

## **Brownlow Community Centre Chairman's Report November 2023**

This has been a year in which we have consolidated our recovery from Covid, increased our importance as a Community Centre and further strengthened our balance sheet.

Bookings have increased steadily. The local room hire market has been disrupted by the extended closure of the Civic Centre, and as a result there has been a considerable increase in the demand for our space. Daytime hiring of the main hall as well as regular evening use is now a regular occurrence. The Clayton Room is booked out almost every day and evening. The Headmaster's Office which this time last year was so damp and smelly that it was unlettable, is now hired out on every day of the week and has become an essential part of the Social Services infrastructure of the town. There are currently talks in progress to add a regular Lloyds Banking facility, The Citizens' Advice Bureau and a regular NHS clinic to the services to be provided from The Headmaster's Office.

The main hall has been used twice as a vaccination centre by the local GPs, on one occasion providing vaccinations to 1600 people in one day.

Little Bears achieved an Outstanding Ofsted Inspection Report. I congratulate them on this Outstanding achievement. This, and the increase in housing stock in the town, has led to an increase in demand for their services. They have asked for an increase in floor space in order to expand. The plan to accommodate this, is to upgrade The Old Staff Room into a room-hirable space, in order to release The Clayton Room to Little Bears.

We have identified a gap in the local market for rentable storage space. The tin shed is now occupied by Trevanions Fine Art auctioneers. The air raid shelters to the West of the shed have been made waterproof and secure and cleared of rubbish. They have been divided into four rentable storage units. Marketing these has been delayed by several months by an abortive intervention by the local authority who saw this as an opportunity to change our rates-free status. After talks with the authority, they have agreed that providing storage facilities will in no way affect our rates payable. Success, yes, but the delay caused cannot be unpicked. They will go back on the rental market in January.

Succession Planning remains our greatest and most urgent challenge. A volunteer recruitment stand at the most recent vaccination day yielded about ten expressions of interest but ironically, we haven't had time to follow up on this as yet. We have reached out to local guidance services for help in planning our succession.

Our enormously successful grant funding officer, Terrie, retired due to ill health during the year. Filling the role has proved difficult but we now have a new officer in this essential post. Thank you Terrie, your diligence and success in obtaining grants has made many of our recent capital projects possible.

I'm very sad that our treasurer, Wendy, has had to stand down from her role due to personal circumstances. Thank you Wendy for your major contribution not just as Treasurer but in many different roles over the years.

It's been a busy, sometimes frantic year, but one in which great progress has been made.

Chris Smith

Chair, Nov 2023

# Profit and Loss

## Brownlow Community Centre For the year ended 31 August 2023

	2023	2022	2021
<b>Turnover</b>			
Clayton Room Bookings	8,665.50	4,165.50	209.28
Hall Bookings	2,418.50	4,234.25	312.00
Little Bears Hall	4,545.00	2,019.50	2,227.58
Little Bears Staff Room	-	-	148.00
Other Revenue	160.00	29,667.00	27,431.00
Regular Hall Bookings	3,939.75	1,840.50	933.00
Rent	17,701.00	13,249.00	15,034.40
Small Meeting Room Bookings	1,941.50	40.00	22.72
<b>Total Turnover</b>	<b>39,371.25</b>	<b>55,215.75</b>	<b>46,317.98</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>39,371.25</b>	<b>55,215.75</b>	<b>46,317.98</b>
<b>Administrative Costs</b>			
Advertising & Marketing	60.00	114.00	-
Audit & Accountancy fees	450.91	452.86	328.32
Bank Fees	(73.04)	(71.43)	(17.12)
Bins	907.45	717.22	683.97
Caretaker	5,434.08	4,722.44	4,118.01
Cleaning	1,086.72	952.19	915.09
Cleaning Items	1,688.98	1,099.58	806.46
Fund Raising Expenses	101.93	165.00	-
Fund Raising Items Bought	428.79	-	-
General Expenses	806.48	317.90	53.35
Health & Safety, First Aid	63.54	127.68	418.39
Insurance	1,955.36	1,882.78	1,407.79
IT Software and Consumables	-	68.08	28.78
Legal Expenses	500.00	-	180.00
Light, Power, Heating	9,663.45	9,493.39	8,329.74
Printing & Stationery	95.21	196.03	41.20
Project Costs	18,340.50	53,840.09	3,108.00
Repairs & Maintenance	12,404.34	6,761.24	2,245.04
Subscriptions	235.00	268.00	-
Telephone & Internet	349.98	39.76	-
<b>Total Administrative Costs</b>	<b>54,499.68</b>	<b>81,146.81</b>	<b>22,647.02</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>(15,128.43)</b>	<b>(25,931.06)</b>	<b>23,670.96</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
FUND RAISING	991.84	1,456.51	5,259.26
Grants For Projects	2,110.00	-	-
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>3,101.84</b>	<b>1,456.51</b>	<b>5,259.26</b>

	2023	2022	2021
<b>Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation</b>	(12,026.59)	(24,474.55)	28,930.22
<b>Profit after Taxation</b>	(12,026.59)	(24,474.55)	28,930.22



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

BROWNLOW COMMUNITY CENTRE

On accounts for the year  
ended

31/08/2023

Charity no  
(if any)

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 31/08/2023.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:

M. Edge

Date:

16/11/2023

Name:

MICHAEL EDGE

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

AAT

(if any):

Address:

10 EASTWICK LANE, EASTWICK, ELLESMERE,  
SHROPSHIRE, SY12 9DX

## Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.