hold our Repair sessions here, on the First Saturday of every month.

Bin it? Not if we can help it!

Report agreed by those present

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2. Presentation of the financial accounts for the period: 1st March 2023 - 31st March 2024 (copy circulated in advance)

TH as Treasurer reported that the accounts presented were for the 13 months from the registration of ACW as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, up to 31st March 2024. For information the figures for the first six months of the current financial year were included.

- SB asked if the charity had a balance of unrestricted funds in the account.
TH ~ there was approx. £5k of unrestricted funds.
- RG asked if the rent was lower than the Town Hall Annexe
TH ~ the cost per m² was lower but High Mill was three times the size.

Accounts approved by those present

3. Election of Trustees

The current trustees (Dave Liquorice, Jocelyn Hattersley, Tim Haldon and Gordon Monk) stood down as required by the constitution; they had all stated that they were willing to stand again.

The following members were proposed and appointed as trustees:

David Liquorice, Jocelyn Hattersley, Tim Haldon, Dee Monk and Gordon Monk.

4. Recommend a new name for the Repair Cafe

Following discussion, 'The Repair Mill' was chosen as the preferred name.

5. Discussion - what shall we do next?

Develop Tool Hire Scheme

Start a model railway and/or Scalextric track

Investigate and develop a lathe room

Improve recruitment, advertising and signage.

AOB

Tim Haldon was thanked for his considerable efforts in bringing the ACW into existence and the move and fit out for the High Mill. TH thanked the group but emphasised that it was a team effort.

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Income & expenditure account

1st March 2023 -31st March 2024

Income	2023-4		Expenditure	2023-4	
Grants	21,876		Premises	4,607	
Donations(RepCaf)	1,165		Tools & Equipment	798	
Sales	647		Materials	758	
Subscriptions	130		Admin & Publicity	1,054	
1st Responders	100		Training	493	
Interest	161		High Mill Re-fit	2,713	
Total	£24,078		Total	£10,422	

Surplus / deficit £13,655.56

Bank balance at 31 Mar 24 £21,401.21