

Haydon Bridge and Haydon Parish
Development Trust

(A Registered Charity and company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Registered Office

Haydon Bridge Library
Church Street
Haydon Bridge
Hexham
Northumberland
NE47 6JQ

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Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name:

Haydon Bridge and Haydon Parish Development Trust

Status

Company limited by Guarantee & Registered Charity

Registered Office

Haydon Bridge Library
Church Street
Haydon Bridge
Hexham
Northumberland
NE47 6JQ

Trustees

Jo Bates

Esmond Faulks, Parish Councillor, Treasurer

Peter Fletcher, Company Secretary

Ian Foster

Phil Hartley

Mark I'Anson, Chair

Kate Minto

Will Rutherford, Vice-Chair

Michael Sadgrove

Siobhan Stephenson

Henry Swaddle

Christina Taylor

Joanna Thompson

Secretary

Peter Fletcher

Trustees' Report 2024-2025

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Haydon Bridge and Haydon Parish Development Trust ("the Charity") for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ending 31st March 2025.

History

The Haydon Bridge and Haydon Parish Development Trust was established by the Haydon Parish Council to take forward the actions identified in the 2008-2020 Haydon Parish Plan. The Development Trust was set up as an unincorporated body at an inaugural meeting on 19th November 2008. It was registered as a company limited by guarantee (No. 6858135) on 25th March 2009. It was registered as a Charity (No. 1135248) on 26th March 2010.

Public Benefit

The Charity's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the benefit of the public. The Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission for England and Wales and the Trustees have considered this guidance in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Objects

The objects of the Company and Charity are the promotion for the benefit of the public of urban and rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation and in particular in Haydon Bridge and Haydon Parish, in the County of Northumberland ("the area of benefit") by all or any of the following means:

- (a) the relief of financial hardship;
- (b) the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
- (c) the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
- (d) the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;
- (e) the preservation of buildings or sites of historical or architectural importance;
- (f) the protection or conservation of the environment in particular, but not exclusively by advancing education in issues relating to climate change and environmental issues including the production of energy from renewable resources
- (g) such other means as may from time to time be determined subject to the prior written consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

Structure, Governance and Management

As at 31st March 2025 the Trust had thirteen Directors on the Management Board. The Management Board held five meetings during the 2024-25 financial year. The Management Board is responsible for the governance of the Trust, which has no paid staff. The Directors, who are all volunteers, are supported by around 30 volunteers who run the community library service, and other services such as the luncheon club and gardening group.

During the financial year the Directors adopted new or revised policies on Safeguarding, Compliments and Complaints, and Fire Safety. To address openness Board minutes are published on the Haydon Bridge website, together with privacy notices and policy.

Report on Activities

As a community library, The Bridge provides a full service as part of the Northumberland County Council Library Service. The library, and visitor information point which sits in the foyer of the library building, has been open for 5 half day sessions a week, until the end of 2023 when one of the teams retired after 14 years of service. A new team was recruited and we returned to opening five sessions each week in October 2024.

As with almost all public libraries, usage dropped as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. However, a number of new initiatives – for example a lego group and a knit and natter group - were introduced with the aim of boosting usage. There were 2099 library users during the financial year (4.4% up from 2010 in 23-24).

The Bridge also operates a Visitor Information Centre during opening times. There were 336 visitors who used this service at The Bridge during the financial year, which is slightly lower than the figure of 445 for 23-24. We have not noticed that less people are visiting Haydon Parish and the surrounding areas and attribute this downward trend in face to face contact with visitors to the increased use of smart phone and other technology that enables our visitors to have local information at their fingertips.

Regular meetings are held by the library team leaders and a small team of Development Trust Directors, with support from the county council library service to ensure continuity of service to the public. In April 2024 a development and social event was held for all The Bridge volunteers which looked at developing the service and new initiatives, which included: a very successful Open Day in September 2024 to promote all the services on offer at The Bridge; developing new services such as a cycle hub; and two Christmas card making sessions for children held in December.

The library building was refurbished in 2010 when the Development Trust took over the responsibility from the County Council to run the library service. After running the service for 13 years it had become clear that there were ways the building's functionality could be improved. A key part of moving the service forward therefore has been a review of how to create more flexible space for community use. A grant was secured in December 2023 from the Community Foundation that has enabled the creation of a dedicated local history and archive area, together with space for local craft businesses to display their goods, as well as opening up the main floor area. The grant was fully spent by the end of December 2024, and an audit on spend carried out by the Community Foundation in January 2025, with very positive feedback for the Development Trust. The volunteer teams continue to make the best use of our newly refurbished building and to develop the range of services and activities that we offer to customers.

A further initiative was to start a new online Haydon Newsletter to replace the previous Haydon News, a paper publication that sadly stopped publishing in 2023. The Newsletter published its first edition in October 2024 and focuses on parish events, activities at The Bridge, the parish archive, community initiatives, and information on local services and groups. The Newsletter has been very well received and is a bi monthly (every two months) publication. The Development Trust would like to thank the Trustees of the former Haydon News for transferring the legacy funds from their publication to the Development Trust. This funding has been used to underpin the development of the new Newsletter and the design costs of the new website.

The website remains actively used, (www.haydon-bridge.co.uk), and walks, cycling and local visitor information leaflets are available online here. For the period there were approximately 3,200

active users an increase of 27.2% over the previous year's activity. There were 4,100 sessions logged which was an increase of 32.4%. This all represents an encouraging upward trend. 82 % of visitors were UK based with 7% from USA next. Other countries were in low single digits too. Pages opened as unspecified in general were 54 % of views whilst 30% were specifically for food location and accommodation services.

In January 2025 HBDT successfully transferred hosting provision to a dedicated Development Trust account with 123-Reg thus gaining complete control of site hosting. Plans are in hand to transfer other village websites to this account.

During 2024/5 the decision was made to upgrade and redesign the site. A fully featured WordPress site capable of adjusting seamlessly to any device, ensuring easy navigation and clear content on mobiles, tablets, and computers will be up and running early in the next report period. Accessibility features like keyboard navigation, readable fonts, and alt text for images will make the site usable for everyone, including people with disabilities.

The website continues to be monitored to provide compliance with current GDPR and Accessibility requirements. Accessibility guidance for users with disabilities remains available. The Information Commissioner's Office is aware that, as a not for profit small charity, HBDT is exempt from data protection fee payments.

Other local activities that the Development Trust supports, such as the Friday lunches club, and the gardening group have continued to flourish.

The charity's main annual fundraising event, the Haydon Hundred Cyclo-Sportive was held on the second Saturday in June 2024, offering three routes of 60, 100 and 140 kilometres. The event was a great success with excellent feedback from riders. There were 164 entries, down from 228 the previous year. After costs, over £1856 was raised towards the running costs of the library. Although the numbers were down on the previous year the feedback from participants was very positive and the event, which has been running for over 10 years, will continue in 2025. A range of activities at The Bridge also contribute to raising the running costs of The Bridge. These include: room hire; a weekly Bonus Ball competition and sales of crafts; second hand books; and plants and produce that are donated by local growers.

Haydon Parish Council has developed a Neighbourhood Plan 2022-36, which was approved by Northumberland County Council in September 2022. All plan documents are available on the parish website or the planning section of the Northumberland County Council website.

The Development Trust has been leading on a number of the Community Actions set out in the plan. Achievements that have been delivered include:

- New or upgraded flower beds in the village, including at the railway station
- Habitat creation including tree planting
- New EV charging points
- New cycle racks in different parts of the village
- New high speed broadband via Wefibre

The Development Trust has fully supported and encouraged its partnership with The Nurture Project CIC (community Interest Company), which works with volunteers from the community to develop land next to the football fields into a community garden, together with forest school activities for young people. The partnership enables delivery of a number of community actions from The Neighbourhood Plan, as well as the Development Trust's wider objectives. These include:

- Providing work opportunities for local people working with children attending forest school provision at The Nurture Project, and offering training opportunities e.g. in first aid and safeguarding
- Offering activities for younger and older people, many of which are heavily subsidised, to reduce hardship e.g. free places on summer holiday clubs with lunch provided
- Raising awareness of issues relating to The Climate and Ecological Emergency, through education and example, and by facilitating increased community cohesion which is vital in times of great change
- Providing new amenities on The Nurture Project CIC site which are available for public use: a large yurt, a covered workshop space for woodwork and art, and an indoor workshop space, as well as a biodiversity rich, edible community garden and sensory play area

In addition, the Nurture Project CIC, working very closely with the Development Trust, were awarded funding of £30 000 to evolve ways of working together across many initiatives in the village, addressing some of the objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan. The project aims to:

- Raise awareness of looking after our land and the need to enhance biodiversity
- Encourage active participation in regenerative gardening through volunteering opportunities, education, and increased availability of useful plants for this
- Encourage gardening opportunities for those less able to engage in gardening
- Build a plant stall outside The Bridge Library and Community Hub which makes plants useful for increasing biodiversity available, as well as encouraging sharing of surplus plants and produce from gardens and allotments, and also raises funds for The Bridge Hub, and increases footfall
- Create a 'Bee Friendly' walk route around the village centre which raises awareness of the importance of pollinating insects, offers somewhere to sit and chat, and raises awareness of village amenities through signage
- Raise awareness of issues relating to The Climate and Ecological Emergency, through education and example, and by facilitating increased community cohesion which will is vital in times of great change

Other initiatives relating to the Neighbourhood Plan are also underway, including: working with the county council and a local developer to explore the potential of developing Community Led Housing to provide affordable housing for rent for local people; and work to create a new cycle route to Hexham.

Following up the Community Energy Survey, the Development Trust's Net Zero Group has worked with partners to secure funding for a feasibility study for a renewable energy District heating System for the village, being undertaken by Reheat. The report was published in December 2024 and showed that such a system is possible, but only with a high percentage of capital grant towards the installation costs. Further feasibility work is now being carried out.

A key goal of the Board of Directors of the Development Trust is to ensure financial sustainability. Good financial management together with the support of the Parish Council's annual grant to cover the cost of rent on the library building, as well as income from the Haydon Hundred and charitable sales of books and other items ensure a stable financial position for the Development Trust.

Overall, we thank all of our existing volunteers for their contribution and we have welcomed a number of new volunteers joining us.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



S.M. I'Anson, Chairman

Date: 9 September 2025

Responsibilities of Trustees

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

Total income for the year 2024-2025 was less than £25,000 and accordingly the trustees consider that neither an audit nor an independent examination is required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act).

**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Period Ended 31st March 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds to	
		Funds £	Funds £	31st March 2025 £	31st March 2024 £
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary Income	2	3,364.43	11,627.57	14,992.00	15,608.87
Grant Income	2	6,028.44		6,028.44	7,893.79
Total Incoming Resources		9,392.87	11,627.57	21,020.44	23,502.66
Resources Expended					
Charitable Activities	3	18,806.33	7,245.84	26,052.17	24,479.38
Governance costs	3	20.00		20.00	33.00
Total Resources Expended		18,826.33	7,245.84	26,072.17	24,512.38
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) resources before Transfers		(9,433.46)	4,381.73	(5,051.73)	(1,009.72)
Transfers					
Transfer Balance from Haydon Hundred Fund	11	1,855.72	(1,855.72)		
Net movement in funds for the year		(7,577.74)	2,526.01	(5,051.73)	(1,009.72)
Net funds brought forward		31,930.82	10,788.45	42,719.27	43,728.99
Net funds carried forward		24,353.08	13,314.46	37,667.54	42,719.27

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

		Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		6	13,521.17	16,189.02
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank & in hand			8,496.37	26,134.55
FI Savings			15,000.00	
Debtors	Other Debtors	7	650.00	650.00
Total Current Assets			<u>24,146.37</u>	<u>26,784.55</u>
Current Liabilities				
Creditors: Amounts falling due within 1 year		8	0.00	254.30
Net Current Assets			<u>24,146.37</u>	<u>26,530.25</u>
Total Net Assets			<u>37,667.54</u>	<u>42,719.27</u>
Funds of the Charity				
Restricted Funds				
Flood Relief		11	4,655.80	4,655.80
Lunch Club		11	4,780.15	4,709.83
Haydon News		11	2,205.70	
Village Fund		11	1,029.68	55.82
Haydon Hundred		11	643.13	1,367.00
Total Restricted Funds			<u>13,314.46</u>	<u>10,788.45</u>
Unrestricted Funds			24,353.08	31,930.82
Total Charity Funds		12	<u>37,667.54</u>	<u>42,719.27</u>

The company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

M I'Anson

 Chairman

Mr P Fletcher

 Company Secretary

Date: 9 September 2025

Date: 9 September 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31st March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16th July 2014.

Going Concern

The Charity has financial reserves held in cash. At the Balance Sheet date the Charity had £23,496 of which £10,832 was unrestricted. As a consequence, the Trustees believe that the Charity is well placed to manage its business risks successfully. After making enquiries the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 11.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25% straight line basis
Land	No depreciation
Buildings	over 20 years
Assets are not depreciated until they are brought in use.	

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31st March 2025

2 Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025	Total Funds 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024
Voluntary Income	£	£	£	£
Donations & Appeals	434.83	4,456.47	4,891.30	3,857.81
Earned Income	2,929.60	7,171.10	10,100.70	11,761.06
	<u>3,364.43</u>	<u>11,627.57</u>	<u>14,992.00</u>	<u>15,618.87</u>
Grant Income				
UK Govt				
Grants - Other Agencies	6,028.44		6,028.44	12,893.79
	<u>6,028.44</u>		<u>6,028.44</u>	<u>12,893.79</u>
	<u>9,392.87</u>	<u>11,627.57</u>	<u>21,020.44</u>	<u>28,512.66</u>

3 Total Resources Expended

	Charitable £	Governance £	Total 2025 £	2024 £
Direct Costs				
Sundry & other costs	2,677.85	20.00	2,697.85	2,955.15
Establishment Costs	10,569.27		10,569.27	6,171.99
Repairs & Maintenance	4,311.17		4,311.17	5,651.92
Office Expenses	52.37		52.37	762.30
Computer & Website	75.14		75.14	82.46
Consumables	455.13		455.13	164.29
Publicity	665.40		665.40	100.00
Restricted expenditure	7,245.84		7,245.84	8,624.27
	<u>26,052.17</u>	<u>20.00</u>	<u>26,072.17</u>	<u>24,512.38</u>

4 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the year.

5 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from taxation.

6 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Short Leasehold and other Interests in Land & Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Costs as at 1st April	53,357.01	12,870.23	66,227.24
Additions			
Costs as at 31st March	<u>53,357.01</u>	<u>12,870.23</u>	<u>66,227.24</u>
Depreciation as at 1st April	37,167.99	12,870.23	50,038.22
Charge for the year	2,667.85		2,667.85
Depreciation as at 31st March	39,835.84	12,870.23	52,706.07
Net Book value as at 31st March 2025	13,521.17		13,521.17

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31st March 2025

7 Debtors

	31 st March 2025	31 st March 2024
	£	£
Other Debtors	650	650

Other debtors represents a deposit paid which is repayable on demand

8 Creditors

	31 st March 2025	31 st March 2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year	0.0	254.30
	<u>0.0</u>	<u>254.30</u>

9 Members' liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

10 Related parties

Controlling entity: The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

11 Analysis of Funds

	b/f from 31 st March 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Transfers	As at 31 st March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds					
Unrestricted income funds	31,930.82	9,392.87	(18,826.33)	1,855.72	24,353.08
Restricted funds					
Flood Relief	4,655.80				4,655.80
Lunch Club	4,709.83	2,683.34	(2,613.02)		4,780.15
Haydon News		2,415.40	(209.70)		2,205.70
Village Fund	55.82	2,041.07	(1,067.21)		1,029.68
Haydon Hundred	1,367.00	4,487.76	(3,355.91)	(1,855.72)	643.13
	<u>10,788.45</u>	<u>11,627.57</u>	<u>(7,245.84)</u>	<u>(1,855.72)</u>	<u>13,314.46</u>
	<u><u>42,729.27</u></u>	<u><u>21,020.44</u></u>	<u><u>(26,072.17)</u></u>		<u><u>37,667.54</u></u>

12 Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds at 31 st March 2025
	£	£	£
Tangible Assets	13,521.17		13,521.17
Current Assets	10,831.91	13,314.46	24,146.37
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-		-
Net Assets	<u>24,353.08</u>	<u>13,314.46</u>	<u>37,667.54</u>