

THE AUTUMN CENTRE

Charity Number: 1066579

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2025**

THE AUTUMN CENTRE

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THE AUTUMN CENTRE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees

G Scott,
W Bates
M Silk
S Huggins
M Bath
S Wright
C Wagland
P Wordingham
B Palaver

Contact Address & c/o

1 Osbournes Court
Victoria Place
Brightlingsea
Essex
CO7 0EB

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales

Charity Registration Number

1066579

Independent Examiner

Community360
Winsley's House
High Street
Colchester
Essex, CO1 1UG

THE AUTUMN CENTRE

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Chairs report

We can look back on 2024-25 as a good year for The Autumn Centre. We consolidated our financial base, collected significant funds towards the replacement of our older mini bus and were able to maintain our lunch club prices at current levels for another year.

There was one change in the Trustees during the year as Malcolm Bath replaced Janet Bath who resigned during the 12 months.

Attendances at the lunch clubs increased again and although food and energy prices continued to rise faster than expected we were able to continue to provide a two course, hot meal and a hot drink at a price of just £7.00. In addition, we were able to keep our transport charges down to £4.00 for a further period. A subsidy of about £10,700 was needed to cover the shortfall between lunch club income and expenditure.

The shop saw income at almost £11,000 against costs of £7,500. This surplus of £3,500, of course, supported the lunch clubs. We aim to open the shop six days a week from 9.00am to 3.00pm but we are dependent on volunteers in this regard and it is not always possible to achieve these hours. The volunteers, more often than not including trustees, do a sterling job and the surplus funds achieved this year is down to their efforts.

On the fundraising front we saw income of more than £9,000, mainly through the raffles at the lunch clubs which raised over £5,000 before costs. In addition, our collection tins raised almost £1,400 with the Tesco store and petrol station at The Hythe providing over £570 of this and The One Stop in Wivenhoe a further £186. Again, we are extremely grateful for their efforts and those of other outlets who contributed.

Our Bingo evenings are proving popular, raising £850 from just two events during the year and we aim to hold these quarterly in 2025-26 instead of half yearly. The sale of books, DVDs and CDs outside the shop on two Saturdays each month (weather permitting) and Christmas sales through November and December raised £1,500 and other books DVDs and CDs sent to World of Books (Ziffit) and Music Magpie raised a further £380. The collection and sale of donated foreign currency added £223.

We received a legacy of £1,000 during the year and were also very grateful to receive a number of donations, in particular £455 from Town and Country, £200 from Community Voluntary Services Tending (CYST), £250 from Mr M Channing and £250 from The Wenlock Trust.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I noted in my report last year that we would have to investigate additional sources of grant finance in 2024-25 and we did that successfully. Grants were received from local (Essex) providers including Essex Community Foundation £6,000, Grassroots £1,000 and The Tudwick Foundation £3,000. We also, of course, received our customary grants from Alresford Parish Council £2,000 and £2,215 from Brightlingsea Town Council. From further afield we were given £2,500 by The East of England Co-op and £750 from The Woodroffe Benton Foundation. Finally, and back closer to home, Brightlingsea Winterfest, a small local provider was kind enough to provide us with 10 strong plastic storage crates at a cost of £300. We are very grateful to all of these charitable sources for their help. As a small charity we could not survive without this source of funding.

Turning now to expenditure, we are pleased to report that our rent again remained at £6,000 per annum, paid quarterly. *This* has not increased for many years and we are grateful for the continued support of our landlords, The GK Parker Pension Fund. Our food costs rose by almost £2,000 although this was partly because of the additional meals we provided.

Overall, we achieved a surplus of income over expenditure of about £11,400, mainly through the additional grants obtained. Income stood at £80,759 and expenditure £69,349 for the year.

We have, therefore, gathered a solid financial base towards the replacement of our older mini bus which is almost 15 years of age and, under current legislation, has now to be replaced. These funds, together with our £7,000 reserve, have been put into a new account with the Saffron Building Society where it gathers a better rate of interest than with Barclays Bank.

As always, we are in great need of volunteers to help in the lunch clubs and, in particular, the shop. As mentioned above we have had to close the shop on a few occasions in the absence of a volunteer to run it for the charity. This is very much the exception rather than the rule but one day is one day too many.

Looking forward, in 2025-26 we will have to replace the older of our mini buses; as required by current legislation, and also start to give some thought to raising funds to replace the other bus within a further year or two. This will throw up further challenges; particularly with regard to fundraising but we are confident that we will continue to move forward as we have this year.

In conclusion, therefore, 2024-25 has been a very successful year and we must continue to build on that in the future to ensure that we can continue to provide the best service to our members.


G Scott - Chairman

10th January 2026

THE AUTUMN CENTRE

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Our purpose and activities

Our purpose remains that of running two lunch clubs in Brightlingsea and Alresford for the benefit of the local communities in those towns and surrounding areas. The intention is to provide the opportunity for local elderly or infirm residents to meet and socialise with their peers in order to combat social isolation among the elderly and those with limited mobility. We continued to provide transport in our two mini buses for those members who could not otherwise attend the lunches.

Our fund raising efforts included Bingo evenings at Alresford village hall and these were so popular that we hope to *hold* them a quarter from mid-2025. Sales of donated books, DVDs and CDs produced welcome and much needed funds to the charity and we were also glad to receive foreign currency which was sold on to obtain further income. We hold a weekly raffle at both lunches at a cost of £1 a ticket and this is very popular. Finally, we raised just under £1,400 from our collection tins in local shops and other retail outlets. Total fundraising income increased to a total of £9,029 for the year, an increase of £1,600 on last year.

Our shop in Victoria Place, Brightlingsea sells disability aids and equipment at low cost, providing essential and affordable support, and the surplus income raised helped us to subsidise the lunch clubs.

As a result of the shop income, our fundraising and grants from several sources, as outlined in the Chairman's report, we were able to maintain our lunch charges at £7 for this year and the cost of transport at £4 for a round trip.

Achievements and performance

The lunch clubs continued to be well attended and we provided approximately 3,800 meals to our clients over the year. In addition, we provided transport to assist with about 1200 attendances at the lunches. Both figures were a significant increase on 2023-24.

We were able to reverse the decline in shop sales shown in the previous year with sales this year showing an increase of about £700. This gave us a surplus of just under £5,000 to support the lunch clubs.

Financial review

As at 1 April 2024 our total funds were:

- Cash £1,116.84
- No 1 account £1,273.39
- Transport account £1,538.86
- Reserve account £18,887.55
- Spare account £5.00

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

As at 31 March 2025 our total funds were:

- Cash £541.27
- No 1 account £1,662.44
- Transport account £801.41
- Reserve account £9,489.72
- Spare account £4.00
- Saffron Building Society account £23,050.00
- **Total £35,548.84**

Reserve policy and going concern

Our policy with regard to Reserves remains unchanged for this year at a figure of £7,000 although we will review this in 2025-26 with a view to increasing the sum held.

The charity is in a sound financial position and can continue as a going concern to aid our members.

Future plans

To continue to run the lunch clubs in Brightlingsea and Alresford and to endeavour to keep the cost at £7 for a meal and £4 for transport for as long as possible.

To increase our shop sales to assist in subsidising the lunch clubs and to make every effort to further increase the amount from fundraising.

To continue our efforts to raise further grant income which will be needed in the foreseeable future to replace the second mini bus.

Risk management

Our mini bus drivers are fully trained in the use of tail lifts and side doors and in helping the escorts handing clients on and off the mini buses. Escorts are fully trained in the care of clients and in helping them safety on and off the buses and into and out of wheelchairs.

A fully qualified carer is responsible for the care of our clients, helping clients in and out of outdoor clothing, seating at the meal tables, toileting and cutting of food. The carer is also qualified in First Aid.

THE AUTUMN CENTRE

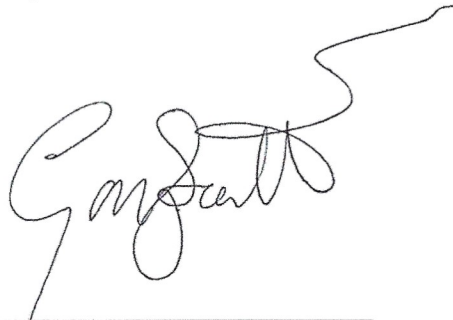
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Our cooks are fully qualified in all aspects of catering, including health and hygiene and the management of the kitchen volunteers.

In the charity shop and office the Administrator and trustees ensure that there is safe entry and adequate space for the manoeuvrability of the staff.

We are fully insured for trustee, employee and public liability.

By order of the board of trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Scott', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

G Scott - Chair

10th January 2026

THE AUTUMN CENTRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I report on the accounts of The Autumn Centre for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

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 Act)) but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 accounts presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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 the 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 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.

David Courtier FMAAT AATQB for and on behalf of:

Community360

Winsley's House, High Street, Colchester, Essex



Date 21.01.2026

THE AUTUMN CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Prior period Total Funds 2024 £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Donations and legacies	2	10,445	-	10,445	3,736
Charitable activities	3	60,985	8,500	69,485	54,779
Fundraising income	4	9,029	-	9,029	7,402
Investment income	5	299	-	299	202
Total incoming resources		80,759	8,500	89,259	66,119
Resources expended					
Costs of charitable activities	6	69,349	2,500	71,849	73,532
Total resources expended		69,349	2,500	71,849	73,532
Net income/(expense) for the year		11,410	6,000	17,410	(7,413)
Total Funds B/Fwd		37,577	-	37,577	44,990
Total Funds C/Fwd		48,987	6,000	54,987	37,577

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

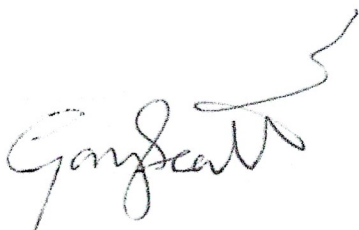
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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	6,285	8,381
Current assets			
Debtors	11	365	60
Cash at bank and in hand		35,347	22,822
Stock		14,830	6,655
		<u>50,542</u>	<u>29,537</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>1,840</u>	<u>340</u>
Net current assets		48,702	29,197
Net total assets		<u><u>54,987</u></u>	<u><u>37,577</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Represented by:			
Unrestricted funds		48,987	37,577
Restricted funds		6,000	-
Total funds	13	<u><u>54,987</u></u>	<u><u>37,577</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 7 to 13 were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

G Scott, Chair



Date: 19th January 2026

THE AUTUMN CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Outgoing resources

Expenditure is included in the accounts on an accruals basis, irrecoverable VAT is included as incurred.

1.3 Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

1.4 Cash flow

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because the charity, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 1 "Cash flow statements".

1.5 Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably. Investment income is recorded when receivable.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £100 are capitalised. Depreciation is charged on a reducing balance basis at 20% per annum for equipment and 25% per annum for vehicles.

1.7 Taxation

Family Support Brightlingsea TA The Autumn Centre is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

1.8 Fund accounting

Unrestricted Funds are funds received which have no restrictions placed on their use and are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used for purposes as specified by the funder.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Donations receivable	2,270	-	2,270	3,736
Donated goods (stock value)	8,175	-	8,175	-
	<u>10,445</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,445</u>	<u>3,736</u>

3. Income from charitable activities

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Grants receivable	14,295	8,500	22,795	10,715
Luncheon clubs & tea	35,581	-	35,581	28,198
Transport	150	-	150	4,342
Sales	10,959	-	10,959	11,524
Other income	-	-	-	-
	<u>60,985</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u>69,485</u>	<u>54,779</u>

4. Fundraising income

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising	9,029	-	9,029	7,402

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable	299	-	299	202

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Luncheon club & teas	21,980	-	21,980	18,416
Cooks and carers	24,300	-	24,300	24,443
Transport	3,240	2,500	5,740	8,049
Fundraising costs	772	-	772	1,294
Shop purchases	1,977	-	1,977	2,604
Support costs (note 7)	17,080	-	17,080	18,725
	<u>69,349</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>71,849</u>	<u>73,532</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. Support Costs	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Other wages	-	-	-	-
Premises expenses	7,250	-	7,250	8,137
Insurance	1,399	-	1,399	1,345
Office costs	3,567	-	3,567	2,807
Professional fees	686	-	686	1,764
Donations	200	-	200	100
Repairs	65	-	65	1,478
Trustee expenses	1,820	-	1,820	300
Fines	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	2,095	-	2,095	2,794
	17,080	-	17,080	18,724

8. Staff Costs

The number of staff employed by the organisation is as follows:

	Total 2025 No.	Total 2024 No.
Members of staff employed	4	4

9. Key management personnel

There were Nil members of paid staff classed as key management personnel. Trustees acted as key management personnel but received no remuneration for their work.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Vehicles £	Office Equipment £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1 April 2024	58,588	2,082	507	61,177
Additions	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	58,588	2,082	507	61,177
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2024	50,208	2,082	507	52,797
Depreciation charge for year	2,095	-	-	2,095
As at 31 March 2025	52,303	2,082	507	54,892
Net Book Value				
As at 31 March 2025	6,285	-	-	6,285
As at 31 March 2024	8,380	-	-	8,380

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Prepayments	-	-
Debtors	365	60
	<u>365</u>	<u>60</u>

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Accruals	1,840	340
	<u>1,840</u>	<u>340</u>

13. Analysis of funds

	Balance as at 01/04/24 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Balance as at 31/03/25 £
Unrestricted funds	37,577	80,759	(69,349)	-	48,987
Restricted funds					
Co-op	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
Essex Community Foundation	-	6,000	-	-	6,000
Total	-	8,500	(2,500)	-	6,000
Total	<u>37,577</u>	<u>89,259</u>	<u>(71,849)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,987</u>