



Centre 33 (St Albans) Limited

Annual Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31 December 2014



Centre 33 is the trading name of Centre 33 (St Albans) Limited, registered in England as a company limited by guarantee (No 7955132) and as a charity (No 1146438). Registered office: Centre 33, 2a Spicer Street, St Albans, Herts, AL3 4PQ. Patron: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of St Albans City and District

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2014

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Chairman's Note

The year has seen some significant operational changes including the move to an online rota system for our volunteers, which has been a real success.

Another change followed the loss of our centrally-located storage site in vacant office space, when the building's owners unexpectedly withdrew the facility from the numerous charities who had taken up residence at their invitation just a couple of months previously.

At this point we took the decision that it was no longer practical for Centre 33 to manage a stock of items, also meaning that we no longer accept donations of food, unless in exceptional circumstances. Since then we have been buying supplies on demand and having them delivered directly to the Centre, and this is working well

This move also affected our ability to accept the generosity of schools and churches wishing to give harvest festival donations, although we are pleased to say that our requests for these to be given to the St Albans & District Food Bank instead seemed to be well-received.

Inside the Centre 33 premises, the kitchen has had a new microwave and the electric hand-dryer installed in 2013 has reduced instances of blockages caused by paper towels. Unfortunately it has taken less than a year for the internal mould problem to resurface in the Centre and it is in need of another thorough clean and probably redecoration as well. Plans were put in place to commission a full refurbishment of the shower room, including improved ventilation, and this work will be done in 2015

Centre 33 was the first homelessness organisation to be consulted by the NHS St Albans and Harpenden Locality Team for a project they were undertaking related to provision of health services, although we still await the outcomes.

The Centre continues to be represented as a member of St Albans City & District Council's Homelessness Partnership Board, the Homelessness Networking Forum in St Albans and a member of the STAMP (St Albans Multi-agency Protocol) panel, with trustees and volunteers attending on our behalf.

We had 2 trustee changes during the year. In April, we were delighted to appoint our new Treasurer, Melanie O'Neill to the board. In July we said goodbye to Sue Dines after several years as both a volunteer and trustee. We are very grateful to Sue for her commitment and enthusiasm and wish her all the best for the future.

We have had a good volunteer recruitment pipeline over the year and our Volunteer Co-ordinator and Anne, our volunteer who handles the application process for us, have done a wonderful job.

Traditionally, both the summer holidays and Christmas period are harder for us, as more volunteers are away at these times, so we run recruitment campaigns to attract short-term volunteers. These were particularly successful in 2014, and we're grateful to all who gave their support and delighted that a number of those volunteers have stayed on longer-term.

In December, some of our most dedicated volunteers designed and decorated a Centre 33 tree in the Christmas Tree Festival, incorporating messages from some of the Centre's visitors.

The Christmas dinner, in mid-December, was attended by 28 visitors, plus the Mayor who dropped in for a cup of tea and a few chats before heading to another engagement. Thanks go to the Women's Institute and to SAMS for knitting hats and scarves for visitors in the cold winter weather.

Throughout the year we have been fortunate to receive ongoing support from Thai Rack and the Cancer Research Shop, and from Emmaus St Albans, all of which have helped us to continue offering our services.

Mark Arbeid, Chairman.

April 2015

Significant Organisational Developments

In April 2014, we were delighted to welcome Melanie O'Neill who joined the Trustees as the new Treasurer of Centre 33.

In July 2014, we were sad that one of our Trustees, Sue Dines, resigned as a result of going back to full time work. She had made a significant difference to the running of the volunteer side of the Centre and she leaves with our very best wishes.

Charitable Objectives

The Constitution of Centre 33 says that the Object of Centre 33 shall be ...

"The relief of persons in need who are homeless or suffering from psychological or physical infirmity or who by reason of adverse circumstances, and in particular by the provision for such persons of a shelter (or a home of rest) and the comfort of friendship."

Centre 33 pursues this Object through the operation of the drop-in centre at 2a Spicer Street.

Public Benefit

The Charity Commission requires that charities report on the public benefit of their activities. We believe that the public benefit from operating the drop-in centre are largely self-evident; it helps very vulnerable people, giving them practical support and encouragement; and because it is very dependent on donations from churches, businesses and others, it demonstrates to them that many in St Albans care about their welfare.

Who we are

Centre 33 is a charity and volunteer-run drop-in centre which provides practical support for people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or otherwise socially or materially disadvantaged in the St Albans area.

We aim to help our visitors by providing a welcoming place to meet, offering hot food and drinks, toiletries and shower facilities, and by signposting other services which they may be able to access for further help. We also offer limited supplies of essential clothing items.

The Centre has over 150 volunteers and is a recipient of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to volunteer groups in the UK.

The Centre is managed by the Charity's trustees, who also operate as the executive committee.

Centre 33 is a member of St Albans City & District Council's Homelessness Partnership Board and collaborates with national and local agencies, organisations, and other charities working in partnership to improve the provision of support services in and around St Albans.

We help around 300 individuals every year.

What Centre 33 offers

- Somewhere warm and friendly to meet.
- Hot food and drinks
- Shower, with toiletries and towels provided
- Some second hand clothes
- Blankets or sleeping bags when available

In the relatively affluent area of St Albans, the number of people sleeping rough is now in single figures, but there is no decline in the numbers of those who 'sofa surf', those who are classed as 'statutorily homeless', those who are at risk of homelessness, those who have to choose between paying their rent and being able to eat, those who just need a place to go where they are welcome.

Centre 33 continues to offer vital services to these people and others. Whilst high demand, which puts pressure on our facilities and on our volunteers, is leading us to look for the opportunity to expand both our premises and the facilities we can offer, our primary focus remains delivery of the services we offer now and striving to improve these.

Support from the Community

We are exceptionally grateful to everyone who has given time donated money or clothing, or raised money for, Centre 33. We could not exist without you. Thank you. Among those providing significant support in 2014 were:

- the Community Café at St Julian's Church, Cunningham Hill Junior School, customers and staff of Marks & Spencer in St Albans, one of our volunteers (Maria) and St Albans City Youth Football Club, the Portland Arms, another of our volunteers (Sandra) who ran a half marathon, the Rock in the Wood event and everyone who took part in the Abbey Sleep Out for Centre 33
- Marlborough Road Methodist Church, Spicer Street Church and the Seventh Day Adventist Church, each of which organise teams of volunteers.
- Many local primary schools contributing harvest festival collections. The greater variety in the food for our visitors is much appreciated. More details are in the section on the Operations Group.
- Emmaus, who supply us with a meal every Wednesday evening.
- The Thai Rack and the Cancer Research Shop who help hold keys for us.
- The Centre for Voluntary Service, which provides invaluable advice and moral support and which regularly gives our details to potential volunteers.
- The local Police Community Support Officers who visit the Centre regularly to keep in touch with volunteers and visitors.
- The Mayor of St Albans.
- And, of course, all our volunteers without whose effort Centre 33 would not open.

What Centre 33 offers

- Somewhere warm and friendly to meet.
- · Hot food and drinks
- Shower, with toiletries and towels provided
- Some second hand clothes
- Blankets or sleeping bags when available

We are very grateful for these contributions, and every contribution we receive. We appreciate the confidence shown in the work of Centre 33.

Demand for Our Services

Centre 33's objective is to be there for the vulnerable people who need the Centre – providing our visitors with hot food and drinks, as well as somewhere warm and dry to meet.

Centre 33 Opening Times

Monday – Friday10.30 - 12.00Monday – Thursday20.00 - 21.30Saturday12.30 - 14.00Sunday18.30 - 20.00

Figures from 2014:

more visits than 10 years ago when, in 2004, we recorded 5,109 visits.

In 2014, we saw demand for Centre 33 stay the same as it was in 2013, with visitor numbers again averaging 15.5 per session, although we ran fewer sessions due to closures, so served slightly fewer meals overall.

8,461 Meals were provided to Centre 33 visitors in 2014

Despite visitor numbers staying at similar levels to the previous year, we continued to see higher peaks in demand for our services. More sessions than in any previous year had over 20 visitors attending.

of all sessions had in excess of 20 visitors, sometimes up to 30

These increased peaks in demand remain a challenge for us because of the physical constraints of the Centre in terms of space for visitors, size of the kitchen and the number of volunteers who can sensibly operate in the Centre during a session.

548 sessions when Centre 33 was opened to visitors in 2014

In 2014, our volunteers donated over 4,000 hours of their own time to prepare food and open Centre 33 for our visitors on almost 550 occasions, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Our Visitors

Our "visitors" are those who use the services at Centre 33. We prefer this term to "client" or "service user" since we feel it reflects our philosophy that those using our service are most welcome whatever their circumstances.



Since we do not provide accommodation or access to statutory services, we are not required to collect data on our visitors (but we do ask for their name when signing in); we don't need to know their housing status or how long they have been on the streets. That they come to Centre 33 is sufficient and they are welcome to our hospitality.

This means that we don't have hard information about the broader needs or circumstances of our visitors. But we do know the following:

- Maybe 10 or more of our visitors on any day are sleeping rough. Some are entrenched rough sleepers; solutions to their situations are difficult to find. They are excluded from hostels and/or cannot cope or do not meet the entry or staying criteria of the hostels; there simply is not the appropriate type of accommodation available for them. Most have some sort of mental health issue but are undiagnosed and are not engaged with mental health support services. Indeed access to mental health services for homeless people is a challenge although we are encouraged that the St Albans Homeless Partnership Board is trying to address this.
- Some of our visitors are new to St Albans and may spend some days sleeping rough before getting access to Open Door or finding some other form of accommodation.
- Other visitors are the "Hidden Homeless" people living in squats or dossing on friends' floors ("sofa surfers"), or who have inadequate accommodation. And some of them may spend time sleeping rough when their "safety net" no longer operates.

• For most of those using Centre 33, the Centre helps not just through food, hot drinks and showers, but also because it is part of the structure of their day. People without accessible accommodation during the day need places to meet and to get out of the cold and damp. Centre 33 fulfils that role in part.

Some of our visitors are regulars who have been using the Centre on and off over many years. But there are always new people using the Centre.

Centre 33 is part of the multi-agency agreement to help rough sleepers and others accessing homeless services. This enables us to keep in contact with Open Door, Kent House, Martin House, the SADC Community Safety Unit and others about those of our visitors who give cause for concern. The aim of the multi-agency group is to ensure that those with complicated needs get the support they need, though at times such individuals may be reluctant to engage.

From time to time, through the generosity of local people and some of the charity shops, we have blankets or sleeping bags in store at the Centre. These we try to give to those of our visitors most in need. And especially during the cold spells we try to ensure that we always have blankets available.



Day to Day running of Centre 33

Volunteers

Centre 33 has no staff and so it is only through the support and goodwill of its volunteers that the Centre is able to open nearly every day of the year.

The Volunteer side of the Centre is managed through the provision of part time services by the Volunteer Coordinator, Susan Devi. She currently manages around 150 active volunteers; which includes members of three church groups: a Methodist group covering alternate Saturdays, a Spicer Street Church group covering alternate Monday evenings and a group led by the Seventh Day Adventist Church, which covers Sunday evenings. The dedication of our volunteers is tremendous: not only do they open the Centre and provide hot meals, they also provide a relaxed and welcoming environment for the visitors and are always ready to provide help, support and a listening ear.

Volunteers are kept updated, on a weekly basis, by the Volunteer Coordinator and through volunteer newsletters. The Volunteer Coordinator also provides training programme for volunteers, such as Emergency First Aid, Food Safety and Personal Safety and Drug and Alcohol Awareness programs.

Without the volunteer team, the Centre would not be able to function so a BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteers for their continued support.

Operations

The day-to-day running of the Centre is managed by the Operations group, led by Bob Barrett, who look after the premises and make sure all necessary equipment and supplies are provided.

We rent the building at Spicer Street from St Albans Council. Their property department has been very helpful in making essential repairs, including fitting of several replacement windows and exterior painting.

Food used at the Centre comes from several sources. We have regular deliveries from local supermarkets to provide the core items. These are supplemented by generous donations from organisations and individuals. We regularly receive gifts from local schools and churches, particularly at harvest festival time. Donations of canned goods are particularly useful as they can be stored for use throughout the year.

Daily cleaning is carried out by the volunteers on duty. In addition our cleaner, Margaret, thoroughly cleans the premises once a week. A long-standing volunteer, Julie, regularly collects and washes towels from the centre.

Finance Overview

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 are attached to this report. We continue to receive a large number of donations which resulted in the year breaking even, for which we are very grateful.

The financial statements show that Centre 33 went into 2014 with a healthy level of reserves and we were pleased that we maintained a balanced budget in 2014. In 2015, the Trustees intend to commit significant expenditure to renovate our premises and accordingly we expect to make a loss during the year and so utilise some of our reserves. The Trustees remain confident that Centre 33 will remain in a healthy financial position.

Centre 33 benefits from generous support from a variety of local organisations and a large number of individuals and we are extremely grateful for all their support.

The Trustees

The President and the Trustees during 2014 are shown in the box below.

President and Trustees 2014

Life President Dr Donald Minter

Trustees:

Chairman Mark Arbeid

Vice Chairman Bob Barrett

Secretary Andrew Copley

Treasurer Melanie O'Neill (appointed 29/04/14)

Minutes Secretary Penny Williams

Other Trustees Alley Ashton

Peter Graham David Grimshaw Colin Simmons

(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, its Trustees and Advisers for the period ended 31 December 2014

Board of directors/trustees as at 31 December 2014

Mr M Arbeid
Mr A Ashton
Mr RE Barrett
Mr AP Copley
Mr P Graham
Mr DM Grimshaw
Dr M O'Neill
Mr C Simmons
Mrs PA Williams JP, DL

Company registered number

7955132

Charity registered number

1146438

Registered office

2a Spicer Street St Albans Herts AL3 4PQ

Company secretary

Mr AP Copley

Independent examiner

Mr JS Thomson 9 Upper Lattimore Road St Albans Herts AL1 3UD

Bankers

Lloyds TSB 36 Chequer Street St Albans Herts AL1 3YQ

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Report of the Directors for the period ended 31 December 2014

The Board of Directors (members of which are also Trustees for the purposes of the Charity Commission) present their annual report for the period 1st January 2014 to 31 December 2014. The Directors confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing body and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

a. Constitution

Incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 on 20 February 2012, the company (number 7955132) is a private company limited by guarantee, does not have a share capital and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company is also a charity (number1146438).

The directors, who were also trustees throughout the financial period, unless stated otherwise, were:

Mr M Arbeid (Chairman)

Mr A Ashton

Mr RE Barrett

Mr AP Copley

Ms SJ Dines (resigned 31 July 2014)

Mr P Graham

Mr DM Grimshaw

Dr M O'Neill (co-opted 11 March 2014, appointed 29 April 2014)

Mr C Simmons

Mrs PA Williams JP, DL

Mr Peter Graham, Mrs Penny Williams and Dr Melanie O'Neill were due to retire, or retire by rotation and, being willing to offer themselves for re-election, were re-elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 29 April 2014.

b. Method of appointment or election of board of directors

Potential members of the board/trustees are identified by their profession and experience and consideration is given to how these attributes may complement those of the existing trustees to provide a broad skill base to meet the challenges and responsibilities of the Company. Prospective members are invited to attend meetings so that they may gain an insight into the operation of the Company and an understanding of the responsibilities to be undertaken and the commitment required.

c. Policies adopted for the induction and training of board members

Beyond basic induction procedures no formal training is usually provided as this should not be necessary due to the background and experience of the prospective members.

d. Organisational structure and decision making

The board/trustees are responsible for the supervision of the activities of the Company. It has a minimum of five meetings annually and full minutes are circulated to all directors/trustees, all of whom are volunteers. The minutes are made available to the independent examiner.

The day-to-day management of the Centre is described in earlier sections of this report.

e. Risk management

The directors/trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and are satisfied that the systems are in place to mitigate exposure to those risks.

POLICIES AND OBJECTS

The objects of the charitable company are contained in the company's articles of association and are the relief of persons in need who are homeless or suffering from psychological or physical infirmity or who by reasons of adverse circumstances, ill health or who are suffering or have suffered a legal restriction on their liberty in any penal or corrective establishment are in need of help in acquiring a settled way of life and in particular but without limiting the generality of the foregoing by the provision for such persons of a shelter (or a home of rest) and the comfort of friendship.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the directors/trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

b. Review of activities

An overview and review of the 2014 year is contained in earlier sections of this report.

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Directors' Responsibilities Statement

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Statements (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Directors 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 of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Directors 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.

Provision of information to Independent Examiner

Each Director has confirmed that:

- So far as that Director is aware, there is no relevant financial information, of which the company's independent examiner is unaware: and
- The Directors have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Board in order to be aware of any information needed by the company's independent examiner in connection with preparing his report and to establish that the company's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, John Thompson, was re-appointed on 29th April 2014 with the approval of all directors and of all members. He has indicated his willingness to continue to examine the company's financial statements and the Directors will propose a motion to reappoint him at the next Annual General Meeting.

This report was approved by the Directors on 28 April 2015 and signed on their behalf by Mr AP Copley, Director.

(A company limited by guarantee)

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees for the Period Ended 31 December 2014

I report on the accounts of Centre 33 (St Albans) Limited (company number 7955132 and charity number 1146438) for the year ended 31 December 2014, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) nor is an independent examination required, but the trustees consider one is desirable.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirement of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Date: 28 April 2015

John Thomson Chartered Accountant 9 Upper Lattimore Road St Albans AL1 3UD

CENTRE 33 (ST ALBANS) LIMITED (A company limited by guarantee)

Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

Note	2014 £	2013 £
2	17,931	27,554
3	733	889
	18,664	28,443
4	18,432	17,658
1.4a	0	0
	18,432	17,658
	232	10,785
	47,847	37,062
	48,079	47,847
	2 3	2 17,931 3 733 18,664 4 18,432 1.4a 0 18,432 232 47,847

(A company limited by guarantee)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Note	2014 £	2013 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepaid expenses Cash at bank and in hand		141 48,138	462 49,067
	-	48,279	49,529
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year			
Accruals and deferred income		200	1,682
NET ASSETS	-	48,079	47,847
Represented by:			
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Funds brought forward		47,847	37,062
Excess income for the period		232	10,785
TOTAL FUNDS	-	48,079	47,847

Approved by the board of directors on 28 April 2015 and signed on their behalf by Mr AP Copley, Director.

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in March 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2. Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1.4. Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities.

- a) Governance costs include the specific costs directly involved with the constitutional issues of the company as opposed to generating voluntary income, fund raising or undertaking charitable work to meet its objects.

 There were no such costs in the year (2013: nil).
- b) Trustees are not remunerated but are entitled to reimbursement of reasonable costs incurred in the furtherance of their duties. No expenses were paid to trustees in the year (2013: nil).
- c) no charge was incurred for the independent examination of the accounts.

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2. VOLUNTART INCOME	2014 £	2013 £
Grants	3,665	5,495
Donations	14,266	13,347
Fund raising	0	8,712
	17,931	27,554
3. INVESTMENT INCOME	2014 £	2013 £
Bank interest	733	889
4. RESOURCES EXPENDED ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
	2014	2013
	£	£
Volunteer management and support	8,000	8,254
Food and other household costs	3,295	3,212
Repairs and maintenance	2,404	2,277
Heat, light and utilities	2,572	2,299
General administration	2,161	1,616
	18,432	17,658