

## **Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise (COPE)**

### **Annual Report 2024-2025**

COPE faced two main difficulties in this financial year. First, the lack of funding, apart from £2,000 from South Cambs and £3,500 from Cambridge City. However, donations from members and adverts in the Newsletter helped prevent the need to use any reserves. The second difficulty was in finding volunteers and above all trustees. We are gradually being able to find volunteers to help man the office with advertisements and help from CCVS.

#### **Newsletter**

COPE produced its 20 page bi monthly Newsletter to ensure its members were fully informed as to activities and help available. Plus articles on health nutrition and general fitness. In addition, quizzes to help keep mentally agile were provided and other articles to stimulate readers. The Newsletters were sent by post or email to all members as well as to Council Offices, Libraries, GP Clinics, Care Homes, Community Centres etc.

#### **Social Events**

Monthly social events were held at Queen Edith's Chapel, St Ives Corn Exchange and in March at St Peter's Church Hall. The March meetings started in November 2024 and now include Chatteris Community Centre. Attendances were back to pre Covid levels with Queen Edith's having an average of 20 attending (8 from South Cambs) and St Ives averaging 35 members. At all venues talks on a range of subjects were given with light refreshments.

Christmas Lunches were held at Cambridge Regional College Restaurant and St Ives Corn Exchange. The Cambridge Lunch hosted 103 members of which many members came from St Ives and The St Ives Lunch hosted 52 members.

#### **Outings**

These were to Houghton Hall (May). Bletchley Park (June) , Springfields Retail Outlet & Leisure Centre, Spalding (September) Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market (November). Transport was provided from St Luke's Car Park and Milton Park & Ride. St Ives had outings to Southwold and Brick Lane Music Hall (London).

#### **Projects**

During the year COPE continued to fight against Loneliness which is still a large problem among older people. Recent surveys have shown that up to 40% of older people are often lonely, while 20% are frequently lonely. Phone calls are made to those who we know are lonely, and they are encouraged to join social groups. Several modern day factors are leading to loneliness, the biggest being digitalisation and the failure of authorities to provide face to face meetings for those needing help. A large number of older people do not have or find difficulty in using smartphones. COPE therefore encourages the use of land lines which most have. The lack of cash and closure of many banks and post offices also makes it difficult for many people. We are continually contacting MP's Councillors and Companies emphasising the need to retain cash and ATM's especially in rural areas.

#### **Talking Together**

Telephone discussion groups have been a great success, especially among disabled and isolated people. There were four sessions during the year, each session having 4 to 6 subjects with up to 8 people discussing topics ranging from gardening, sport, art, literature, health and local history. There were also 3 Zoom sessions on cooking , poetry and art.

#### **Administration**

COPE's Office is in St Luke's Church Centre and manned by volunteers every weekday from 9.30 am to 12.30pm. An answering service ensures we can receive messages out of hours. A database of members is continually updated to ensure all receive the Newsletters. The Website

([www.copecambs.org.uk](http://www.copecambs.org.uk).) is updated monthly. Executive Meetings are held quarterly and Editorial and Research Meetings every month.

## **Membership**

As expected we have a continual loss of members but fortunately are recruiting more members than we are losing. The members list at the end of March 2025 is:

Out of Area	14
South Cambs	907
East Cambs	212
Huntindon	365
Fenland	84
Cambridge City	1355
Total	2937

Overall there was an increase of 61 members during the financial year, the largest increase of members was in Fenland where numbers increased by 30% due to establishing the March Friendship Club.

Thanks are due to our Trustees and volunteers for their help and support during the year enabling COPE to continue to ensure the needs and support for Older People in Cambridgeshire are maintained. It is therefore with sadness, that we learned of the death of Alice Zeitner, MBE, who since its inception was a member. As a committee member and trustee she helped steer COPE to be a force for the interests of older people in Cambridgeshire. She is sadly missed.

David Bailey,  
Chairman COPE,  
28 May 2025

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds / South Cambs DC 30%	Restricted Funds / Cambs County Council 54%	Restricted Funds / Cambridge City Council 46%	Restricted Funds / TALKING TOGETHER Project	Unrestricted Funds / TALKING TOGETHER Project	Restricted Funds / St Ives	Unrestricted Funds / St Ives
								Total
Receipts								
Grants - Cambridge City Council - Community				3,500.05				3,500.05
Grants - Cambridge City Council – Community (QE)				700.00				700.00
Grants - Cambridge City Council - South Area Committee								0.00
Grants - Cambridgeshire County Council								0.00
Grants - South Cambs District Council		2,000.00						2,000.00
Grants - Cambridge City Council – Talking Together								0.00
Grants – Pye Foundation – Talking Together								0.00
Grants – Leys School – Talking Together								0.00
Grants – Allen Foundation – Talking Together					3,000.00			3,000.00
Grants – Cambs CC Community Fund – Talking Together					8,500.00			8,500.00
Grants - Evelyn Trust								0.00
Donations - Members	4,073.00						7.72	4,080.72
Fundraising Income								0.00
Activity – Raffle	58.15						276.50	334.65
Activity – Sale of Refreshments at AGM/Events								0.00
Activity - Lunch Income	4,655.00							4,655.00
Activity – QE	377.00							377.00
Activity – Victoria								0.00
Activity – St Ives – Admission & Outing Fees							3,823.00	3,823.00
Activity – St Ives – Christmas lunch							1,680.00	1,680.00
Newsletter Advertising Income	2,070.00							2,070.00
Weather Lottery Income								0.00
Bank Interest	590.58							590.58
HMRC – Gift Aid								0.00
Other Income - Misc								0.00
Total Receipts	11,823.73	2,000.00	0.00	4,200.05	11,500.00	0.00	0.00	5,787.22
								35,311.00

Payments								
Activity - Hall Hire - Queen Edith Group	542.00							542.00
Activity - Speaker Fees - Queen Edith Group	76.35							76.35
Activity - Other Costs - Queen Edith Group	160.54							160.54
Activity – Room Hire – March	66.00							66.00
Activity – St Ives Meetings – Hall hire & Speakers							887.40	887.40
Activity – St Ives Outings – Coach & Entrance fees							2,338.00	2,338.00
Activity – St Ives – Christmas lunch							1,287.73	1,287.73
Activity – St Ives – Raffle Prizes							85.06	85.06
Activity - Newsletter Printing	6,542.17	2,000.00		4,200.05			202.02	12,944.24
Activity – Talking – Administrator					1,692.00			1,692.00
Activity – Talking – Phones/Zoom					2,548.81			2,548.81
Activity – Talking – Events								0.00
Activity - Lunch Costs/Xmas Lunch Deposit								0.00
Activity – Events	3,872.50							3,872.50
Activity - AGM Costs	69.04							69.04
Advertising / Consultants Costs					550.00			550.00
Rent - St Luke's Community Centre	9,452.00							9,452.00
Insurance	238.00							238.00
Bank Charges								0.00
Postage								0.00
Admin & Stationery	354.43				494.11			848.54
Admin Equipment – Computer	169.95							169.95
Telephone	804.16							804.16
Office Refreshments								0.00
Website Costs								0.00
								0.00
Total Costs	22,347.14	2,000.00	0.00	4,200.05	5,284.92	0.00	887.40	3,912.81
								38,632.32
Net Income / (Expenditure)	-10,523.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,215.08	0.00	-887.40	1,874.41
								-3,321.32
Transfers between funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Opening Balance brought forward at	01-Apr-24	32,707.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,806.64	2,581.66	1,060.10	1,530.99	47,686.84
Closing balance carried forward at	31-Mar-25	22,184.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,021.72	2,581.66	172.70	3,405.40	44,365.52

RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

Year Ending 31 March 2025 Accounts					
Fund Name	Fund Balances b/fwd at 01 April 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Fund Balances c/fwd at 31 March 2025 £
Cambridge City Council - Community	-	4,200.05	4,200.05	-	-
Cambridge City Council - South AC	-	-	-	-	-
Cambridgeshire County Council	-	-	-	-	-
South Cambs District Council	-	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-
Evelyn Trust	2,405.80	-	-	-	2,405.80
Cambridge City Council – Talking Together	940.00	8,500.00	2,074.08	-	7,365.92
Pye Foundation – Talking Together	770.84	-	770.84	-	-
Leys School – Talking Together	570.00	-	570.00	-	-
Childwick Trust – Talking Together	1,870.00	-	1,870.00	-	-
Cambs CC Community Fund – Talking Together	3,250.00	-	-	-	3,250.00
Allen Foundation – Talking Together	-	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00
Huntingdon District Council	693.40	-	520.70	-	172.70
St Ives Parish Council	366.70	-	366.70	-	-
Total Funds	10,866.74	17,700.05	12,372.37	-	16,194.42

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at: 31 March 2025

Bank – Lloyds (28621960)	455.08
Bank – Lloyds (32561368) TT	18,603.38
Bank – Lloyds (45107268) St Ives	3,578.10
Building Society - Cambridge	21,701.40
Petty Cash	27.56
	44,365.52



# 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**

Charity Name

Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1110887

**Set out on pages**

1

1(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

**Date:**

07/07/2025

**Name:**

Christopher Hugh Barton

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

N/A

**Address:**

1a Richmond Road


Cambridge

CB4 3PP

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

None

Set out on pages		1	
On accounts for the year ended	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	Charity no (if any)	1110887
Report to the trustees/ members of	Cambridge Old People's Enterprise		
<p>Responsibilities and basis of report of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(2)(b) of the Act.</p> <p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the accounts do not accord with the accounting records</li> <li>accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or</li> </ul> <p>I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p> <p>Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</p>			
Independent examiner's statement			
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	N/A		
Name:	Christopher Hugh Baron		
Signed:			
Date:	07/07/2025		
Address:	15 Richmond Road Cambridge CB4 3PP		