

Charlbury Community Workshop CIO

Charity registration number: 1202551

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st January to 31st December 2025

1 The Charity and its trustees

Charlbury Community Workshop (CCW) occupies premises on property owned by The Thomas Gifford Trust at Charlbury Community Centre, The Spendlove Centre, Enstone Road, Charlbury, OX7 3PQ.

During calendar 2025, the trustees who managed the charity were:

David Court	Chairman (to 5 th May 2025)
William Robinson	Secretary
Simon Walker	Treasurer (to 3 rd April 2025) and Chairman (from 5 th May 2025)
Kevin Slevin	Treasurer (from 3 rd April 2025)
Colin Critch	
Tony Merry	
Lucy Overs	(to 3 rd April 2025)
Chris Potts	
Matthew Scott	
Michael Shayler	(from 3 rd April 2025)
Helen Vickery	(from 3 rd April 2025)

The charity's Annual General Meeting was held on 3rd April 2025. In accordance with the rotation requirements in its constitution, Colin Critch, Simon Walker and Lucy Overs stood down as trustees; Colin Critch and Simon Walker offered themselves for re-appointment, and were confirmed as trustees by the members present at the meeting, as were Helen Vickery and Michael Shayler. The officers and trustees put on record their thanks to Lucy Overs for her input as one of the founding trustees during the process of establishing the charity.

2 Structure and Management

Registered by the Charity Commission on 30th March 2023, the Charlbury Community Workshop is an association-type Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Under its Constitution, the CCW can have up to 12 trustees. Seven of the current ten trustees were original members of the working group that was formed in June 2022 to bring the concept of a community workshop to fruition. They are drawn from working and retired professionals who have the skills and experience required to manage and run the CCW. Trustees hold bi-monthly formal meetings, with numerous informal contacts in between.

3 Activities and Objectives

Our aim in setting up the Workshop has been to give anyone and everyone a place where they can find help to improve their well-being through reducing loneliness and finding an alternative to social isolation. And that aim is based on solid research. The UK Men's Sheds Association, with which we are affiliated while being available to both men and ladies, has found that a majority of people who attend a 'shed' such as ours regularly are less likely to be anxious or depressed. Loneliness and social isolation also fall markedly, with the camaraderie found there being a great support.

The workshop provides an affordable facility for repairing, making and training in a variety of practical crafts, in particular woodworking and soft crafts. It is open on prearranged mornings and afternoons, with supervision by coordinators experienced in the safe use of the equipment. All members and volunteers are given a safety induction before carrying out any operations within the workshop.

Aside from offering its members a place to undertake their own projects in a social environment, the CCW provides a repair facility (subject to the capabilities of the workshop members involved) whereby items can be brought to the workshop and repaired/restored either by members or in collaboration with their owners.

In managing the workshop, the trustees are mindful of the Charities Act 2011 "public benefit requirement" in all their activities.

4 Achievements and performance

The workshop building is split into two distinct sections, one catering for soft crafts and the other for woodworking and associated activities. It is also equipped with hot and cold running water and facilities for providing hot beverages for the members.

Experience over the past two years has shown that there are practical benefits to being able to work outside when weather conditions are suitable, and to this end the area behind the workshop was resurfaced in late 2025 to provide a clean, safe working area. The trustees acknowledge the support provided by Charlbury Beer Festival, which funded the cost of materials for this. Local electrician John Wilkinson's donation of time and materials for extending the power system to the outside area is also greatly appreciated. Plans for 2026 include constructing a lean-to gazebo behind the workshop building in order to provide additional sheltered working space outside.

During 2025, membership of CCW increased to 47, of whom about half make use of the workshop facilities, either regularly or from time to time. We welcome and appreciate the support provided by those members who are not active workshop participants, but who endorse the charity's aims nonetheless, and we continue to reach out to the local community to encourage more people to become involved.

In addition to providing a facility for our members to use, the CCW continues to liaise with

other organisations that aim to help combat social isolation and improve people's well-being. Contact has been made with various health-service providers, and the CCW is now providing a venue for a local community men's group to meet. We look forward to being able to cooperate more widely with the group and its members as time goes on.

The woodworking section of the Workshop was kept busy during the year, with a brief analysis of the work undertaken showing the following:

- Furniture repairs have included 15 various wooden chairs, three large tables, and six cupboards, including the replacement of veneers;
- The refurbishment and rebuilding of garden furniture has included six garden benches and seats;
- We were commissioned to renovate an oval-shaped trophy shield, dating from 1913, for the Oxfordshire County Ladies Golf Association. The task included repairing the existing sections and fitting in a new section of hardwood; this will ensure that the shield can have the yearly winners shown on the trophy for at least another 25 years;
- We also undertook a diverse selection of general repairs, such as to two children's buggies, a number of table and standard lamps, several clocks, an office chair (for which we were able to contact the manufacturers and arrange for it to be fixed under warranty), and numerous small repairs of all manner of items;
- Two special tool-sharpening sessions during the year proved very popular with the local community, and had the added benefit of being an excellent fund-raiser for the charity;
- In addition, several of our members brought in projects of their own, making use of the Workshop's equipment and benefitting from the knowledge and experience of other people to ensure their successful completion.

The Workshop also hosted an evening tutorial session for the local Girl Guide group, providing an introduction to basic DIY and woodworking skills. We hope to be able to repeat this in the future, and to extend the idea to other children's and young adult groups.

The Workshop continued to receive some very generous donations of tools and consumables. As previously, we evaluated everything that came in and passed on un-needed equipment to Tools With a Mission – a charity that takes unwanted tools, cleans and repairs them, and then passes them on to third-world countries where they are needed.

The soft-craft section has continued to be a lively and friendly morning with regular members and the occasional drop-in for help with projects. Special events during the year included sessions for making tote bags and Christmas rag wreaths, with a similar course on recycling denim scheduled for early 2026.

The section participated in the local Scout group Christmas Fair, and has provided the Cornerstone project in Charlbury with some material to make present bags for the children on their register. Members also made scarves that were donated to the Women's Institute Christmas Tree and subsequently donated to Porch charity in Oxford. Items we make are offered for sale as fund-raising for the Workshop, with the aim of taking a Craft Fair stall in 2026 to evaluate its viability as an outlet for the many crafted items that get made.

Members have participated in overlocker and freehand machine-embroidery courses as a way of widening the group's capabilities. There is also the possibility of opening the Workshop for an additional soft-craft session either during the week or on odd weekends to try to widen our group. Generous donations of materials and wool continue to come in, and are much appreciated.

5 Finance

The CCW funds ongoing operations with income from:

- annual membership fees, (£25 per year);
- special events, such as tool-sharpening, and fees for soft-craft courses;
- the sale of items made in the Workshop; *and*
- donations from people who have had items repaired by members.


During 2025, we also levied a £1 per-session fee from Workshop participants. The trustees have since decided to drop this on the grounds that people have largely ceased to use and carry cash.

In addition, we continued to apply for grants to support buying new equipment, to help cover our final construction costs, and to assist in the cost of insurance and the rent that we pay to the Thomas Gifford Trust as the owner of the land and the building itself. To this end, we are grateful to Charlbury Town Council and Charlbury Beer Festival for their donations for work to the building and its surrounds, to the Wilderness festival organisers for funding the purchase of a commercial dust-extractor for the Workshop, and to Oxfordshire County Council's Connected Communities Fund for their continued support in covering our 2026 insurance premium.

We were again able to record a surplus of income over expenditure for 2025, with the proviso that some of the funding received from grant donors was earmarked specifically for expenditure during 2026. In consequence, our financial assets at the year-end were also higher than at the end of 2024, allowing us to continue in the confidence that the charity is on a firm financial footing.

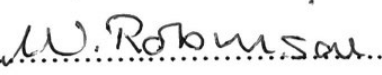
Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Simon Walker, Chairman

Signature: 

Date: 23rd April 2026

William Robinson, Secretary

Signature: 

Date: 23.4.2026

Accounts for period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

INCOME	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants	1,205.00	2,575.00
Donations	219.50	1,826.42
Funds Generated by Activities	3,579.55	910.50
Membership Subscriptions	1,037.50	1,087.50
Total income generated	6,041.55	6,399.42
EXPENDITURE		
Rent	1,200.00	1,200.00
Insurance	435.36	641.29
Purchase of Equipment and alterations to workshop	1,814.61	863.66
Maintenance and utilities	-	60.00
Workshop Consumables for activities undertaken	668.14	226.39
Materials for third-party projects	-	352.34
Catering Consumables	46.00	43.50
Room Hire	25.00	25.00
Refund of excessive donation	-	90.00
Share of Street Fair Takings	-	35.00
Bank and card handling charges	21.62	10.26
Capital Expenditure	-	177.62
Total Expenditure	4,210.73	3,725.06
TOTAL SUPPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	1,830.82	2,674.36
Funds retained from previous years	5,882.66	3,208.30
TOTAL WORKING RESERVES AT 31 DECEMBER 2025	7,713.48	5,882.66
REPRESENTED BY: ASSETS:		
Cash at Co-operative Bank	7,707.52	5,864.16
Petty cash	5.96	18.50
Debtors at 31 December 2025	-	-
LIABILITIES:		
Creditors at 31 December 2025	-	-
	7,713.48	5,882.66

Prepared by Kevin S Slevin

Treasurer



April 3rd 2026