



Annual Report 2023

Annual report and financial
statements for the year ended
31 December 2023

Bendrigg

Introduction & contents

Bendrigg Trust: Trustees' foreword

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for Bendrigg Trust, an incorporated charity with charity number 508450 and company number 01396557, for the year ending 31 December 2023. This report includes the requirements of a director's report as required by company law.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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Chairman's Statement

A statement from our Chair of Trustees

Welcome to our new look. After consulting widely with visitors, staff and other stakeholders, the 'Bendi folk' brand, which has represented Bendrigg for many years, is being replaced with more inclusive and modern imagery and messaging. We have also updated our Vision, Mission and Values to better reflect our more ambitious and outward looking approach. I love our new tagline: 'Creating change one adventure at a time'. It communicates, very powerfully and succinctly, what Bendrigg is all about. Our brand update is not just a 'fresh lick of paint', it is an integral part of our strategy ensuring Bendrigg continues to be relevant for our visitors, donors and society more widely.

More than ever before our visitors want and need the Bendrigg experience; that unique blend of challenge and adventure in a friendly, caring and safe environment. It is marvellous to see the grounds and buildings buzzing with the positive energy that Bendrigg generates but even at our subsidised prices some visitors can struggle with the cost. One result of this has been the trend towards shorter stays but intensively packed with technical activities. Also our fully accessible Acorn House enables us to accommodate more visitors with complex needs and so the combined effect of these changes has been to gradually increase staffing levels in order to maintain the high quality we offer.

These trends have been building over a number of years but the pandemic did a good job masking the impact. We are now confronted by the full force of these issues and with high inflation added in we face a situation where our costs are going up but our income isn't keeping pace. The result is significant deficit forecasts in the medium term (2024-2026). Although our reserves are strong we must recover our finances to a sustainable position and this task is the top priority for the Centre Director, management team and the trustee board.

A financial recovery plan is being developed with the objective of eliminating the budget deficit by 2026.



The plan includes a review of our donor income streams and a forensic financial analysis of the different activities we offer resulting in a range of measures which should significantly increase donor income and improve financial performance through changes to pricing, occupancy and efficiency.

Thank you to Kim Parry and Jeremy Prall for leading this work.

I am pleased to report that momentum has been maintained on developing our long term strategy. One of the main strategic themes to emerge is to exponentially increase our reach and impact beyond the visitors that come through our doors each year. This concept has crystallised into 'Beyond Bendrigg', a training and consultancy service that aims to equip and educate other organisations that need to consider accessibility and inclusivity in the services that they provide. Convinced that this was such a strong idea, the decision was taken to launch this initiative before our strategy was completed. A small team has been formed and partnerships are being developed with a range of organisations at national and community level. Even though this is still very much a start-up we have a strong proposition and are building a good reputation in this field.

“

I love our new tagline: 'Creating change one adventure at a time'. It communicates, very powerfully and succinctly, what Bendrigg is all about.

Other strategic options being evaluated are: Re-development of the existing estate to upgrade accommodation and facilities, improve accessibility generally and better connect the built spaces to the natural environment. We also want to make better use of our available land to develop opportunities for alternative income streams and additional activities for our visitors.

I would particularly like to thank Kay Foster for her major contribution, in time and expertise, developing the strategy.

In August we attracted significant media exposure, including television, through our support for 'Summits up for Tony'. Tony Hudgell, an eight year old double amputee, had the goal of ascending a Lake District peak raising funds for four charities including Bendrigg. Our activities and accessibility expertise was essential in ensuring Tony's successful ascent of Orrest Head was completed safely.

Our staff are at the core of the Bendrigg experience and have once again been brilliant, continuing to deliver a consistently high quality visitor experience even with the added pressure of increased visitor numbers. The excellent visitor feedback we regularly receive is due to their passion and professionalism.

Our fantastic team keep Bendrigg operations running smoothly and our Centre Director Nick Liley continues to blend inspirational leadership and professional management. The management team are assuming more responsibility for operational matters freeing up Nick to operate more strategically and spend more time creating networks with the wider outdoor activity and disability communities. I believe this change in emphasis is vital to Bendrigg achieving its strategic aims.

In my report for 2022 I referred to the tragic road accident involving Facilities Manager Jonny Wolfendale and his family. I am pleased to report that Jonny has now returned work and is continuing his recovery.

I have acknowledged a few specific Trustees for their contributions but I would also like to thank all of the Trustees for their continued work and commitment particularly with the enhanced committee structure which is improving decision making and connecting Trustees more directly with the management team.

Judy Rayner and Shelagh McGregor retired as Trustees. Judy has been a long serving trustee and, along with her family, very supportive of the Bendrigg Trust. I thank them both for their commitment over the years.

We welcome new trustees Amy Pearman and Kirsty Heywood-MacDonald and look forward to their energy and ideas helping us move forward in the years ahead.

Judy Goodland, a former Trustee and long standing supporter of Bendrigg, sadly passed away in February 2024. We are incredibly grateful to Judy for all of her contributions to Bendrigg over her many years of service as a trustee, her time as chair of trustees and for her ongoing support since retirement. She will be deeply missed by all those who knew her.

Finally I reflect that Nick and his team really have pulled off an amazing feat in 2023: keeping the Bendrigg magic going day in day out whilst at the same time addressing our medium term financial challenges and advancing our strategic plans ensuring we remain relevant in the long term.

Adrian Walter



Our vision, mission and values

Our vision

To harness the power of adventure to create lasting change and transform communities for all.

At our core, we champion the transformative power of adventure, seeing it not just as an individual journey but as a force that shapes society for the better. Our vision hinges on the Bendrigg experience being a catalyst, reshaping societal perspectives and creating enduring, impactful changes in people's lives.

Our mission

If our vision defines our goal, then our mission statement defines what we will do every day to achieve it.

We make adventure accessible, working together to overcome barriers and transform lives.

Our values

Our values are at the heart of Bendrigg, shaping who we are and how we operate. They've been with us since the start, passed down by each employee. They are crucial, always leading the way we think and act.

Bring Compassion

Bendrigg is a place built on empathy. By taking the time to listen, being consistently compassionate and valuing each person for who they are, we create a unique haven where kindness is in the air, and adventure is in the offing. At Bendrigg, there is always freedom to have fun, all are welcomed, and all are valued.

Practice Progress

Every day is a chance to make lasting changes, not just for visitors or their families. We constantly look for improvement and find better ways of working. We challenge traditional approaches, offer innovative ideas, and develop our practice. Little by little, we make big changes – becoming a force for progress far beyond our borders.

Push Past Boundaries

Some limits may be real, but we remove the ones that aren't. We challenge attitudes, strip away doubts and break through personal barriers. Removing those limits is how we will make extraordinary things happen. We instil self-belief that reshapes everyday lives for individuals and brings a new understanding that will reshape our communities.

Embrace Nature

There is no better classroom, there is no better therapy. This place is not just the setting for adventure; the outdoors is part of our purpose and our personality. Stepping outside and connecting with nature spurs our growth and improves our well-being, making an impact that lasts well beyond a visit.

Make It for Everyone

Opening doors is what we do; to an outdoors full of exciting and empowering adventures, to new abilities and attitudes, to personal potential waiting to be fulfilled. We open these doors for absolutely everyone, with endless flexibility and steadfast adaptability. At Bendrigg, we are exclusively inclusive and we always find a way.

Work As One

We value each and every individual, but it's as a team that we excel. From staff and volunteers to first-time visitors and experienced leaders, we all contribute and 'muck in'. We celebrate all our successes and share all our missteps. We are all each other's cheerleaders and safety nets, trusted advisors, and personal champions. We are all equals.



The spirit of adventure is incredible. A bona fide superpower that can fill any one of us with conviction and confidence, with new abilities and renewed agency. And it's universal too – not the exclusive preserve of the advantaged and non-disabled. It's for everyone because we're making sure it is.

At Bendrigg, we have the setting and the scenery, the equipment and the expertise, the people and the passion. Together, we have a limitless supply of adventure, with a limitless determination to improve people's lives.

Because we know that, whatever adventure means to each individual, it has the power to empower. To challenge and inspire, to tear down barriers and build up possibilities, to create real and lasting change.

Above all, it has the power to change minds – within those individuals and across our whole society: changing the way people see their world and changing the way the world sees them.

#BeMoreBendrigg

Bendrigg

Objectives & achievements

Objectives

In 2023, we were working towards our 'Bounce Back' plan as the effects of the pandemic continued to be felt. Our aims were to:

- 1 Return to pre-pandemic operating levels, delivering high quality, outdoor courses
- 2 To return to a position of financial sustainability
- 3 To ensure that Bendrigg's resources continue to meet visitors expectations as a leader in the field
- 4 To develop our long term strategic plans as we look to the future.

Achievements

1 **Beyond Bendrigg launched**

- 2 Our 'Beyond Bendrigg project' launched with the successful appointment of Sara Murray, our new Training, Research and Consultancy Manager. Sara took up the role in September 2023 and you can read more about Beyond Bendrigg on page 17.
- 3
- 4



1 **A new look for Bendrigg**

- 2 Throughout 2023 we undertook extensive consultation with our visitors, staff, volunteers and supporters to review Bendrigg's 'brand'. This included a review of our Vision, Mission and Values and ultimately concluded in a complete overhaul of our visual identity. What makes Bendrigg special has not changed, but our look and feel now reflects this better. Our new brand will be rolled out in stages from January 2024, including a new website.
- 3
- 4

1 **Bendrigg Alternative Scheme re-launched**

- 2 In March 2023 we appointed a new
 - 3 BA Co-ordinator, Jorj Haston, to
 - 4 relaunch this flagship scheme. See
- page 16 for more details.



1 **Lodge accommodation upgrades**

- 2 Our main Lodge accommodation got
 - 3 some tender loving care with decorating
 - 4 updates including new curtains,
- refreshed paint, updated photos and new lounge seating. To improve the accessibility of the accommodation for some of our visitors with physical disabilities, we also installed new ceiling hoists in our lounge and some of our bedrooms and bathrooms thanks to generous donations of equipment and time from Simply Moving and Sleeping.

1 **'Someone Like Me'**

- 2 Volunteers returned to Bendrigg in
 - 3 droves in 2023, including some
 - 4 fantastic work parties, far
- surpassing our pre-pandemic volunteer numbers and bucking the trend elsewhere in the charity sector which saw volunteer numbers dropping. See page 14 for more information on our 'Someone Like Me' volunteering project and page 15 for a case study on one of our brilliant volunteers, Jack.



1 Reducing food waste

2 2023 saw the start of a wonderful
3 relationship with Fareshare - a UK
4 charity fighting hunger and food waste. Surplus food comes through Fareshare to Bendrigg once a week, which is then used in our delicious meals. This not only reduces food waste and saves Bendrigg money by reducing the amount of food we need to purchase, but also comes with a cash grant from The Cumberland's Kinder Kind of Kitchen initiative - wins all around!



1 More accessible adventures

2 We constantly look for ways to
3 improve our activities and facilities and
4 2023 was no different. We improved access to some of our on-site activities by installing electric hoists, tweaked and improved countless ways of working and re-invigorated our 'Zap' activity (pictured opposite) - enabling visitors to challenge themselves through adventure in different ways.

1 Fundraising growth

2 Thanks to the first stage of an
3 investment in fundraising for
4 Bendrigg, almost £671,000 was raised in 2023, accounting for 43% of our total income. This is almost double what was raised in 2022 and has buffered some of the effects of the cost of living crisis on our charity.



1 Businesses back Bendrigg

- 2 We saw an outpouring of support from
- 3 local businesses wanting to support
- 4 Bendrigg in 2023. From 'Busking for Bendrigg' and various other fundraising events organised by Harrison Drury Solicitors, to donations of hoists and services-in-kind from Simply Moving and Sleeping. We are grateful to all of our local business community for continuing to support adventure for all.



1 Big Give: Make it for everyone

- 2 Less than 48 hours into our annual Big
- 3 Give Christmas Challenge we hit our
- 4 fundraising target of £80,000! This was a big ask and our supporters rallied to our cause with various fundraising events, personal donations and corporate support helping us to make 2023 a record-breaking appeal. This vital funding allowed us to 'Make It For Everyone': supporting our bursary scheme to ensure finances are not a barrier for people wishing to achieve through adventure.

“

Today we are joining the dots between families who no longer need hoists and a charity that does.

Simply giving back.

”

Simply
MOVING & SLEEPING

1

Summit's Up For Tony

2

3

4

In August, Bendrigg supported 8-year-old double amputee Tony Hudgell as he took on an immense fundraising challenge by climbing to the top of Orrest Head in Windermere. Tony's challenge was featured in national media and inspirational adventurers such as Hari Budha Magar and Sir Chris Bonington turned out in support. Tony raised over £58,000 for 4 charities, including Bendrigg.

**Christmas
Challenge**

BigGive

Our year in numbers

A summary of our year

In 2023, we hoped to return to our pre-pandemic operating levels and we did! We've had an incredibly busy year and here are just some of the statistics that highlight the impact we've had on the people through the doors at Bendrigg.

133 residential courses and 55 day activities delivered

2,824 participants and 834 leaders/ carers totalling 3,658 visitors in the year

353 wheelchair users supported

Visitors rated Bendrigg 4.92 out of 5 stars

72% of visitors saw 'significant' or 'considerable' increases in self confidence

80% of visitors saw 'significant' or 'considerable' increases in feeling more included

72% of visitors saw 'significant' or 'considerable' increases in independence

70% of visitors saw 'significant' or 'considerable' increases in social skills

73% of visitors saw 'significant' or 'considerable' increases in physical and/or mental wellbeing



“ Volunteering at Bendrigg has helped my confidence, helped me have faith in myself. They look beyond my disability and condition and see the true me and my capabilities. As soon as you walk through the door you instantly feel part of a fantastic team.

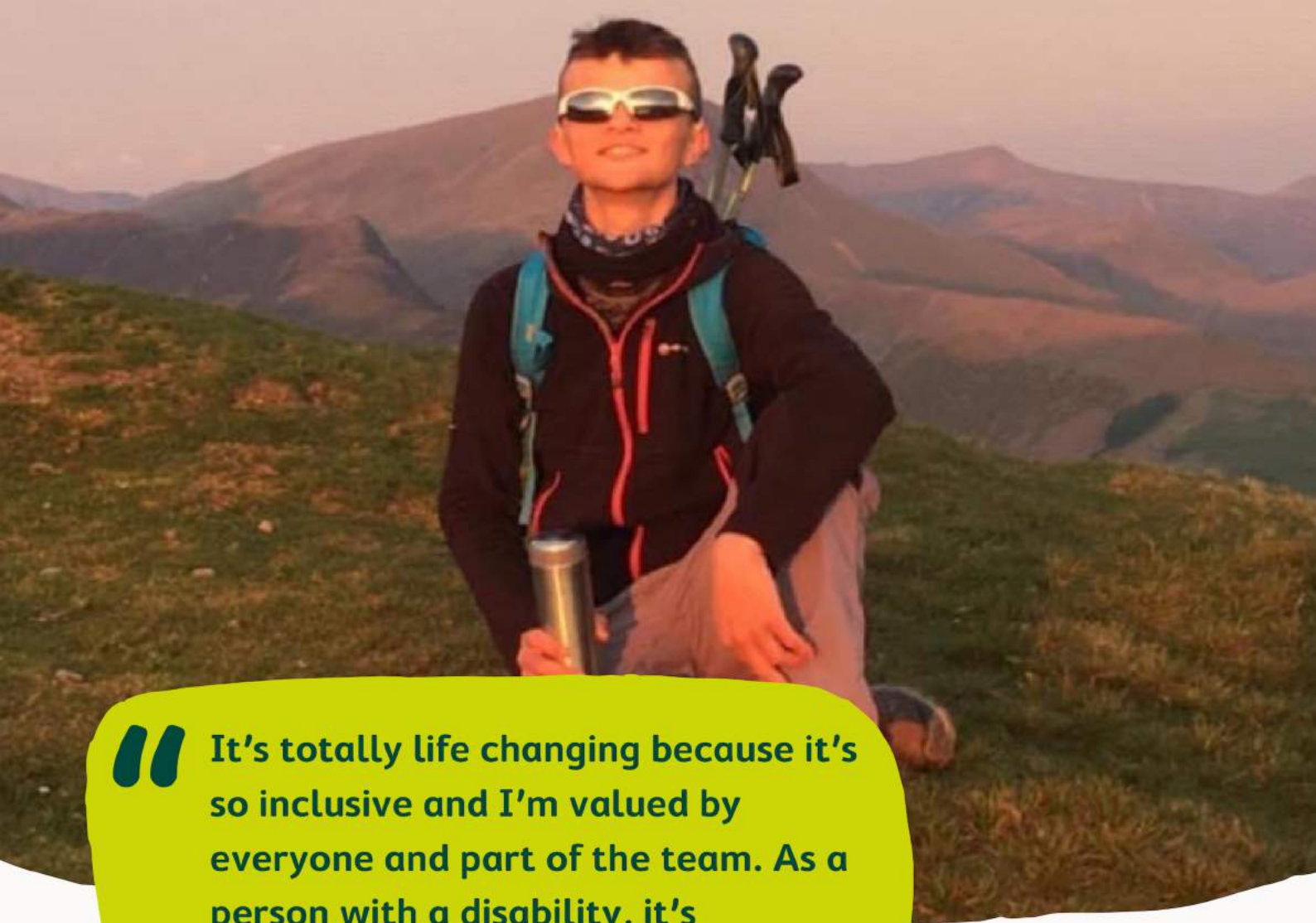
Volunteering in 2023

In 2023, we were excited to see 264 unique volunteers come through our doors, giving a total of 10,480 hours of support. The Living Wage of this time would have cost Bendrigg £131,367, so their generous gift of time is greatly appreciated!

32 volunteers declared a disability. Whilst these individuals make up 21% of our volunteers, they actually make up an astonishing 41% of our volunteer hours; which proves the need for projects like 'Someone Like Me'.

'Someone Like Me' is a Bendrigg project seeking to support those with disabilities to volunteer. There remains in society, a lack of recognition for the contribution that people with disabilities can bring to volunteering. People with disabilities are often recipients of volunteer services but are rarely considered as a potential volunteer resource. 'Someone Like Me' seeks to support those with disabilities to volunteer at Bendrigg - becoming role models and mentors for our visitors.

In 2023, Alistair (who drew the picture above) celebrated 40 years since his first Bendrigg holiday. Since then, he has volunteered each year and creates wonderful newsletters of each of his visits.



“ It’s totally life changing because it’s so inclusive and I’m valued by everyone and part of the team. As a person with a disability, it’s reassuring that I can ask for support and guidance if I need it.

Meet one of our volunteers, Jack.

Jack first came to Bendrigg on a residential trip when he was nine and has been volunteering with us since 2020. His ultimate goal is to work in outdoor education and so we are working together to support him in this.

Jack describes himself as a deafblind person who is seeking to break the barriers faced by the deafblind community but also other disabilities.

The support Jack gets at Bendrigg is constantly evolving based on his needs. So far, we have helped him build a consistent routine when on site, spent time with him learning how to safely navigate around the buildings including adding additional aids on his main routes and we always ensure that tasks are communicated clearly and concisely so he can action them independently. We grade and adapt his programme so he is able to sustain his energy and be his best.

Visitors constantly leave very positive feedback about Jack; he is an asset to our team. It is our pleasure to continue to support Jack in working towards his future career prospects and we’re very grateful for his time and hard work with us.



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It is hard to contain the emotion involved when talking about Bendrigg Lodge. ‘Giving back to society’ is a cliché that is over-used at the best of times; only at Bendrigg is it real.

Bendrigg Alternative Scheme

Our Bendrigg Alternative (BA) scheme was mostly paused during 2023 whilst we recruited to our BA Co-ordinator role (appointed in March 2023) and then undertook a thorough review of the scheme’s history, impact and future aims and objectives.

Although there were no residential BA volunteers in 2023, our maintenance team were supported by six Community Pay Back Team visits, giving a total of 183 hours of work across our 15 acres of grounds; renewing sections of fencing, repairing paths, strimming, mowing and generally maintaining our site.

The BA scheme has historically focused primarily on people in prison. However, after thoroughly reviewing our work, and the changing needs of those impacted by the Criminal Justice sector, the BA scheme at Bendrigg will expand in 2024 and beyond to focus on four key areas:

- People in Prison
- People on Community Licence
- People on Community Order (unpaid work)
- People at higher risk of offending



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Bendrigg is honestly the only place we have found on this planet where we can truly relax and have fun. Everywhere should be more Bendrigg.

Training and consultancy launched in 2023.

Beyond Bendrigg is born out of a need for education and support to make the world a more accessible and inclusive space.

We are more than a place, offering more than facilities: we are home to sector-leading knowledge and life-changing expertise. Now, we're preparing to harness that capability, to make an impact far beyond the boundaries of our estate: to go Beyond Bendrigg.

Launched in 2023, Beyond Bendrigg is a training and consultancy service for the outdoor education and tourism sectors, regionally, nationally and – ultimately – internationally. And it's already off to a strong start – training 119 people across nine sessions in the first four months of the program!

While it's an opportunity to diversify our offering and generate funding for our charitable operations, it's also a vehicle for much greater change. As an authority in the sector, we can influence individuals, organisations, national governing bodies and even policy makers.

By sharing our expertise, we're going further to change attitudes, raise awareness and embed positive practice into everyday experiences – driving inclusion across all areas of society. In short, it's our chance to make an impact far Beyond Bendrigg.

Looking forward: the next five years

Our plans for the future

In the last 47 years, we have come a long way. But we know we still have a long way to go. As we look forward, 2024 will see the start of our newly approved five-year Strategic Plan. With our strategy set and our goals stated, we're giving form to our ambitions for the next five years and beyond - harnessing more adventure, creating more change and touching more lives.

To turn our ambitions into achievements, we have planned five themes for the work that lies ahead. These are not isolated programmes - each theme overlaps with the other, each success will provide a platform for the next. Over the next five years we will:

Accommodate a wider audience

We will give people new ways to enjoy the Bendrigg experience, by building fully accessible multi-functional self-catering accommodation. When we're finished, as well as making a small difference in meeting a national shortfall, our new service will make a huge difference for our visitors - supporting our mission while generating income to sustain our organisation.

Transform our space

We will make better use of space across our estate; making space for getting meals and getting rest, for getting around and getting closer to nature. When we're finished, Bendrigg will be coherent and connected, more accessible and better equipped than ever - the sector's leading destination for visiting, working, volunteering, learning and more.

Protect our environment

Working to preserve the setting so vital to our spirit of adventure, we will make our connection to nature central to everything we do. When we're finished, with Net Zero in sight, we will work in ever-closer harmony with our natural environment.

Help the Bendrigg family flourish

We will go further for our people, by fostering a growth mindset in everyone connected to Bendrigg - not only helping people challenge the boundaries of disability, but giving our employees and volunteers the support and space to excel. When we're finished, everyone at Bendrigg will have the opportunity to realise their fullest potential - inspired to be innovators and leaders, driving our progress and taking their place at the forefront of the industry.

Go Beyond Bendrigg

Our training and consultancy programme will equip a broad range of organisations with the skills to bring inclusion into their everyday practice. When we're finished, we will have extended and multiplied the impact of our expertise - touching the lives of over 30,000 people every year, to play an increasingly powerful role in creating a more inclusive society.

Looking forward: 2024

The next five years are a big adventure, but often big adventures start with a small step. During 2024 we will start our journey by:

Delivering excellence for our visitors

At our core, we champion the transformative power of adventure, seeing it not just as an individual journey but as a force that shapes society for the better. We will continue to harness the power of adventure, ensuring that our visitors get the most inclusive and personal experience possible, making an impact that lasts well beyond a visit.

Taking steps to improve our financial sustainability

We have not been untouched by the ongoing challenging financial climate and must take steps to ensure we can continue funding our vital services through these difficult times, without adding additional unaffordable cost to those hardest hit by the pandemic and Cost-of-Living crisis. This will include investing in our fundraising capacity and looking at ways to make our services even more efficient, without losing the Bendrigg magic.

Undertaking a staff health and wellbeing review

It is our people who make Bendrigg so special and we want to give our employees and volunteers the support and space to excel. In 2024 we will undertake a staff health and wellbeing review and, using the results, put in place a programme ensuring that our staff are valued, supported and rewarded in their careers and lives.

Completing the vital work to our Lodge

Although we made great progress in 2023 in refurbishing our Lodge accommodation, we will continue this into 2024 with more internal and external improvements.

“

I loved how students were encouraged to develop independence skills. The tutors were so attentive, learned all names and made it feel really personal.

Looking forward: 2024

Continuing to improve our activities

As we constantly look for improvement and find better ways of working, we will continue to enhance our activities and make them more accessible for all. This will include the refurbishment of our tube slide shelters, and the commissioning of a new and expanded fleet of canoes.

Welcoming back our residential Bendrigg Alternative volunteers

As well as re-starting our Bendrigg Alternative Scheme for residential volunteers we will expand the project to work with more people in the Criminal Justice sector, carrying on the original spirit of Bendrigg.

Developing our Beyond Bendrigg project

In its first full year of operation, we plan to develop training and consultancy offerings to support the outdoor sector, as well as leisure, tourism and hospitality sectors, to 'Be More Bendrigg' and become more accessible and inclusive for all.

Implementing our new branding

With a re-invigorated brand, Bendrigg will become more recognisable and more accessible for all. 2024 will see our new branding spreading through our social channels, a new website, as well as on our site, in our gift shop and across all of our work.

“

We have loved how easy you make things that usually feel impossible. You give each child the time and space they need for their individual needs and see instinctively how to meet those needs. Watching one child overcome several difficulties with patience and support and our other child being included where she otherwise might not be.

Fundraising Standards

A look at fundraising standards and practices at Bendrigg

Donors to Bendrigg Trust can be assured that we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising. We are voluntarily registered with the Fundraising Regulator and are committed to the Fundraising Promise and comply with all the relevant standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice. Our Head of Business Development is a member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising.

Our fundraising effort involves encouraging donations and gifts from individuals, running and supporting fundraising events, engaging with corporate partners and applying for grants from Charitable Trusts and Foundations. These fundraising activities are organised and managed by our in-house fundraisers with one external professional fundraiser engaged in November 2022 to support our fundraising efforts. All our in-house and third-party fundraisers receive regular training including Data Protection and fundraising specific training. All fundraising activities and third-party contracts are monitored by the Head of Business Development on a regular basis throughout the year, to ensure standards are maintained. This includes direct review of work, staff appraisals, monitoring of communications and consultations with non-fundraising staff and supporters.

We encourage any individual, business or third-party, fundraising, on our behalf, to inform us of their fundraising activities and also adhere to the Code of Fundraising Practice.

We have an Ethical Fundraising and Donations Acceptance Policy which seeks to cover the ethical issues and social responsibility within fundraising.

We respond to all complaints within ten working days. Complaints are dealt with in-line with our Fundraising Complaints Procedure as outlined in our Ethical Fundraising Policy. All complaints are dealt with by our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and our trustees are informed of those which are serious. We received zero complaints about our fundraising in 2023.

We have published our Safeguarding Policy on our website. We are also signed up to the Fundraising Preference Service to enable individuals to opt out from receiving fundraising communications from us. We received zero requests from this service last year.

Our fundraising promise

We will be;

Respectful

**Fair and
reasonable**

**Accountable
and responsible**

**Clear, honest
and open**



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees is sensitive to potential risks to which the charity may be exposed.

Risk Register

The management of risk by Bendrigg Trust is based upon a Risk Register ('the Register') which has been in use since February 2017. The Register is kept under active consideration by the Centre Director and is reviewed every six months by the Risk Register Committee, which consists of the Centre Director and up to three Trustees. The last bi-annual review of the Register was on 28th February 2024.

Responsibilities

The Risk Committee reports to the Trustees in Council. Risk Management is ultimately the responsibility of all Trustees. It is the Trustees duty (assisted by the Risk Committee) to identify risks, to devise systems for managing those risks (or ensure that proper systems have been devised) and to monitor these systems to ensure that they are being put into effect.

The risks considered in the register are considered under five headings:

1. Governance
2. Financial
3. Operational
4. External factors
5. Legislation Compliance

Public Benefit

From 2008, the Charities Act has required all charities to meet the legal requirement that its aims are for the public benefit. For this to be true there must be an identifiable benefit and the benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

The Trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity, and the activities reported on in its annual report to achieve those aims, meet these principles.

Financial Review

Treasurers Report

The Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) reports a total surplus of £21,598 for the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022: surplus of £106,007); this is made up from an unrestricted deficit of £35,699 and a restricted funds surplus of £57,297. The overall surplus was added to the reserves brought forward of £3,779,770, to give total reserves at the balance sheet date of £3,801,368.

We are pleased to be able to report this overall surplus in our activities in 2023, in spite of some ongoing challenges during the year due to the re-basing of our cost base after the pandemic and due to widespread inflationary cost pressures. Our client and donor income has improved very considerably, from £1,420,548 in 2022 to £1,546,079 in 2023, an overall increase of over £120,000.

Having said this, the income in 2022 was much assisted by the inclusion of two exceptional items with a combined value of £347,000, meaning that the adjusted year on year increase in non-exceptional income is over £470,000. Some of this increase relates to an uplift in restricted income received in the year (£404,730 in 2023, compared with £168,654 in 2022), meaning that unrestricted income has risen by £236,000.

The Balance Sheet at 31 December confirms net assets of £3,801,368 (2022: £3,779,770), with net current assets of £767,731 (2022: £659,468) and net cash balances of £998,042 (2022: £865,021). The cash balances are mostly held for unrestricted purposes, with £784,582 held as unrestricted funds and £213,460 relating to restricted projects.

The overall cash position provides Bendrigg with good financial resilience as we face into the ongoing sustainability challenges that lie ahead in 2024. The Balance Sheet also shows the carrying value of our property and other fixed assets at £3,033,637, most of which are funded by restricted capital funds.

The Cash Flow Statement provides the detail of the cash movements during the year to 31 December showing that the overall cash position strengthened significantly in 2023, this is largely due to the increased value of carried forward restricted project funds.

Overall, the Financial Statements reflect a good position after another year of recovery when the Charity achieved a better than expected overall financial performance. The Bendrigg management team have worked tirelessly to bring the organisation back to pre pandemic levels of occupancy, and their ongoing efforts will ensure that the organisation returns to a surplus making position as soon as possible.

Financial Review cont.

Going Concern

The Trustees and Management Team are concerned that the Charity is likely to incur ongoing Unrestricted General Fund deficits in the short to medium term future; in spite of the return to pre pandemic levels of income generation and site occupancy, our cost base has risen significantly due to inflationary and other cost pressures.

We do not believe that the expected level of deficit gives rise to concern about the ongoing assumption of Going Concern, in part due to the resilience of our balance sheet and cash reserves and in part due to the work that is currently being undertaken to address the deficit position.

As a result the Council are satisfied that the assumption of Going Concern remains entirely valid.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy, which is reviewed and approved by the Council on an annual basis, sets out an assessment of an appropriate level of free reserves after restrictions and designations.

The Trustees have again considered the Reserves Policy, at 31 December 2023, taking full account of the range of risks that face the organisation and as captured in our updated Risk Register.

In determining the target level of General Fund reserves the Council have paid close attention to certain key risks; in particular these include the ongoing deficits that the charity expects to continue to incur in the short term future. This risk-based approach to determining our policy continues to suggest a target level of free reserves of £600,000, which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted operating costs.

The unrestricted fund reserves stand at £599,627 at 31 December 2023, meaning that the Charity is carrying slightly less free reserves than required by the Reserves Policy.

Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution

Bendrigg Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee (01396557) incorporated on 27 October 1978 and registered with the Charity Commission (508450) on 15 February 1979.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defines the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, the members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £5.

Trustees: Recruitment and Induction

Bendrigg recognises that a robust, independent and effective Board of Trustees is essential if the charity is to achieve its objects.

New Trustees are invited to provide a CV and meet the Centre Director and Chair of the Trustees. Those without background knowledge of Bendrigg are given a tour and invited to attend Council and/or Management Committee meetings before they commit themselves. The aim is to have a varied and diverse Trustee Board with a mix of skills that match Bendrigg's needs.

After being elected, new Trustees are provided with the main documents which set out the operational framework of the charity including the Memorandum and Articles, Business Plan, and Financial Statements. Many Trustees make frequent visits to Bendrigg, giving rise to an easy and informal relationship with the Centre Director, the rest of the staff and other Trustees.

Under the Articles, the Trustees are elected to serve a period of three years. Of the elected Trustees, one third retire every year and are eligible for re-election. Those Trustees retiring are those who have been longest in office since their last election.

Organisational Structure and Governance

The Council meets bi-monthly and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. Sub-committees consider the detail and report to the Council.

Further to the sub-committees, working groups are also formed to oversee specific projects for a set period of time.

Official statement

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Bendrigg Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounts Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to :

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements, on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Following the merger of MHA Moore and Smalley with MHA, the charity's independent auditor has now become MHA. A resolution to re-appoint MHA as independent auditor will be proposed at the next Annual General Meeting.

Each of the persons who is a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- each Trustee has taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

Approval

By approving the Trustees report the Trustees are also approving the strategic report in their capacity as company directors.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 21st June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr Nicholas Liley
Secretary and Centre Director



Independent auditor's report

Auditor's opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bendrigg Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities, and the responsibilities of the Trustees, with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 26, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- enquiries with the board about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by the board in their significant accounting estimates;
- auditing the risk of fraud in income by way of cut off testing, including testing deferral of income for future bookings, as well as transactional testing to obtain evidence that income is complete and recognised in the correct accounting period;
- an evaluation of the risk management override of controls and subsequent testing, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; and
- an evaluation of the charitable company's internal control environment; and
- a review of board minutes.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jack Steer	Date
Senior Statutory Auditor	
For and on behalf of MHA, Statutory Auditor	

14, Mannin Way
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 3SW

MHA is the trading name of Macintyre Hudson LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales, (registered number OC312313)

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	266,174	404,730	670,904	367,482
Investments	4	11,222	-	11,222	3,753
Charitable activities	5	863,857	-	863,857	702,205
Other	6	96	-	96	347,108
Total		1,141,349	404,730	1,546,079	1,420,548
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	63,501	40,000	103,501	48,409
Charitable activities	8	1,214,227	206,753	1,420,980	1,266,132
Total		1,277,728	246,753	1,524,481	1,314,541
Net (expenditure)/ income before transfers		(136,379)	157,977	21,598	106,007
Transfer between funds	10, 19	100,680	(100,680)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(35,699)	57,297	21,598	106,007
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		635,326	3,144,444	3,779,770	3,673,763
Total funds carried forward		599,627	3,201,741	3,801,368	3,779,770

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all recognised gains and losses in the year.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 35 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2023

		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		3,033,637		3,120,302
Current assets					
Stock		7,100		12,595	
Debtors	13	87,391		11,019	
Cash at bank and in hand		998,042		865,021	
		<u>1,092,533</u>		<u>888,635</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(324,802)</u>		<u>(229,167)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>767,731</u>		<u>659,468</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>3,801,368</u>		<u>3,779,770</u>
Net assets			<u>3,801,368</u>		<u>3,779,770</u>
Funds:					
Restricted funds	16		3,201,741		3,144,444
Unrestricted funds	18		599,627		635,326
Total funds			<u>3,801,368</u>		<u>3,779,770</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on the 21st June 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

.....
Adrian Walter
Chair

.....
Kim Parry
Treasurer

Company Registration Number: 01396557

The notes on pages 35-52 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Cash generated in operating activities	140,255	175,496
Cashflows from investing activities:		
Investment income	11,222	3,753
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	416	125,317
Purchase of fixed assets	(18,872)	(11,588)
Cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	(7,234)	117,482
Cashflows from financing activities		
Payment of loan	-	(250,000)
Cash provided by/ (used in) financing activities	-	(250,000)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	133,021	42,978
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	865,021	822,043
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	998,042	865,021
Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cashflow from operating activities		
Net movement in funds	21,598	106,007
Profit on sale of assets	(96)	(118,394)
Investments income received	(11,222)	(3,753)
Depreciation	105,217	113,112
Increase / (decrease) in stocks	5,495	(1,484)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(76,372)	1,927
Increase in creditors (excluding loan)	95,635	52,348
Net cash generated in operating activities	140,255	175,496
Components of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank and in hand	998,042	865,021
	998,042	865,021

The notes on pages 35-52 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Legal form

Bendrigg Trust is a registered charity and a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006, incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £5 per member of the Charity.

The registered office of the Charity, the nature of its operations and its principal activities are all detailed in the Charity administrative details of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

Bendrigg Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The particular accounting policies adopted by the Trustees are described below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees consider the charity to have a sufficient level of working capital to see it through the upcoming months and have made an assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

Donations and legacies are included in the accounts on a cash received basis or where there is a certainty of receipt and the amount is quantifiable. Grants and donations in respect of specific projects are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are receivable and are credited to restricted reserves.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Investment income is credited to the statement of financial activities in the period in which it becomes receivable.

Income from charitable activities is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Other income includes income from insurance claim receipts and the sale of tangible assets which are recognised upon legal entitlement to the Charity.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis in the expense categories required by the SORP. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Costs are further allocated between the activities undertaken on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Charitable activities expenditure includes costs incurred in the delivery of the Charity's activities and services. It includes both direct costs, including staff costs, that are incurred in the delivery of the activities and services and indirect costs which are required to support the delivery of the charitable objects.

Costs of raising funds include those costs in relation to the Charity's operations which are used to generate further income which is integral to the Charity in meeting its charitable objectives. It includes direct costs and also indirect costs which have been allocated based on an estimated share relating to fundraising costs.

Fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line per annum
Leasehold property	- 4% straight line per annum
Motor vehicles and trailers	- 25% reducing balance
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 10%/20% straight line per annum
Sports installations	- 10% straight line per annum

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making allowance for obsolete and slow moving stocks.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Debtors and creditors within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable and payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is a basic financial asset and includes cash in hand and deposits held on call with banks.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds - General funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds - Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds - Restricted funds arise where there is a donor-imposed restriction on the use of the funds, or the funds have arisen in response to an appeal for a specified purpose.

Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Taxation

HM Revenue & Customs considers Bendrigg Trust to be a charity and therefore they are entitled to exemption from tax afforded by Sections 478-489 of the Corporation Taxes Act 2010 to the extent that income is applied exclusively for charitable purposes.

Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price and are subsequently carried at amortised cost. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Key assumptions, judgements and estimates

In the opinion of the Trustees, there have been no significant judgements made in the process of applying the above accounting policies. There have been no key assumptions concerning future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
General donations	266,174	-	266,174	198,828
Restricted donations	-	157,534	157,534	106,642
Sponsored courses	-	106,246	106,246	62,012
Specific capital donations	-	140,950	140,950	-
	266,174	404,730	670,904	367,482
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>198,828</i>	<i>168,654</i>	<i>367,482</i>	

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	11,222	-	11,222	3,753
	11,222	-	11,222	3,753
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>3,753</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3,753</i>	

5 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Course fees	833,731	-	833,731	677,816
Other charitable activities	30,126	-	30,126	24,389
	863,857	-	863,857	702,205
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>702,205</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>702,205</i>	

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Insurance claim receipt	-	-	-	228,714
Proceeds from sale of asset	96	-	96	118,394
	96	-	96	347,108
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>347,108</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>347,108</i>	

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Telephone	383	-	383	633
Postage	110	-	110	-
Direct fundraising costs	4,678	3,016	7,694	4,642
Freelance fundraisers fee	-	9,600	9,600	1,200
Staff costs	58,330	27,384	85,714	41,934
	63,501	40,000	103,501	48,409
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>48,409</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>48,409</i>	

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Goods for resale	9,115	-	9,115	4,514
Rates and water	1,766	-	1,766	3,302
Light and heat	46,050	-	46,050	42,739
Repairs and maintenance	83,644	-	83,644	81,423
Insurance	22,712	-	22,712	15,702
Motor vehicle expenses	24,683	-	24,683	25,257
Telephone	3,450	-	3,450	2,532
Provisions and household	113,065	-	113,065	86,888
Sundry expenses	8,819	38,014	46,833	9,956
Outdoor equipment	6,040	-	6,040	5,976
Staff training	13,446	-	13,446	12,371
Advertising and sponsorship	24,693	-	24,693	9,791
Bank charges	2,236	-	2,236	1,796
Printing, post and stationery	14,190	-	14,190	11,605
Freelance instructors fees	51,256	-	51,256	43,735
Audit and professional fees	16,124	-	16,124	9,609
IT software and consumables	15,282	-	15,282	14,092
Entry fees	2,201	-	2,201	2,142
Subscriptions	2,943	-	2,943	3,732
Indemnity insurance	1,193	-	1,193	435
Wages and salaries	589,486	153,953	743,439	551,697
National insurance	32,077	8,377	40,454	23,931
Pension cost	24,539	6,409	30,948	24,015
Depreciation	105,217	-	105,217	113,112
Impairment of leasehold	-	-	-	25,733
	1,214,227	206,753	1,420,980	1,266,132
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>1,126,086</i>	<i>140,046</i>	<i>1,266,132</i>	

Support costs are allocated entirely to charitable activities in both the current and prior period.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

9 Net income/(expenditure)	2023 £	2022 £
Net income is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	43,561	36,849
Auditors' remuneration		
- audit of the financial statements	9,500	5,500
Depreciation of tangible assets		
- owned by the Charity	105,217	113,112

10 Fund transfers

A transfer is made annually from restricted to unrestricted funds in respect of depreciation charges in the year which relate to restricted assets. This year this transfer amounted to £100,680.

Restricted funds are made up of restricted income funds and restricted capital funds. During the current year restricted income funds were used to purchase fixed assets in the financial year and transfers of £7,404 were made to restricted capital funds. A further £39,692 of restricted income funds have been committed to fixed assets (deposits have been made) so a similar transfer to the restricted capital fund has been made. Total transfers from income funds to capital funds were £47,096.

The transfer out of restricted capital funds of £53,584 is the net of the depreciation transfer (£100,680) and the capital asset transfer (£47,096).

Further details of fund transfers are included in Note 16.

11 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and the cost of key management personnel

Total staff costs were as follows	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	798,806	674,332
Social security costs	58,188	49,343
Pension costs	43,561	36,849
	900,555	760,524

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

11 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and the cost of key management personnel (continued)

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Administrative staff	13	11
Tutorial staff	16	15
Maintenance staff	1	1
Catering and domestic staff	8	7
	38	34

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the current or prior year.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel, as determined by the Charity, is £234,602 (2022: £194,927) during the current period.

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The contributions paid into the scheme in respect of eligible employees for the year ended 31 December 2023 amounted to £43,561 (2022: £36,849).

No Trustees received any remuneration during the current or prior period. No Trustee received any expenses for their role as Trustees in the current or prior period.



Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £	Leasehold Property £	Motor Vehicles & trailers £	Fixtures Fittings & equipment £	Totals £
Cost					
At 1 January 2023	4,180,254	76,456	277,432	602,456	5,136,598
Additions	7,036	-	-	11,836	18,872
Disposals	-	(76,456)	(32,842)	(471,004)	(580,302)
At 31 December 2023	4,187,290	-	244,590	143,288	4,575,168
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2023	1,142,377	76,456	202,307	595,156	2,016,296
Charge for the year	83,759	-	18,742	2,716	105,217
Eliminated on disposal	-	(76,456)	(32,522)	(4,71,004)	(579,982)
At 31 December 2023	1,226,136	-	188,527	126,868	1,541,531
Net book value					
At 31 December 2023	2,961,154	-	56,063	16,420	3,033,637
At 31 December 2022	3,037,877	-	75,125	7,300	3,120,302

The freehold at Bendrigg Lodge was transferred from the Mary Kinross Trust on 12 March 1985 as a gift. The freehold is not included in the financial statements as an asset but has a substantial market value.

The freehold property reported above, having a netbook value of £2,961,154 relates to the capitalised cost of property developments (including Acorn House) that have taken place on the Bendrigg site subsequent to the original gift of Bendrigg Lodge.

A 25 year lease on Greenslack was agreed in April 2006 and this is the only leasehold held by the Trust. During the year, the Charity has disposed of the leasehold property improvements, on the basis that it intends to terminate the lease.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

13 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	193	358
Prepayments	87,198	10,661
	87,391	11,019

14 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	23,380	24,466
Taxation and social security	22,383	10,901
Other creditors	1,045	2,241
Accruals	36,613	29,596
Deferred income	241,381	161,963
	324,802	229,167

Note 15

15 Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance brought forward	161,963	145,900
Course fees received in advance	238,574	147,861
Release of deferred income	(159,156)	(131,798)
	241,381	161,963

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

16 Restricted funds: Current year		At 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Restricted funds income	17	102,579	404,730	(246,753)	(47,096)	213,460
Restricted funds capital		3,041,865	-	-	(53,584)	2,988,281
Total funds		3,144,444	404,730	(246,753)	(100,680)	3,201,741

Restricted funds: Prior year		At 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Restricted funds income	17	73,971	168,654	(140,046)	-	102,579
Restricted funds capital		3,176,817	-	-	(134,952)	3,041,865
Total funds		3,250,788	168,654	(140,046)	(134,952)	3,144,444

Restricted capital funds are made up of incoming resources given specifically to acquire fixed assets, as reduced over the useful economic life of those assets in line with their depreciation - £2,988,281 (2022: £3,041,865).



Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

17 Restricted funds: Current year

	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2023 £
Climbing Club	12,025	-	(12,025)	-	-
Sponsored Courses	17,617	106,246	(89,511)	-	34,352
Outdoor Equipment	9,350	12,220	(13,537)	(3,701)	4,332
Canoes	16,486	25,950	-	(22,395)	20,041
Sensory Room	560	-	(560)	-	-
Tube Slide	1,000	25,000	-	-	26,000
Trainee Coordinator	15,000	-	(15,000)	-	-
BA Co-ordinator	8,750	15,000	(23,750)	-	-
Someone Like Me Project	21,791	53,364	(42,175)	-	32,980
Beyond Bendrigg Project	-	3,750	(3,750)	-	-
Bendrigg Development	-	25,000	(1,750)	-	23,250
Minibus	-	90,000	-	(21,000)	69,000
Apprenticeship	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Fareshare (RL)	-	1,200	(1,200)	-	-
Staff Wellbeing project	-	4,000	(495)	-	3,505
Fundraising Project	-	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
Restricted income funds	102,579	404,730	(246,753)	(47,096)	213,460

Restricted income funds: Prior year

	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2022 £
Climbing Club	8,760	11,580	(8,315)	-	12,025
Sponsored Courses	35,504	62,012	(79,899)	-	17,617
Outdoor Equipment	1,450	12,614	(4,714)	-	9,350
Canoes	-	16,486	-	-	16,486
Sensory Room	560	-	-	-	560
Tube Slide	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Trainee Coordinator	16,611	15,000	(16,611)	-	15,000
Trainee - Training	960	3,000	(3,960)	-	-
BA Co-ordinator	-	15,000	(6,250)	-	8,750
Hidden Disabilities Project	10,126	-	(10,126)	-	-
'Someone Like Me' Project	-	31,962	(10,171)	-	21,791
Restricted income funds	73,971	168,654	(140,046)	-	102,579

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

17 Restricted income funds (continued)

Climbing Club: funds used to support an inclusive climbing club which allows young people of all abilities to learn to climb in a safe, supported and fun environment.

Sponsored Courses: enables bursaries to be given to some groups who without it would not be able to afford to come to Bendrigg.

Outdoor Equipment: enables specific pieces of equipment to be purchased.

Canoes: to fund a new fleet of canoes.

Sensory Room: funding received enabled the sensory room to be upgraded.

Tube Slide: to fund the building of two new tube slide huts which will incorporate a built-in hoisting system.

Trainee Co-ordinator: to fund a post which supervises the work and the development of trainee tutors.

BA Co-ordinator: to fund a co-ordinator post for the Bendrigg Alternative Scheme which is a scheme providing opportunities for offenders, or those at risk of offending, to work alongside the groups who visit Bendrigg.

Hidden Disability Project: funding to create 15 social story books and videos aimed at people with autistic spectrum disorder and other hidden disabilities.

'Someone Like Me' Volunteer Project: to support the volunteer programme with a specific focus on increasing the number of volunteers with a disability.

Beyond Bendrigg Project: to help the outdoor, tourism and leisure sectors to be more inclusive and accessible. Tailored training and bespoke advice demonstrate how, and why, to make activities open to all.

Bendrigg Development Project: to fund an enabling phase for possible improvements to the Bendrigg estate.

Apprenticeship: funding received to support Bendrigg apprentices.

Fareshare (RL): funding received through Kinder Kind of Kitchen Project, which allows access to Fareshare, an organisation that redistributes food across Cumbria and Lancashire, to community food groups.

Fundraising Support: funding received to expand Bendrigg's fundraising capabilities.

Staff Wellbeing Project: funding received to provide wellbeing support to Bendrigg employees.

Minibus: to fund the purchase of minibuses.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

18 Unrestricted income funds: Current year

	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2023 £
General Funds	635,326	1,141,349	(1,277,728)	100,680	599,627
Unrestricted funds	635,326	1,141,349	(1,277,728)	100,680	599,627

Unrestricted income funds: Prior year

	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2022 £
General Funds	422,975	1,251,894	(1,174,495)	134,952	635,326
Unrestricted funds	422,975	1,251,894	(1,174,495)	134,952	635,326

19 Analysis of fund transfers

	Total £
Annual transfer in respect of restricted fixed asset funds	100,680
Total transfers	100,680

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

20 Analysis of net assets between funds: Current year

	Tangible fixed assets £	Cash £	Net current assets excl. cash £	Long term liabilities £	Total £
Restricted funds	2,988,281	213,460	-	-	3,201,741
General funds	45,356	784,582	(230,311)	-	599,627
Total funds	3,033,637	998,042	(230,311)	-	3,801,368

Analysis of net assets between funds: Prior year

	Tangible fixed assets £	Cash £	Net current assets excl. cash £	Long term liabilities £	Total £
Restricted funds	3,041,865	102,579	-	-	3,144,444
General funds	78,437	762,442	(205,553)	-	635,326
Total funds	3,120,302	865,021	(205,553)	-	3,779,770

21 Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2023, the total of the Charity's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023	2022
Amounts payable:		
Within 1 year	1,596	1,596
Between 1 and 5 years	3,984	5,580
	5,580	7,176

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

22 Capital commitments

	2023	2022
Amounts contracted for but not provided in the financial statements:		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	106,893	-
	106,893	-

23 Contingencies

The charity received lottery grants totalling £243,364 during the financial years 1999 and 2000 to fund the development of improvements to the accommodation in Bendrigg Lodge and also a grant of £200,000 between 2007 and 2008 towards the construction of the Kinross Building. The charity may not dispose of these buildings without prior written permission of the Lottery Board, nor use the buildings as security for a loan. This restriction shall be in force for 80 years from the date of the grants.

24 Control and related party transactions

The charity was under the control of the Board of Trustees who are also directors for the purposes of company law in both the current and prior period.

The charity has a very close relationship with The Bendrigg Support Trust. The Support Trust was established for the purpose of supporting the work of the Bendrigg Trust. A revenue grant of £40,000 (2022: £20,000) and a specific donation grant of £25,000 (2022: £nil) was received during the year. Mr J Holmes, Mr T Lowe and Miss R Hodgson, Trustees, are also Trustees of the Bendrigg Support Trust along with an independent Trustee, Mr R Brownson.

The charity also has a close relationship with The Mary Kinross Charitable Trust through an influential member who is also on the Bendrigg Alternative Committee. Total grants received during the year total £105,000 (2022: £100,000). Of these grants, £105,000 was for restricted purposes.

During the year the charity incurred costs of £1,193 (2022: £435) relating to indemnity insurance for the Trustees.

There were no outstanding balances with related parties at 31 December 2023 or 31 December 2022.

25 Company Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee. In event of the company being wound up or dissolved, each member undertakes to contribute such amounts as is required, not exceeding £5, for payment of any debts or liabilities.

Reference & administrative details

Charity details

Registered Charity name: Bendrigg Trust

Charity Registration number: 508450

Company Registration number: 01396557

Registered office: Bendrigg Lodge, Old Hutton, Kendal LA8 0NR

Trustees

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

Adrian Walter, Chair of Trustees

Kim Parry, Treasurer

Rachael Hodgson

Kay Foster

Shelagh McGregor (retired 23rd June 2023)

Jeremy Prall

Tim Lowe

Judy Rayner (retired 23rd June 2023)

John Holmes MBE

Brian McDonough

Peter Bates

Tom Hibbert

Anne Fleck

Kirsty Heywood-MacDonald (appointed 23rd June 2023)

Amy Pearman (appointed 23rd June 2023)

Senior Management Team

Company Secretary and Centre Director: Nicholas Liley

Head of Business Development: Sarah Garman

Activities Manager: Sam Litten

Finance and HR Manager: Gill Smith

Interim Facilities Manager: Graham Franks (January - June 2023)

Facilities Manager: Jonathan Wolfendale

Training, Research & Consultancy Manager: Sara Murray (appointed September 2023)

Patrons

Sir Chris Bonington CVO CBE DL

Claire Hensman, Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria (retired 3rd July 2023)

Jamie Andrew

Auditor: MHA, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor, 14 Mannin Way, Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 3SW