



**Bavs**  
Working for Social Change



# Annual Report

2022 - 2023

**Bavs**  
**50**  
Supporting Berwickshire Communities  
1971 - 2021

## ► Chair's Report

An amazing amount of change has taken place in BAVS over this last financial year. In September we celebrated our 50th Anniversary with an awards dinner. It was a sell out event which highlighted all the excellent charity work being carried out in Berwickshire. The attendance included many local Councillors and our MSP. The evening started with an entertaining speech by Hazel Smith and the awards were hosted by Peter Lerpiniere.

All through the last financial year BAVS continued to play a big part in the setting up of the new TSI now known as Borders Community Action (BCA) which now has Juliana as CEO and Beth as Berwickshire Community Development Lead. We would like to thank Juliana and Beth for all their hard work in BAVS and wish them every success in their new roles. Colin Easton and Lindsay Wood resigned from our Board to join the new BCA Board and I would like to thank them for all their input during their time with BAVS. I am sure they will make an excellent contribution in their new roles.

Such big changes in personnel in the business and at Board level took time to adjust to. To all members of staff and our volunteers thank you most sincerely for your part in making this as seamless a transition as it possibly could be. I would like to thank Fiona, Sarah, and Jackson, in particular for taking on their new managerial tasks and making good progress in these roles in such a short time.

Concurrently, meetings have been taking place with a working group of three people from The Bridge and three people from BAVS to explore the benefits of a merger of the Community Transport organisations. Progress on this has been extremely satisfactory. The up-to-date picture is that a planned merger should happen in November. David Hunter a consultant in Community Transport will advise and help implement the necessary changes to get the new company formed. The company will be called Border Wheels. Berwickshire Wheels will become a part of Border Wheels. Border Wheels will have three directors from BAVS and three directors from the Bridge. It will also be looking to recruit additional directors.

I would like to acknowledge our amazing staff and volunteers for rising to the Challenges of the past year. A very big thank you from our Board to all our supporters and funders. I would like to add one final vote of thanks to a wonderful Board of directors for all their help and advice.

*Marshall Wilson*

# ► Supporting Communities

## ► Warm Hubs



The Berwickshire Warm Hub initiative was funded by Scottish Borders Council and The National Lottery and distributed across Berwickshire by Bavs. With the National Lottery match funding the Cost of Living Grant obtained from SBC, Bavs were able to begin distributing £43K to Warm Hubs.



**16 Warm Hubs were established across Berwickshire**



**210 sessions were delivered Nov '22 - March '23**



**4005 people attended warm spaces in Berwickshire**



**108 volunteers supported the warm spaces**



**10 paid members of staff worked across the 16 Hubs**

The Warm hubs across Berwickshire provided dignified warm welcomes to our communities experiencing huge price hikes in food and energy. The hubs also provided a place for people to socialise following the isolation of the Pandemic. A full report on Berwickshire Warm Spaces can be found on the Bavs website [www.bavs.org.uk](http://www.bavs.org.uk).

# ▶ About Berwickshire

In April 2023 the About Berwickshire Project came to a close. The project, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, was born of the pandemic with the aim of tackling social isolation following numerous lockdowns.

The About Berwickshire project was a huge success with in excess of 500 people benefitting from the project. The social return on investment was deemed to be £6.84 for every £1 that was spent and the project leaves a legacy of activities that continue to bring people together. The lessons learnt whilst delivering this project will help to shape the community projects that Bavs run in the months and years to come.

Our Social Return on Investment Reprt can be found on our website [www.bavs.org.uk](http://www.bavs.org.uk)



13 new group activities set up



3 Family Fairs



Accessible Sports event



7 A Taste for Life events



9 Digital Inclusion events



6 Winter Woollies events



Partnership Working



Community Art Project



# Berwickshire Wheels



The beginning of 2023 saw the recruitment of two new drivers... We would like to introduce Stephen Wood and Simon Smith who are our new part time paid drivers. Simon is a new addition to the team and Stephen has moved from his volunteer driver role. Both are a great asset to the team and are keen to ensure the continuity of our great service.

## Community Engagement









Free transport was provided to Reston Concert Band of 26th November for a performance for Ukrainian refugees on board MS Victoria 1 docked in Leith.

Berwickshire Wheels provided transport to Bavs volunteers and trustees to our volunteer lunch on Monday 5th June at Eyemouth Golf Club. A good time was had by all!

## Borders-wide Initiative

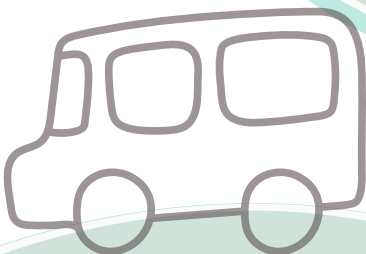
As Bavs continues to evolve we see the development of Border Wheels. This is the merger of Gala Wheels, Teviot Wheels and Tweed Wheels together with Berwickshire Wheels. This will ensure a borders wide approach to community transport.

## This years statistics:

-  Total of 53,220 miles
-  including 9,001 electric miles
-  2,912 volunteer hours
-  CO2 reduction of 1,799.9kg
-  5,051 trips
-  48 Wheelchair users
-  86 new clients
-  299 group bookings

I book your transport on behalf of Berwick Stroke Club and find your drivers superb with our members who have a wide spectrum of disabilities.

I feel I am with a friend. When I had to regularly attend eye centre at BGH. A wheelchair was got for me and I was taken to the department. I was given a walkie - talkie to ring the driver when I was ready to leave. He shopped for me at the hospital shop so I could have lunch. It made the whole experience really enjoyable.

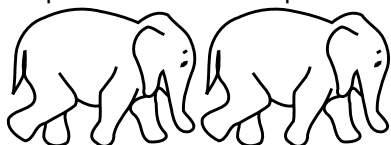


# Shops

The shops have had a fantastic year with sales being up on last year. Coldstreams takings are up 30% from April '23 to date. Wendy and her fantastic team of volunteers, making the most of the increased footfall from the long awaited caravan park.

## This year...

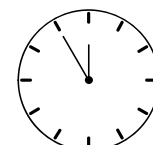
50,000kg of donations  
equivalent to 2 elephants



70,000 items priced and sold



8000 hours of volunteer hours  
worked



## Community Engagement



£1000 vouchers to Splash's Christmas Hampers



530 pieces of uniform handed out across Berwickshire



286 childrens books given to children



Toys and equipment donated to local schools



Partnering with FoDPS to collect and distribute free Halloween costumes

Coldstream and Duns have organised events outwith normal trading. These events increase community awareness and attract new customers and volunteers into branch. In addition, the shops have acted as a focal point for several initiatives.

- Coldstream's annual coffee morning raised £313 and
- Duns Late night shopping event just topping £300.
- Duns have acted as a drop off point for wool and knitted poppies for Duns Blooming Marvelous
- All shops have been a drop off point for entries and voting for the flag for Berwickshire Competition

A major focus this year has been in attracting and working with younger volunteers. Both Eyemouth and Duns have provided placements to Borders College students on the Skills for Learning and work programme. Both Eyemouth and Duns have provided several work experience and volunteering opportunities to both BHS and EHS. Duns has regular visits from Duns community Nursery and the Enhanced Provision students. The shops continue to work with the LAC team to provide volunteering opportunities.

The shops have embarked on the Zero Waste Revolve accreditation programme to ensure we continue to raise standards, meet legal obligations, follow best practice, and encourage reuse as a first choice. We have also rejoined the Charity Retail Association to keep up to date with industry practices and get support with introducing new revenue streams, like Gift Aid.



Charity  
Retail  
Association®

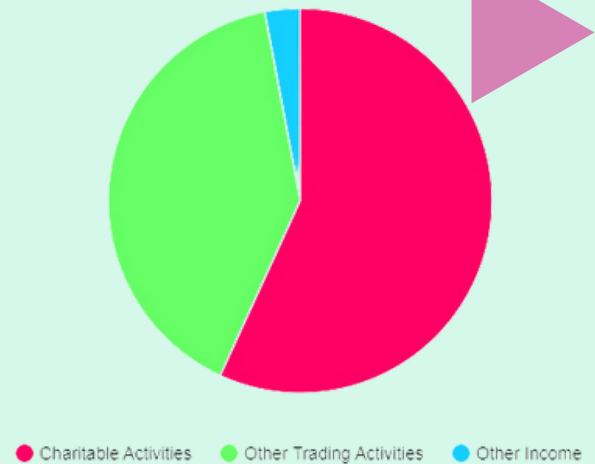
## ▶ Finances

Charitable funds have decreased in the 22/23 year to £308,224 (from £315,144 on 31/03/22). The decrease was in restricted funds and was due to a completion of projects during the year and a reduced uptake of new projects as we approached handing over TSI responsibilities.

The current charitable funds include £144,963 restricted (31/3/22 £178,632) and £ 163,261 unrestricted (31/3/22 £136,512) comprising both cash and fixed assets. The unrestricted fund includes the Adapt and Thrive Fund which has been designated for service adaptation and improvement following the TSI restructuring. The increase in unrestricted funds is attributable to improved shop profitability, and better control of Core and Community Transport costs.

The unrestricted reserves at 31/3/23 were £113,915 (31/3/22, £82,674) including £32,172 in the unrestricted Adapt and Thrive Fund which has been designated for service adaptation and improvement following the TSI restructuring. The available reserves of £76,753 constitutes approximately 4.6 months of core overheads for the organisation, in line with our target reserve level of 3 - 6 months.

Total Income



Total Expenditure



# THANK YOU!

to our Funders

Bank Of Scotland Reach, The National Lottery Awards for All, Financial Inclusion Fund 2, Scottish Borders Council Community Fund, Blackhill Community Fund, Community Based Adult Learner Recovery Fund (CBAL), Robertsons Trust - Community Vehicle Grant, COMOUK, Scottish Borders Council Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Data Lab - Employer Fund, Scotland Loves Local - Ebikes, and SSE Renewables.



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