

SANCTUARY BREAKS

England & Wales · Charity number 1204540

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-08-31

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

Contact

Address Hill House
Littleworth
Amberley
Stroud
GL5 5AL

Phone 01453872255

Email sanctuarybreaks@gmail.com

Website hillhouseretreats.com

Activities

Objects: TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IN PARTICULAR THOSE WHO ARE REFUGEES, SEEKING ASYLUM, OR HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF TORTURE, WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

Activities: We provide respite breaks in rural Gloucestershire for people seeking sanctuary - asylum seekers, refugees and survivors of trafficking and torture. See <https://sanctuaryhillhouse.org.uk> for more information

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Gloucestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2026-03-31	£57,805	£21,196	-	-
2025-03-31	£18,966	£12,761	-	-
2024-03-31	£10,002	£444	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Sally Pickering	Chair	2023-08-31
Joanna Mathieson		2025-05-08
John Njau		2023-08-31
Seth Reynolds		2025-11-17

SANCTUARY BREAKS

England & Wales - Charity number 1204540

Accounts

Sanctuary Breaks

Hill House
Littleworth
Amberley
Stroud
GL5 5AL

Charity Number 1204540

Annual Report April 2024- March 2025

Chair's Report

Our Mission and Purpose

Sanctuary Breaks was founded with the aim of improving the lives of refugees, those seeking asylum, and survivors of torture by offering opportunities for recreation and social connection.

Our mission is 1) to create safe, supportive environments where individuals facing significant social challenges can experience moments of respite and joy and 2) to create opportunities for connection between people seeking sanctuary and the host community in Stroud District.

This year has seen us continuing with our monthly Days Out days offer with the new addition of monthly Arts Days Out, offering visitors the chance to come to a series of creative art days, with their work being part of the upcoming SITE arts festival in Stroud in June 2025. We continue to seek out and connect with other organisations supporting refugees and those seeking asylum whilst strengthening our presence in the local community. We welcomed a new trustee Bill Crooks, who brings a wealth of expertise and energy to our arts and crafts offer.

Governance and staffing

Our charity is governed by a passionate and dedicated group of six trustees, whose collective expertise has been instrumental in guiding us. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to:

- **John Patrick Njau**
- **Naomi Millner**
- **Sally Pickering**
- **Judith Large**
- **Bill Crooks**

In July 2024 we recruited our first part-time paid Development Worker which has considerably strengthened our capacity. We must also thank Caroline Beatty, Director of

Hill House Retreats CIC for her continued dedicated inspiration and support for all our endeavours.

Our Activities in 2024

In 2024, our key program, *Days Out*, continued to take centre stage. Through this initiative, we provided people with a monthly opportunity to experience the joy and relaxation of simple, nature-based activities, while building a sense of community. We continued to partner with **Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS)**.

We introduced a new offer, a monthly *Arts Days Out*, to welcome up to 10 returning visitors over 4 sessions to create art which will be shared with the wider community as part of the SITE Arts Trail Festival in Stroud in June 2025.

Throughout the year, we welcomed **98 visitors**, including **50 new faces**, to our days out. Our guests come from a wide range of countries, including Uganda, Kenya, Russia, Syria, Venezuela, Botswana, Afghanistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Congo

Our activities foster a sense of belonging and well-being. Visitors took part in a variety of activities including:

- **Home-cooked meals** providing familiar cultural foods, with the invitation to guests to cook their preferred foods
- **Village walks** and nature explorations (blackberrying, taking photos of the local scenery)
- **English language** practice in an everyday context
- **Singing and music making**
- **Indoor and outdoor games**
- **Varied arts and crafts activities** with visiting artists
- **Gardening**
- **Tea, cake, and good conversation**

Our days out offer opportunities to unwind, connect with others, all in a beautiful countryside setting. Activities brought people together and provided an opportunity for relaxation and social engagement, building confidence and self-esteem and offering guests the chance to share skills and interests. On these days we build in moments of contact and engagement with the wider local community outside the house - through visiting local churches, cafes and taking part in local activities

“We have all enjoyed a wonderful day”

“Enjoyed it so much, feels like I am at home”

“ I felt safe & happy”

Our Days Out and Arts Days Out days were supported by **15 volunteers**, whose passion and dedication have been vital in making each day a success. From preparing meals to leading activities, our volunteers have been at the centre of what we do and how we do it, and we are deeply grateful for their involvement.

Therapy Days. GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) have used Hill House for therapy days for young people, with remarkable results. This will continue.

Away Days. Refugee Support Organisations from Bristol and Gloucester have used the house for away days for staff and residential stays for those they support. This will continue.

Events.

In June 2024 we held a Tibetan cultural day at HJill House to which around 80 local people came to learn about Tibet, and enjoy Tibetan food, music and dancing.

In October 2024 we held a volunteer recruitment day, offering those interested a chance to hear about what we do. 3 new volunteers have consequently joined our team

In December 2024 we welcomed 2 of our refugee guests who have joined our volunteer team, bringing valuable lived experience and fresh energy and ideas to our planning and delivery.

In January 2025 we held a small celebration event for Sanctuary Breaks inviting trustees and volunteers to share their experiences over the last year and collate feedback and ideas for the future growth of our work.

We continued to support the series of culinary community engagement days through 'A Taste of Home', allowing the local community to experience food from other cultures through a workshop and shared meal with refugee chefs/cooks.

Building Connections

The website continues to be developed, alongside a joint logo with Hill House (where all our activities take place). The strong connection between Hill House and Sanctuary Breaks has come into focus helping us plan more strategically for the future.

Insights from the previous year are helping shape content for the website and other social media channels, with the aim of connecting us more strongly with organisations working in the sector and those we support. The Newsletter continues as a regular monthly update, sent to all volunteers, helping everyone stay informed and connected.

Funding and Financial Support

Grants will be pivotal in supporting our activities, and will allow us to continue to employ staff to further the development of the work we do, strengthening current, and building new connections with organisations in Gloucestershire, the SW and the UK.

We will be applying for multi year funding once our first full year accounts (these accounts) are submitted.

Looking Ahead

Our plans include:

continuing with our *Days Out / Arts Days Out* program to reach more individuals and families

Being part of the SITE Festival Arts Trail in JUNE 2025 (partnering with SVA, Stroud Valley Arts), supporting a local refugee artist in residence as well as showcasing the work of our guests

Building a clay bread oven with our guests so our guests can make bread together when they visit, and which can be used for community pop-up events to raise awareness of the work we do

Continuing to enhance and expand our volunteer network

Continuing to build meaningful partnerships within the community and with other organisations supporting our client base.

We aim to increase understanding and connection between local communities and refugees and those seeking asylum through supporting one-off events including 'A Taste of Home', Storytelling performances, the SITE Arts Trail Festival, a music and food event marking Refugee Day in June 2025, and pop-up bread making events

A Heartfelt Thank You

Once again I wish to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who has supported Sanctuary Breaks — our trustees, volunteers, partners, and donors. Your commitment, energy, and belief in our mission have made all of this possible.

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "SE Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Sarah Hughes

Chair, Sanctuary Breaks



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Sanctuary Breaks	1204540
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01.04.2024	To	31.03.2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	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 £
A1 Receipts					
Barnwood Trust Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Hill House Retreat Donations	970	10,000	-	10,000	-
Other donations	2,955	-	-	970	5,000
Bank Interest	41	-	-	2,955	-
GCC Grant	-	-	-	41	2
NHS	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
	-	-	-	5,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,966	10,000	-	18,966	10,002
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,966	10,000	-	18,966	10,002
A3 Payments					
Salary	-	9,689	-	9,689	-
Transport	-	1,244	-	1,244	-
Event Expenses	-	515	-	515	-

Subsistence	-	327	-	327	-
Subscriptions and Professional Fees	-	480	-	480	-
Insurance	-	157	-	157	-
Administration Expenses	-	151	-	151	-
Publicity	-	139	-	139	434
Bank Charges	-	60	-	60	10
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	12,761	-	12,761	444

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	

Total payments	-	12,761	-	12,761	444
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Net of receipts/(payments)	8,966	- 2,761	-	6,204	9,558
A5 Transfers between funds	-		-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,558	5,000	-	9,558	-
Cash funds this year end	13,524	2,239	-	15,763	9,558

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	CAF Bank Account	13,389	2,239	-
	Petty Cash	135	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	13,524	2,239	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account (s))	OK	OK	OK

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

		-	-
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B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Sarah Hughes	16 June 2025

Note to the Accounts

A property has been made available to Sanctuary Breaks by Hill House Retreats CIC for Charitable Usage with the value of the donation for this financial year being approximately £2,840

SANCTUARY BREAKS

England & Wales - Charity number 1204540

Accounts

Sanctuary Breaks

Hill House
Littleworth
Amberley
Stroud
GL5 5AL

Charity Number 1204540

Annual Report 2023

Chair's Report

It is with great pride and optimism that I present the first Annual Report for Sanctuary Breaks, marking a milestone in what has been a highly rewarding year for our charity. Officially registered with the Charity Commission in August 2023 (Registration No. 1204540), Sanctuary Breaks was founded with the aim of improving the lives of refugees, those seeking asylum, and survivors of torture by offering opportunities for recreation and social connection. Our mission is to create safe, supportive environments where individuals facing significant social challenges can experience moments of respite and joy. This year has been one of growth and transformation. We have made remarkable strides in building partnerships, delivering activities, and establishing a presence in the community. Looking ahead, we remain deeply committed to making a lasting, positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

Our Mission and Purpose

Sanctuary Breaks exists to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for the recreation and leisure of individuals who need such services because of their social circumstances. Our work focuses particularly on those who are refugees, seeking asylum, or have been victims of torture. Through our activities, we aim to improve their conditions of life, offering safe, welcoming spaces where they can relax, engage, and build connections with others.

Governance

Our charity is governed by a passionate and dedicated group of six trustees, whose collective expertise has been instrumental in guiding us through our first year. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to:

- **John Patrick Njau**
- **Naomi Millner**
- **Sally Pickering**
- **Judith Large**
- **Julie Keogan**
- **Ramesh Sivarajah**

Our Activities in 2023

In 2023, our key program, *Days Out*, took centre stage. Through this initiative, we provided people with opportunities to experience the joy and relaxation of simple, nature-based activities, while building a sense of community. We partnered with **Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS)**, forging a strong and supportive relationship that has allowed us to better reach and serve those in need.

Throughout the year, we welcomed **90 visitors**, including **50 new faces**, to our Days Out events. Our guests come from a wide range of countries, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Eritrea, Nigeria, Syria, Venezuela, Russia, and more.

Our activities are designed to foster a sense of belonging and well-being. Visitors took part in a variety of activities including:

- **Home-cooked meals** and shared lunches
- **Village walks** and nature explorations (e.g. blackberrying, taking photos of the local scenery)
- **Kite flying, music making, and singing**
- **Crafts, gardening**, and art activities
- **Tea, cake, and good conversation**

Each day is an opportunity to unwind, connect with others, and share in the joy of simple pleasures. It's been heartwarming to see how these activities have brought people together and provided an opportunity for relaxation and social engagement.

"We are happy here, to talk, being together"

"It feels like home here"

"We forget we are asylum seekers"

Our Days Out days were supported by **12 volunteers**, whose passion and dedication have been vital in making each day a success. From preparing meals to leading activities, our volunteers have been at the heart of what we do, and we are deeply grateful for their involvement.

Therapy Days. GARAS have used Hill House for therapy days for young people, with remarkable results. This will continue.

Away Days. Refugee Support Organisations from Bristol and Gloucester have used the house for away days for staff and residential stays for those they support. This will continue.

Events. In January we held a launch party for Sanctuary Breaks inviting guests, trustees, volunteers and local dignitaries to join us in a celebration and joint visioning exercise. We plan to repeat this event on a regular basis.

We supported the first of a series of culinary community engagement days through 'A Taste of Home' and will continue to support these day events.

Building Connections

We launched a new **website** to provide clear, easy access to information about our activities and how people can get involved. In addition, we started a regular **newsletter** for our volunteers, keeping everyone up to date on events, opportunities, and important news.

We found **WhatsApp** to be a highly effective tool for staying connected with our visitors. By sharing updates, reminders, and details about upcoming events, we've been able to maintain a strong, supportive relationship with those who attend our activities.

Funding and Financial Support

Donations and grants totalling £10k were secured.

We have applied for £15k of funding and are awaiting outcomes.

Grants will be pivotal in supporting our activities, and will allow us to employ our first member of staff - a new p/t development worker.

Looking Ahead

Reflecting on our achievements this year, we are excited about the future of Sanctuary Breaks.

Our plans include:

expanding our *Days Out* program to reach more individuals and families

enhancing our volunteer network

continuing to build meaningful partnerships within the community and with other organisations supporting our client base.

We aim to increase understanding and connection between local communities and refugees and those seeking asylum through supporting one-off events including 'A Taste of Home', Storytelling performances, and Art and Craft events.

A Heartfelt Thank You

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who has supported Sanctuary Breaks in its first year—our trustees, volunteers, partners, and donors. Your commitment, energy, and belief in our mission have made all of this possible.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "SE Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Sarah Hughes

Chair, Sanctuary Breaks

**SANCTUARY BREAKS
ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD
31 AUGUST 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

SANCTUARY BREAKS
Annual Report and Statements of Accounts for the Period Ending 31/03/2024

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SANCTUARY BREAKS
Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31/03/2024

Company Information

Directors

Sarah Hughes
John Patrick Njau
Naomi Millner
Sally Pickering
Judith Large
Ramesh Sivarajah *Resigned 08/05/2024*
Julie Keogan *Resigned 02/08/2024*

Company Number

CE033397

Registered Office

Hill House
Amberley
stroud
Glos
GL55AL

Company Information

Directors

The directors who served the company during the period were as follows:

Sarah Hughes

John Patrick Njau

Naomi Millner

Sally Pickering

Judith Large

Ramesh Sivarajah

Resigned 08/05/2024

Julie Keogan

Resigned 02/08/2024

Principal Activity

To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their social circumstances, in particular those who are refugees, seeking asylum, or have been victims of torture, with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Employees

The Average number of employees, including directors, during the year was as follows:

2024 : 0

Small Company Provision

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the board on 15 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Sally Pickering

SANCTUARY BREAKS
Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31/03/2024

Income Statement

	2024	
	£	£
Turnover	-	-
Other Income	10,002	-
	<u>10,002</u>	<u>-</u>
Depreciation and other amounts written off assets	-	-
Other Charges	(444)	-
Tax (Payable) / Repayment	-	-
Profit / (loss)	<u>9,558</u>	<u>-</u>

SANCTUARY BREAKS

Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31/03/2024

Statement of Financial Position

		2024	
		£	£
Fixed Assets		-	-
Current Assets	9,558	-	-
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	-	-	-
Net Current Assets		9,558	-
Total assets less current liabilities		9,558	-
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due after one year		-	-
Net Assets		9,558	-
Capital and reserves		9,558	-

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and FRS 105, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-entities regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board and authorised for issue on 15 January 2025



Sally Pickering
Director

SANCTUARY BREAKS

Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31/03/2024

Detailed Profit and Loss

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

	2024	
Turnover	£	£
Sales	-	-

Continued next page

SANCTUARY BREAKS

Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31/03/2024

Detailed Profit and Loss continued

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

Administrative Expenses

2024

£

£

Other expenses

Bank Charges	(10)	-
Other expenses	(434)	-
	<u>(444)</u>	<u>-</u>

Other Income

Other Income	10,000	-
Interest Income	2	-
	<u>10,002</u>	<u>-</u>

Operating Profit

Profit / (Loss) on ordinary activity before
Taxation

9,558

-

Taxation

(Payment) / Repayment	-	-
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Net Profit / (loss)

Net Profit / (loss)

9,558

-