

STARTFORTH COMMUNITY ACTION (STARTFORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE) CIO

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1210113

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

19 SEPTEMBER 2024 - 31 DECEMBER 2025

Contents	Page(s)
Trustees' Annual Report	3 - 6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to Financial Statements	8
Independent Examiner's Report	9 - 10

Trustees' Annual Report

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the CIO are to establish and run a community centre and to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Startforth without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinions the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

The charity provides facilities to be used by a diverse range of individuals, organisations, clubs and societies for a variety of recreational, sporting, cultural and educational activities.

Significant Activities and Public Benefit

The charity provides a community facility for the benefit of the diverse people of Startforth across a wide range of different activities.

The Trustees can confirm that they have paid due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit in deciding which activities the Centre should undertake. The Centre has been successful in running a wide variety of activities and events; educational, recreational, fitness, social and entertainment, and is committed to providing the kinds of events and activities that support individual and community growth.

When the charity was registered in September 2024, the Centre was already a well established hub of community activity, which continued to thrive. All building maintenance and compliance checks were continued and relevant contracts renewed. The significant achievement for the reporting period was to begin the process of a community asset transfer of the building with Durham County Council and start a dialogue with the Diocese of Leeds to obtain a long-term lease (each owning a different part of the building). This was with a view to securing the future of the Centre for the benefit of the community and applying for relevant grant funding.

The list of activities and groups during the reporting period were as follows:

Frequency	Activity / Group
Daily	Kirklands Nursery Brightwoods Forest School
Monthly	Community Cafe - a volunteer run cafe Wellbeing Art - art group U3A Music Appreciation Group Parish Council Meetings
Weekly	Teesdale Day Clubs - Lunch Club

Frequency	Activity / Group
	Recorder Revivalists - recorder music group Keep Fit Class Move it or Lose It - keep fit class Fitness with Hollie - keep fit class Affinity Choir Silver Swans - ballet class for older generation Melanie Edmondson Ballet - ballet class for children Melanie Edmondson Ballet/Street Dance - dance classes for children/teenagers Pilates Castle Players - drama group
Annually	Startforth Church's Harvest Festival/Family Night Community Centre Christmas Fayre - organised by volunteers Parish Council's Children's Christmas Party
Ad hoc Bookings & Events	Community library of second hand books for loan or sale Community Events eg Coronation Band Practice Children's birthday parties Funeral teas Wedding celebrations Circle Dance Group/Club celebratory events Training events Meetings and consultations Polling Station

Volunteers

During the reporting period there were 12 regular volunteers, including four trustees and a member of the Management Committee, with a range of skills including, administration, business, organisational, financial, marketing, IT, DIY, health & safety, baking and gardening. In December 2025 a recruitment drive resulted in a wider pool of volunteer helpers, who are organised into working groups, including fundraising, maintenance, day-to-day running and events.

Trustee Names/Management Committee Members:

During the reporting period, the Management Committee was made up of all the Trustees, together with other volunteers, as follows:

Mr Samuel Bolsher - Trustee (from 02/12/25)
Mr Colin Clarke (Sept 2024 - April 2025)
Mrs Jayne Cox - Chairman (until 02/12/25)
Mrs Susan Brooks - Treasurer
Mr Nigel Lumsdon - Chairman (from 02/12/25)
Mrs Margaret Rhodes - Secretary

Mrs Rebecca Welsh - Trustee (from 02/12/25)

Ms Andrea Clarke - Committee Member (Sept 2024 - April 2025)

Each of the Trustees takes a lead role in finance, marketing, compliance, administrative and maintenance, but also works as a team. Meetings are held monthly, with additional meetings arranged for business planning. One of the regular volunteers performs the weekly/monthly compliance checks.

The wider pool of over 25 volunteers help at the monthly Community Cafe; organising events; regular maintenance tasks and, going forward, research and applying for grant funding.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Community Centre is housed in what was originally the village primary school. Since 2017, when the school was closed, a volunteer Management Committee has worked with the Church Trustees and supported by the Parish Council, to keep the building open as a centre for the benefit of the community. A nursery school moved into rented space in the newer part of the building in 2018, whilst a forest school hired out office space. A thriving community hub has grown, with many and varied groups, activities and events making use of the building.

The building was registered as a Community Asset on 22nd August 2019 by the Parish Council and re-registered on 11th October 2024. Startforth Community Action (Startforth Community Centre) was established in March 2024, adopting the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Foundation Model as its constitution and registered with the Charities Commission as such on 19th September 2024. The CIO's constitution describes the organisation's governance and membership structures. The model adopted is a Foundation CIO whereby the voting members and charity trustees are one and the same (known as 'closed' membership).

The affairs of the Centre are managed on a voluntary basis by the Management Committee, some members of which are also, under Charities Regulations, the Trustees of the Charity. The Committee is assisted by a number of volunteers. Details of the Trustees and volunteers who managed the Centre during the reporting period are given on page 4. New Trustees are recruited to support the objects of the Charity, by resolution of the Trustees as laid down in the Constitution.

Reference and Administration Details

Charity name	Startforth Community Action (Startforth Community Centre)
Other name the charity uses	Startforth Community Centre
Registered charity number	1210113
Charity's principal address	Startforth Community Centre High Startforth DL12 9AQ

Names of the charity Trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)
Sam Bolsher	
Susan Brooks	Treasurer
Colin Clarke (Sept 2024-April 2025)	
Jayne Cox	Chairman (until 02/12/25)
Nigel Lumsdon	Chairman (from 02/12/25)
Margaret Rhodes	Secretary
Rebecca Welsh	

Financial Review

The financial position appears to be very healthy, however, following a building survey undertaken in April 2025, Trustees are aware that there will be fairly significant maintenance/repair renewal costs to cover. These will be taken account of in our budgeting going forward and will necessitate applying for capital grant funding. Over the coming year we anticipate obtaining a long term lease for the building which will incur rental costs for part of the building.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees



Nigel Lumsdon
Chairman

Date 05 March 2026

Startforth Community Action (Startforth Community Centre)

CIO 1210113

Receipts and Payments Account

Financial Statement For 19th Sept 2024 to 31st Dec 2025

	19 th Sept '24			
	to 31 st Dec '25			
	£			
Receipts				
Rentals	10614.80			
Regular Bookings	19462.75			
Sundry Bookings	1362.50			
Community Events	2138.90			
Donations	1783.51			
FITT Payments	504.32			
Total		35866.78		
Payments				
Durham CC Compliance	4408.86			
Utilities – gas/elec/water	17027.44			
Insurance	3742.77			
General maint and sundries	6364.71			
Security – alarms/fire etc	2678.70			
Phone/ Internet	797.38			
Charitable donations	488.00			
Extraordinary expenses – survey	4560.00			
Total		40067.86		
Excess Receipts over Payments		-4201.08		
Bank Current Accounts				
NatWest	66260.68			
RBS	0.00			
Balance as at 19/09/24		66260.68		
Bank Current Accounts				
NatWest	4946.59			
RBS	57113.01			
Balance as at 31/12/25		62059.60		
		-4201.08		

C. R. Bell

23-02-26

Startforth Community Action (Startforth Community Centre)
CIO 1210113

Notes to accompany the Receipts and Payments Financial Statement
for the period ending 31 December 2025

- The Financial Statement is for the period from when the charity was registered with the Charity Commission until the year end ie **19th September 2024 - 31st December 2025**.
- The opening current account figure shows the monies brought forward previous to being registered with the Charity Commission. Since then another bank account has been opened in the charity name.
- The Charity does not own the Community Centre premises. The premises are owned jointly by the Diocese of Leeds and Durham County Council and are currently used by the Charity free of charge.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2025

Assets

NatWest Current Bank Account	£ 4,946.59
RBS Current Bank Account	<u>£57,113.01</u>
Total	<u>£62,059.89</u>

<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>£ 0.00</u>
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<u>Total Net Assets</u>	<u>£62,059.89</u>
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Financed By

General Funds	£62,059.60
Restricted Funds	<u>£ 0.00</u>
Total	<u>£62,059.60</u>



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

STARTFORTH COMMUNITY ACTION (STARTFORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE)

On accounts for the year
ended

31st DECEMBER 2025

Charity no
(if any)

CIO 1210113

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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").

Independent
examiner's statement

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.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

C. R. Bell

Date:

23-02-26

Name:

CHRISTINE RUTH BELL

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

N/A

Address:

1 BEDE KIRK,

BARNARD CASTLE,

CO. DURHAM DH12 8DJ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A