

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

England & Wales · Charity number 1147272

Details

Other names RVT

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [07818979](#)

Registered 2012-05-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Bepton Rd
Midhurst
West Sussex
GU29 9HD

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Activities

Objects: TO FURTHER SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:1.THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH,AGE,INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT,FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS.SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY WITH THE AIM OF PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.2.PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED,RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE 'SOCIALLY EXCLUDED' MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY,OR PARTS OF SOCIETY,AS A RESULT OF ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:UNEMPLOYMENT;FINANCIAL HARDSHIP;YOUTH OR OLD AGE;ILL HEALTH(PHYSICAL OR MENTAL)SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCY INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS;DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEX,RACE,DISABILITY,ETHNIC ORIGIN,RELIGION,BELIEF,CREED,SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER RE-ASSIGNMENT;POOR EDUCATIONAL OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT;RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN;POOR HOUSING(THAT IS HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET BASIC HABITABLE STANDARDS;CRIME(EITHER AS A VICTIM OF CRIME OR AS AN OFFENDER REHABILITATING INTO SOCIETY)" 3.THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY FOR EXAMPLE: (A)THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE,GENDER,DISABILITY,SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR RELIGION;(B)ADVANCING EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS IN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY;(C)PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS;(D)CONDUCTING OR COMMISSIONING RESEARCH ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES AND PUBLISHING THE RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC;(E)CULTIVATING A SENTIMENT IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITYWITH THE AIM OF PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT."BY COMMUNITY COHESION WE MEAN WORKING TOWARDS A SOCIETY IN WHICH:1.THERE IS A COMMON VISION AND SENSE OF BELONGING BY ALL COMMUNITIES 2.THE DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE'S BACKGROUNDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES IS APPRECIATED AND VALUED 3.SIMILAR LIFE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL,AND 4.STRONG AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS EXIST AND CONTINUE TO BE DEVELOPED IN THE WORKPLACE,IN SCHOOLS AND IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY."

Activities: We are a day care charity supporting older people experiencing the effects of social isolation and loneliness. We offer lively and fun activities,and provide a cooked lunch. Transport is available. We promote members' health, wellbeing, and independence. Working with other community organisations we promote members' improved access to a wider range of other local community activities and services

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£55,215	£65,329	-	-
2024-03-31	£60,725	£85,742	-	-
2023-03-31	£43,538	£77,882	-	-
2022-03-31	£69,609	£68,506	-	-
2021-03-31	£54,726	£51,913	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CHRIS BOXLEY		2011-12-08
MARGARET RHONA GUEST		2011-12-08
Michael David Giles		2025-10-16
Rodney John Maguire		2021-10-19

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1147272

Accounts

**ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07818979
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1147272**

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEX TO THE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Page	
1 - 8	Report of the Trustees
9	Independent Examiner's Report
10	Statement of Financial Activities
11	Balance Sheet
12 - 17	Notes to the Financial Statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees presents their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 issued on 16 July 2014 (FRS 102).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name:	Rother Valley Together
Charity registration number:	1147272
Company registration number:	07818979
Registered Office and operational address:	The Grange Centre, Bepton Road, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9HD
Directors and Trustees:	Mrs M Guest Rev C Boxley Mr R Maguire
Independent Examiner:	Mr A Mardle FCA

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Rother Valley Together was incorporated on 21 October 2011 as a company limited by guarantee and without a share capital. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established its objects and powers, and is governed by its Articles of Association.

The Company was registered as a charity on 16 May 2012.

In the event of the Company being wound up each member may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before he or she ceased to be a member.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Trustees and Organisational Structure

The Directors of the Company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The names of possible new Trustees, when needed, are brought forward by existing Trustees, who provide good reason and evidence for their suitability. Candidates may then be invited to attend a meeting as a guest before formal election.

All Trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid to them during the year. No Trustee, or person connected with a Trustee, received any benefit from the Company.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified and conducted a review of the major risks to which the Company is exposed, and systems and procedures have been established to manage and mitigate those risks. It is recognised that these systems and procedures can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks are being adequately managed.

The Trustees consider that any continuing rise in the Cost-of-Living, which would impact on the rising cost of lunches, transport, and hire of premises; and the on-going impact of Covid on adequate staffing of the services, constitute the major risks.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trustees are mindful of, and have given careful consideration to, the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The aims and objectives of the Company are:

- to work within the Rother Valley and surrounding area
- to work with partners to create integrated and community led and designed services
- to engage and consult with, and represent, the community (both individuals and groups) to ensure relevant and creative solutions to identified needs
- to support and empower individuals to participate in their local community to mutual benefit and to access services

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR

The Company began providing community clubs for older people in the Rother Valley/Midhurst area in November 2011. These clubs are based at the Grange Community and Leisure Centre, Midhurst. The lunch and activities clubs have continued to meet the Charity's objects and the needs of club members throughout 2024/25.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Club Activities:

During 2024/25 the clubs have been fully operational except for two weeks in December over Christmas when they were closed for an extended holiday period with the agreement of members and staff. Trustees agreed that this period of closure was likely to be appropriate going forward but would be reviewed annually. For the rest of the year the clubs offered their usual wide range of activities, with refreshments, and a two-course cooked lunch on a weekly basis. In April 2024 Trustees reluctantly took the decision to reduce the opening days to 2 days from 3 days per week. This was due to only a small number of members opting to attend on Fridays and the increasing costs of the hiring of premises and catering-both essential components to the effective delivery of the services and the wellbeing of members. A full programme of activities, as proposed by members and staff, however, continued. These included: chair yoga, gentle strolls round the neighbouring South Pond Walk, a reading and discussion group, arts, and crafts, talks and demonstrations by outside speakers, musical bingo, dominos, quizzes, memory games, singing for fun, and a variety of card and board games. Occasional outings to local private gardens, under the National Open Gardens Scheme, local Schools' Concerts and Plays and to various outdoor exhibitions were also on offer during the summer months.

Special Events: The clubs held their customary Harvest and Christmas celebratory lunches with family, friends, and community partners. There were visits; by the local Fire Service to demonstrate Fire Safety in the Home; an Easter Wreath-Making workshop and special lunch; a visit by Canine Partners, with a "companion dog", to talk about their work with adults with disabilities; there was a lively Summer Vintage Cabaret Show, sponsored by the local Lions as part of the town's musical, arts and drama festival (MADhurst); a talk, and photo show by a local author on her book "Coat on Coat off, Wet Feet, Walking the South Downs Way"; a Christmas Party with entertainment by the local Primary School children with Headteacher on keyboard with Christmas songs and time to chat with club members, bringing the generations together. The club also participated in the local Parish Church "Christmas Tree Festival" with a tree designed by a staff member's husband and decorated by volunteers and members. Members were invited and attended the local Academy School's pantomime dress rehearsal; in the Spring a member of the local Council's Health and Wellbeing Team gave a cautionary and lively talk on "scam awareness"- much appreciated by members.

Transport: The club's minibus, which is a key part of our service, being based in a rural area with few transport links, continues to be available to members to access the club when required. Our minibus offers 10 seats plus space for one wheelchair. Members regularly use our transport either owing to their limited mobility or to the lack of public or alternative community transport. Following the Covid epidemic there has been an increasing number of new members joining later in life, with an average age of 84 years, and with more debilitating health conditions and mobility challenges. This has put additional pressure on our transport capacity. To meet this challenge, we continue to work closely with other local community transport providers to improve together our individual services and better serve our growing older and frequently isolated population. As a result of this partnership working, volunteer drivers from the local Yellow Community Bus and Tandem Medical and Social Transport now also volunteer with RVT to bring our members to our clubs in our minibus. We continue to work with these partners to further improve and integrate our local community transport arrangements for the benefit of our community. Our minibus is also available to assist our members to participate, whenever possible, in community events e.g. the MADhurst summer events. Our Volunteers can also assist with transport to the clubs using their own cars when required, and some members are brought to the club by their partners or carers in private vehicles.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Involvement in local community: We invite other community clubs' members and volunteers to our Special Events whenever accommodation allows. We also encourage and assist our members to participate in local community events as appropriate. (see above)-

A team of staff and volunteers from the clubs participated in a Rotary Community Quiz Night which raised funds for a variety of local charities. We have provided speakers and presentations to the local Rotary and Inner Circle groups, Parish Councils and local Charitable organisations, to promote our service and to raise much needed funds.

RVT is a key member of the local Community Transport Group which aims to offer a more integrated and responsive community transport service.

We also work closely with the Midhurst Community Hub- an information and advice service, the local Medical Centre through the Social Prescriber, and the Library Services.

We share some of our accommodation with MIND'S Dementia Hub one day per week and offer lunch to their members.

We have supportive links both with the local social housing provider and with the private sector's groups of retirement flats, enabling their more vulnerable and isolated residents to attend the clubs.

There are strong links with Town and Parish Councils who support our clubs through promotional posts on their social media and websites and with small grants.

The local schools, both at primary and secondary level, state and private, are involved in our clubs, offering entertainment, invites to their plays and concerts and young volunteers to assist at some of our events.

In addition to the financial support from some of our local parish councils, we have received generous community support from local charities such as The Friends of Riverbank Campus (formerly Friends of the Midhurst Community Hospital) who provided a generous grant of £15k, recognizing the contribution our clubs make to the health and wellbeing of local older people. The Sussex Community Foundation Trust provided a grant of £5k acknowledging the support we give to older vulnerable people living with loneliness and in social isolation in our rural community. All these donations assisted with RVT's day-to-day operational costs. Many more local community voluntary groups and businesses have supported our clubs in a variety of ways with their time and sharing of resources, expertise, skills, donations and sponsorships. Together they have ensured our sustainability. (Yellow Bus, Tandem, local faith groups, local Rotary and Inner Wheel, MADhurst, Lions, local businesses, MIND, and Sage House, Dementia Support).

Local individuals and members' families have been generous too in making financial donations in recognition of the value to them of our services. We are very appreciative of all their support and that of our local community generally and of their acknowledgement of the value of the services and support we provide our community.

Staff and Volunteers

We have 3 part-time staff: a manager, a senior support worker, who deputises for the manager in their absence, and an activities coordinator. They work extremely hard and are totally committed to maintaining a friendly, caring, lively and inclusive service and support for our members. This is despite the additional pressures placed on them due to the deteriorating health and subsequent increased needs of our members, since covid. Their enthusiasm and evident enjoyment of their roles, and their commitment to support members to get the most from the club, whatever the external circumstances, has been rewarded with the trust and respect of the members towards them. Trustees recognise and value how much the service benefits from our stable, committed, and skilled staff group, who often give their time for free to ensure that members can take full advantage of the club's and the community services and events.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

We also have a committed and experienced group of volunteers (15 including 3 trustees) who have a variety of roles, such as bus buddies, bus administrator, activity assistants, and with general support within the clubs, to enable every member to get the most from their day with us. Their continued loyalty and support are also highly valued. Unfortunately, some volunteers have stepped down over the year due to failing health or increasing family care responsibilities. We, like most voluntary organisations, continue to be challenged by the need to constantly recruit new volunteers to keep the service safe and effective. We place regular features in the local press, parish magazines and other local media outlets including social media but with limited success. Local contacts and “word of mouth” continue to be more successful.

Membership

Numbers have still not fully recovered since covid. There were 44 members at the beginning of April 2022, 39 members in April 2023, 40 in March 2024, and 34 in March 2025. (There were 52 members in March 2020; 54 in 2019). From April 2024 to March 2025, we gained only 4 new members but lost 11 existing members. There is a constant churn to membership numbers due to failing health, admissions to Care Homes and sadly death.

This year again most of our members were lost owing to deteriorating health and loss of independence with personal care and mobility requiring 1:1 personal care, which we do not provide. Anecdotally this is thought to be due in part to the delay in members either seeking or securing medical help for deteriorating health conditions.

We also know that people are joining us later in life and staying for a shorter length of time as their health deteriorates. However, we continue to receive a steady number of enquiries for support through referrals from existing members and their families’ recommendations, and our improved social media profile, including the website. Unfortunately, we have not been able to respond to a growing number of referrals owing to the level of need they present and the 1:1 support they require.

The number of referrals to support those with later stages of dementia/memory loss continues to grow owing to the increasing need and lack of alternative resources locally. As a day club, which is social in nature, and not a daycare centre, we are not equipped or registered to respond to the level of need being presented. In addition, the changing profile of our current membership impacts negatively at times on our ability to attract a younger, more independent membership who nevertheless is experiencing a sense of loneliness and the detrimental effects of social isolation. We are therefore working with local partners with marketing expertise to develop publicity that will better promote the services we can offer. These will include activities that are likely to appeal at an earlier stage to people in later life. (see also reference to New Horizons below)

We are therefore confident that our membership will increase over the coming year, having identified the challenges, adopted a plan, and approved the resources required to raise awareness of what we can offer to those struggling with the impact on their health on very limited social contact and early access to support.

Our members continue to regularly express their own appreciation for the support we have offered over the year, - enabling them to keep in touch with friends and make new ones, have a supportive and friendly ear to listen to their concerns and help alleviate anxieties, and to advise on where further assistance can be obtained to support their health and wellbeing.

Members’ and their families’ continuing appreciation and commitment to the club is evident from the many letters of thanks we receive, and from their personal recommendations and endorsements.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Their enthusiastic participation in our fundraising activities, including their individual financial donations, is also proof of the value of the club in their lives.

This support has continued to increase since members, and their families became aware that our core funding from West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) ceased in June 2021 and that we continue to be totally dependent on local individual and community charitable donations and our own fundraising efforts to maintain the services. For everyone's additional support we are extremely grateful.

Members' needs continue to increase year on year not only because existing members are becoming less independent and frailer over time, but also because new members are joining us at an older age and with deteriorating and more advanced chronic health conditions. Most live alone and their average age is 85 years (2024/25 average age was 82 years). Members live with a range of disabilities and chronic illnesses. Most have mobility issues; some hearing loss or visual impairment; some mental health and/or cognitive issues including severe memory loss or dementia (58%), and others a learning disability; several struggle with multiple disabilities. These factors will continue to put an increasing demand on the resources of staff and volunteers in both their time and skills. However, we are confident that working with partners such as MIND, Dementia Support, and Age UK and developing our own staff's skills together we will be able to respond to these changing demands.

Our intention to launch a new club, New Horizons, remained on hold this year owing to the continuing uncertainties around future funding and the changing needs of older people in our local community. There are older people living in small villages isolated by the lack of appropriate transport and access to services with whom we have yet to make contact. We are aware of the changing balance in the demographics of our local area as the number of those 85years plus continues to rise. We have also seen the increase in those 75 years plus moving into new developments of retirement flats in the area. These new residents are looking to meet new people and to get involved in gentle but interesting activities in a friendly welcoming place. There is also an increasing need, and a requirement from potential funders, to focus on promoting and providing for the mental and physical health and independence at home of our local older population. We are therefore working with partners in MIND, Age UK, Dementia Support, local Parish Councils and Churches, local Retirement Housing providers and residents themselves to develop appropriate new services and focus. These developments will also better ensure the sustainability of our other clubs, increasing membership numbers and offering opportunities for recruiting more volunteers too. Unfortunately, we were unable to proceed with a bid for Lottery Funding this year but intend to resubmit an amended bid in Autumn 2025

Partners

We continue to build on our work with a range of partners developing integrated, community-led and designed services for the benefit of our community, including shared facilities with the local Dementia Hub and Active Minds. County, District, and Parish Councils support us with grants, their health and well-being services, and payroll and pension administrative services; the Community and Leisure Centre, which accommodates our clubs, offers inclusive sports and leisure activities and access to library and IT facilities for our club members. There is also Banking Hub available based at the Community Centre. We are also working with an increasing number of local voluntary organisations, such as local Parish Care Groups, Church Friendship groups, Carers' Support Groups, Tandem, Sage House, Dementia Care, MIND Mental Health services and our local Community Transport schemes, to ensure our members can easily access appropriate assistance, and that we can together offer more integrated services and continue to be responsive to local needs.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Consultation and Representation

Through membership of local voluntary networks, and formal links with all levels of local government bodies, we ensure that our members' needs and those of our local community are heard. These formal links and our involvement in networks of support have been maintained throughout the year, often through attendance and participation by trustees at regular meetings with council officers and leaders of community and voluntary groups. Members and volunteers continue to be kept informed of plans and events through regular newsletters. Views have been sought from members and volunteers on future club activities, membership fees and charges through short questionnaires and face-to-face discussions and consultations.

Participation in local Community

See above "Involvement in local community."

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

Financial performance

We had net assets at the end of the financial year of £29k.

Having implemented a new business model in April 2024, we were able not only to reduce our operating costs but also to increase our income. This resulted in a reduced deficit of approximately £10k in March 2025, compared to a deficit of £25k in March 2024. This was achieved in spite of the loss of our core funding from the local Council and the increases in our fixed costs for premises, catering, transport, and staffing. It did require us to draw down on our reserves, although to a lesser degree than last year. We consider our reserves to remain at a satisfactory level.

We remain confident that we can continue to provide and sustain our valued services for the benefit of our local community well into the future.

Our members, their families and friends and the local community continue to recognise our essential contribution to the overall local community effort in supporting older vulnerable people. As evidence of this is the £27k which was donated by the local community towards our running costs this year.

The total amount raised this year from all sources both local and county-wide funders, was approximately the same as in 2024/25. Feed-back from potential funders indicated that increasing demand on their charitable funds was resulting in their granting reduced individual awards but to more applicants. The Board of Trustees is therefore reviewing its fundraising strategy for 2025/26 to meet these challenging circumstances.

Membership subscriptions and charging for services

A survey of similar day clubs operating in West Sussex and neighbouring counties, was undertaken by Trustees in March 2024. As a result, and following consultation with members, their families, and the clubs' staff, the Board agreed a day club inclusive charge for lunch and all activities, including the annual membership fee. A contribution towards transport, when required remained at the same level. This charge, implemented in June 2024, has been accepted by members, secured a regular and increased income for the charity and has not affected the level of membership to date.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Although membership has been slow to grow for reasons referred to above, with membership levels also difficult to maintain due to the age and health profile of both new and existing members, indications are that these are gradually increasing. In addition, we are confident, that a recently implemented Publicity and Promotion plan and the development of different activities within a new half day/morning club, together with new partnerships with other local community groups, will bring increased membership.

Conclusion

Despite the need for constant fund-raising, the challenges in recruiting volunteers and responding to increasing needs of an ageing local population, we are confident of a positive future for our clubs and in the emerging new local community partnerships of support. New initiatives and further planned efficiencies are in hand. These together with the on-going commitment and support from members, families, staff, volunteers, donors and the wider local community will ensure we can continue to deliver our services well into the future.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have examined the Company's requirements for reserves and have concluded that there is a need to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to meet its commitments to beneficiaries. As of 31st March 2025 the amount of free reserves held by the Company was considered satisfactory.

The Trustees continue to review, on an ongoing basis, the Reserves Policy and the level of reserves held to ensure that those reserves are adequate to fulfil the Company's obligations and to ensure its financial stability.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr A Mardle FCA has indicated his willingness to be reappointed as the Independent Examiner.

Approved by the Trustees on 31 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



M R Guest
Trustee

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

I report to the trustees on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 10 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required under section 145 of the 2011 Act.

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Commission. 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 consideration 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 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 connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirements that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's trustees, as a body, for my work for this report.

Signed:



Alain Mardle FCA
Chartered Accountant
Greens Court, West Street
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NQ

Date: 7 AUGUST 2025

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVIES (including Income & Expenditure Account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2025 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2025 £	Total Funds 31 March 2025 £	Total Funds 31 March 2024 £
Income from:	2.3 & 3				
Donations & legacies		28,272	0	28,272	32,822
Charitable activities		25,668	0	25,668	23,373
Other income		715	0	715	4,530
Investment income		560	0	560	0
		55,215	0	55,215	60,725
Expenditure on:	2.4 & 4				
Fundraising		243	0	243	451
Charitable activities		64,272	0	64,272	84,547
Other expenditure		814	0	814	744
		65,329	0	65,329	85,742
Net movement in funds		(10,114)	0	(10,114)	(25,017)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		29,894	9,190	39,084	64,101
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		19,780	9,190	28,970	39,084

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

This statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	31 March 2025		31 March 2024	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	8		3,146		4,039
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	872		1,164	
Cash at bank and in hand		31,728		40,866	
		32,600		42,030	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	6,776		6,985	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			25,824		35,045
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			28,970		39,084
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year			0		0
NET ASSETS			28,970		39,084
REPRESENTED BY:					
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	11		19,780		29,894
Restricted funds	12		9,190		9,190
			28,970		39,084

For the period ended 31 March 2025 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) 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 responsibility for:

- 1) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and
- 2) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the Company.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 31 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



M Guest
Director/Trustee

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

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

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Rother Valley Together is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of Preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The financial statements 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 16 July 2014 and FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing these accounts the directors have considered whether in applying the comparative figures was needed. No such restatements were required.

The Company has taken advantage of a number of disclosure exemptions permitted by FRS 102.

The Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The directors consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.2 Funds

The Trustees review incoming resources to determine whether any funds should be treated as restricted. Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income recognition

Income is accounted for on an accrual's basis, when the Company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

2.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised where there is an obligation to make payments to third parties. Irrecoverable VAT is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less their estimated residual values, over their useful lives on the following bases:

Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance
Equipment	25% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

2.6 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The Trustees consider that there are no critical estimates or judgements.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

3. INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2025 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2025 £	Total Funds 31 March 2025 £	Total Funds 31 March 2024 £
Income from:				
Donations & legacies:				
Town Council grants	3,000	0	3,000	3,000
Legacy	0	0	0	0
Other grants & donations	25,272	0	25,272	29,822
	28,272	0	28,272	32,822
Charitable activities:				
Club activities	25,668	0	25,668	23,373
	25,668	0	25,668	23,373
Other trading activities:				
Fundraising	715	0	715	4,530
	715	0	715	4,530
Investment income:				
Interest on bank deposits	560	0	560	0
	560	0	560	0
Total income	55,215	0	55,215	60,725

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)**

4. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2025 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2025 £	Total Funds 31 March 2025 £	Total Funds 31 March 2024 £
Expenditure on:				
Fundraising:				
Fundraising costs	243	0	243	451
	<u>243</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>451</u>
Charitable activities:				
Activities & outings	194	0	194	400
Room hire	6,817	0	6,817	9,990
Wages	35,736	0	35,736	47,424
Lunches	15,150	0	15,150	18,306
Motor expenses	3,284	0	3,284	4,822
Insurance	453	0	453	683
Telephone	494	0	494	458
Postage & stationery	447	0	447	365
Website & promotion	461	0	461	375
Small items of equipment	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	893	0	893	1,178
Sale of assets	0	0	0	0
Other expenses	343	0	343	546
Advertising for staff	0	0	0	0
	<u>64,272</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>64,272</u>	<u>84,547</u>
Other expenditure:				
Accountancy	814	0	814	744
	<u>814</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>814</u>	<u>744</u>
Total expenditure	<u>65,329</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>65,329</u>	<u>85,742</u>

5. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
This is stated after charging:-		
Independent Examiner's remuneration	814	744
	<u>814</u>	<u>744</u>

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

6. TAXATION

The Company, being a registered charity, is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Company.

7. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

None of the Directors received any remuneration during either year.

The average number of employees during the year was 3 (2024 – 4).

8. FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost:			
At 1 April 2024	38,400	700	39,100
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 March 2025	<u>38,400</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>39,100</u>
Depreciation:			
At 1 April 2024	34,983	78	35,061
Charge for the year	854	39	893
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 March 2025	<u>35,837</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>35,954</u>
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,563</u>	<u>583</u>	<u>3,146</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,417</u>	<u>622</u>	<u>4,039</u>

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)**

9. DEBTORS

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Accrued income	0	292
Other debtors & prepayments	872	872
	872	1,164

**10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Accrued expenses	6,776	6,985
	6,776	6,985

11. GENERAL FUND: MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2024	29,894	54,911
Net movement in funds	(10,114)	(25,017)
Transfers between funds	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2025	19,780	29,894

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS: MOVEMENT IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2024	9,190	9,190
Net movement in funds	0	0
Transfers between funds	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2025	9,190	9,190

The restricted fund represents a Lottery grant of £10,000 to fund the New Horizons club. This has been put on hold due to the Covid 19 virus.

12. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no post-balance sheet events.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1147272

Accounts

**ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07818979
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1147272**

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEX TO THE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Page

1 - 8	Report of the Trustees
9	Independent Examiner's Report
10	Statement of Financial Activities
11	Balance Sheet
12 - 17	Notes to the Financial Statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees presents their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 issued on 16 July 2014 (FRS 102).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name:	Rother Valley Together
Charity registration number:	1147272
Company registration number:	07818979
Registered Office and operational address:	The Grange Centre, Bepton Road, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9HD
Directors and Trustees:	Mrs M Guest Rev C Boxley Ms P Watts Mr R Maguire
Independent Examiner:	Mr A Mardle FCA

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Rother Valley Together was incorporated on 21 October 2011 as a company limited by guarantee and without a share capital. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established its objects and powers, and is governed by its Articles of Association.

The Company was registered as a charity on 16 May 2012.

In the event of the Company being wound up each member may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before he or she ceased to be a member.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

Trustees and Organisational Structure

The Directors of the Company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The names of possible new Trustees, when needed, are brought forward by existing Trustees, who provide good reason and evidence for their suitability. Candidates may then be invited to attend a meeting as a guest before formal election.

All Trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid to them during the year. No Trustee, or person connected with a Trustee, received any benefit from the Company.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified and conducted a review of the major risks to which the Company is exposed, and systems and procedures have been established to manage and mitigate those risks. It is recognised that these systems and procedures can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks are being adequately managed.

The Trustees consider that any continuing rise in the Cost-of-Living, which would impact on the rising cost of lunches, transport, and hire of premises; and the on-going impact of Covid on adequate staffing of the services, constitute the major risks.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trustees are mindful of, and have given careful consideration to, the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The aims and objectives of the Company are:

- to work within the Rother Valley and surrounding area
- to work with partners to create integrated and community led and designed services
- to engage and consult with, and represent, the community (both individuals and groups) to ensure relevant and creative solutions to identified needs
- to support and empower individuals to participate in their local community to mutual benefit and to access services

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR

The Company began providing community clubs for older people in the Rother Valley/Midhurst area in November 2011. These clubs are based at the Grange Community and Leisure Centre, Midhurst. The lunch and activities clubs have continued to meet the Charity's objects and the needs of club members throughout 2023/24.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

Club Activities:

During 2023/24 the clubs have been fully operational except for two weeks in August when they closed owing to staff illness due to a local re-occurrence of covid. For the rest of the year the clubs offered their usual wide range of activities, with refreshments, and two-course cooked lunches on 3 days per week. Activities, as proposed by members and staff, included: Chair Yoga, gentle strolls round the neighbouring South Pond Walk, a “Reading Aloud” and discussion group, arts, and crafts, talks and demonstrations by outside speakers, musical bingo, dominos, quizzes, memory games, singing for fun, and a variety of card and board games. Occasional outings to the seaside, garden centres, local open days for private gardens and various outdoor exhibitions were also on offer during the summer months.

Special Events: The clubs held their customary Harvest celebratory meal and their Christmas celebratory lunch with family, friends, and community partners. There was a special Christmas Cabaret, and the local South Downs Ukelele Band provided the musical background to the last lunch before Christmas closing. A local Children’s Nursery also visited the club during the Christmas period to sing Christmas songs and to chat with our members, bringing the generations together. In May 2023 the clubs celebrated the King’s Coronation with an indoor street party. A local celebratory, Hugh Bonneville, gave a lively talk on his acting career and responded to lots of questions from fascinated members. Local Primary Schools provided colourful bunting, flags, and decorations while local businesses provided generous raffle prizes. In the summer the clubs hosted a special Vintage Cabaret, with guests invited from a local Retirement Home, as part of MADhurst, (Midhurst Arts and Drama Festival)). Canine Partners, a local organisation training assistance dogs also visited in the summer with a “dog companion” to the delight of members. Members were invited and attended the local Academy School’s dress rehearsal for Mary Poppins.

Transport: The club’s minibus, which is a key part of our service, being based in a rural area with few transport links, continues to be available to members to access the club when required. Our minibus offers 10 seats plus space for one wheelchair. Members regularly use our transport either owing to their limited mobility or to the lack of public or alternative community transport. Following the Covid epidemic there has been an increasing number of new members joining later in life, with an average age of 84 years, and with more debilitating health conditions and mobility challenges. This has put additional pressure on our transport capacity. To meet this challenge, we are working closely with other local community transport providers to improve our individual services to better serve our growing older and frequently isolated population. Volunteers also assist with transport to the clubs using their own cars when required, and a few members are brought to the club by their partners in private vehicles. Volunteer drivers from partner community organisations e.g., Yellow Community Bus and Tandem assist occasionally when our own paid driver is unavailable. Our minibus is also available to assist members to participate where possible in community events e.g. the Midhurst Arts and Drama (MADhurst) summer events.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

Involvement in local community: As described above we invite other community clubs' members and volunteers to our Special Events when accommodation allows and encourage and assist our members to participate in other community activities on offer too.

We were able to participate in the local community's Christmas Fair held in early December at the Grange Community Centre where staff, volunteers, members, and friends raised £600, with raffle prizes donated by local businesses, trustees, and members themselves. Local businesses and community groups sold raffle tickets and gave generously of their time in supporting the club on the day. A team of staff and volunteers from the clubs participated in a Rotary Community Quiz Night which raised funds for a variety of local charities.

Local Parish Councils have continued to recognize the added social value of the services that RVT provides to their communities by maintaining their annual donations, amounting to approximately £3.5k. The Friends of Riverbank Campus (formerly Friends of the Midhurst Community Hospital) provided a generous grant of £15k, recognizing the contribution our clubs make to the health and wellbeing of local older people. The Sussex Community Foundation Trust provided a grant of £10k acknowledging the support we give to older vulnerable people living with loneliness and in social isolation in our rural community. All these donations assisted with RVT's day-to-day operational costs. Many more local community voluntary groups have supported our clubs in a variety of ways with their time and sharing of resources, expertise, skills and donations. Together they have ensured our sustainability. (Yellow Bus, Tandem, local faith groups, local Rotary and Inner Wheel, MADhurst, Lions, local businesses, MIND, and Sage House, Dementia Support).

Local individuals and families of members have been generous too in making financial donations in recognition of the value to them of our services. We are very appreciative of all their support and that of our local community generally and in their acknowledgement of the value of the services and support we provide to our community.

Staff and Volunteers

There continues to be 4 part-time staff: a manager, a senior support worker, who deputises for the manager in their absence, an activities coordinator, and a driver. They continue to work extremely hard maintaining a friendly, caring, lively and inclusive service and support for members. This is despite the additional pressures placed on them due to the deteriorating health and subsequent increased needs of our members since covid, and the ongoing impact of covid infection on their own health and that of their families. Their enthusiasm and evident enjoyment of their roles, and their commitment to support members to get the most from the club, whatever the external circumstances, has been rewarded by the trust and respect of the members towards them. Trustees recognise and value how much the service benefits from our stable, committed, and skilled staff group, who often give their time for free to ensure that members can take full advantage of the club's available services.

We also have a committed and experienced group of volunteers (20 including 4 trustees) who cover a variety of roles such as bus buddies, activity assistants and general support within the clubs to enable members to participate fully. Their continued loyalty and support are also highly valued. Unfortunately, some volunteers have stepped down over the year due to failing health or increasing family caring responsibilities. We, like most voluntary organisations, continue to be challenged by the need to constantly recruit new volunteers to keep the service safe and effective. We place regular features in the local press, parish magazines and other local media outlets including social media but with limited success. Local contacts and "word of mouth" continue to be more successful.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

Membership

Numbers have still not fully recovered since covid. There were 44 members at the beginning of April 2022, 39 members in April 2023 and only an increase of 1 to 40 in March 2024. (There were 52 members in March 2020; 54 in 2019). From March 2023 to April 2024, we have gained 14 new members but lost 13 existing members. There is a constant churn to membership numbers due to failing health, admissions to Care Homes and sadly death.

This year again we lost most members due to their deteriorating health and independence with personal care and mobility which required 1:1 personal care at home. Anecdotally this is thought to have been due to some delay in members either seeking or securing medical help for deteriorating health conditions. However, we continue to receive a steady number of enquiries for support through referrals from existing members and their families' recommendations and our improved social media profile, including the website. We are confident that our numbers will again increase over the coming year as we put more resource into raising yet further our community profile and have identified further dedicated resource to do so.

Our members have continued to regularly express their own appreciation for the support we have offered over this year, enabling them to keep in touch with friends and make new ones, have a supportive and friendly ear to listen to their concerns and help alleviate anxieties, and to advise on where further assistance can be obtained to support their health and wellbeing.

At the same time members continue to enjoy a range of fun and interesting activities and a nutritious cooked lunch. Members and families continuing appreciation and commitment to the club is evident from the letters of thanks we regularly receive, personal recommendations and endorsements. Their enthusiastic support of, and participation in, our fundraising activities, including personal financial donations and legacies is also proof of their appreciation and wish for others to continue to benefit from our services in the future. This has all increased since members and their families became aware that our core funding from West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) ceased in June 2021 and that we are now totally dependent on local individual and community charitable donations and fundraising. And for their additional support we are extremely grateful.

Members' needs continue to increase year on year not only because existing members are becoming less independent and frailer over time, but also because new members are joining us at an older age and with deteriorating and more advanced chronic health conditions. Most live alone and their average age is 83 years (2022/23 average age was 82 years). Members have a range of disabilities and chronic illnesses. Most have mobility issues; some a hearing loss or visual impairment; some mental health and/or cognitive issues including severe memory loss or dementia (58%), and others a learning disability; several struggle with multiple disabilities. These factors will continue to put an increasing demand on the resources of staff and volunteers in both their time and skills. However, we are confident that working with partners such as MIND, Dementia Support, and Age UK and developing our own staff's skills we will be able to respond effectively to these changing demands.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

Our intention to launch a new club, New Horizons, in November 2022 remains on hold owing to the continuing uncertainties around future funding and the changing needs of older people in our local community. There are older people living in small villages isolated by the lack of appropriate transport and access to services with whom we have yet to make contact. We are aware of the changing balance in the demographics of our local area as the numbers of those 85yrs+ continues to rise. We have seen the increase in those 75 years plus moving into recent developments of retirement flats in the area. These new residents are looking to meet new people and to get involved in gentle but interesting activities in a friendly welcoming place. There is also an increasing need, and a requirement from potential funders, to focus on promoting and providing for the mental and physical health and independence at home of our local older population. We are therefore working with partners in MIND, Age UK, Dementia Support, local Parish Councils and Churches, local Retirement Housing providers and residents themselves to develop appropriate new services and focus. These developments will also better ensure the sustainability of our other clubs, increasing membership numbers and offering opportunities for recruiting more volunteers too. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our bid for Lottery Funding for this year but intend to resubmit an amended bid following advice in Autumn 2024.

Partners

We continue to build on our work with a range of partners developing integrated, community-led and designed services for the benefit of our community, including shared facilities with the local Dementia Hub and Active Minds. County, District, and Parish Councils support us with grants, Health and Well-being services and advice, and payroll and pension administrative services; the Community and Leisure Centre which accommodates our clubs offers inclusive sports and leisure activities and access to library and IT facilities for our club members. We are also working with an increasing number of local voluntary organisations, such as local Parish Care Groups, Church Friendship groups, Carers' Support Groups, Tandem, Sage House, Dementia Care, MIND Mental Health services and our local Community Transport schemes, to ensure our members can easily access appropriate assistance, and that we can together offer more integrated services and continue to be responsive to local needs.

Consultation and Representation

Through membership of local voluntary networks, and formal links with all levels of local government bodies, we ensure that our members' needs and those of our local community are heard. These formal links and involvement in networks of support have been maintained throughout the year, often through attendance and participation by trustees at regular meetings with council officers and leaders of community and voluntary groups. Members and volunteers continue to be kept informed of plans and events through regular newsletters. Views have been sought from members and volunteers on future club activities, membership fees and charges through short questionnaires and face-to-face discussions and consultations.

Participation in local Community

See above "Involvement in local community."

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

Financial performance

RVT had a healthy bank balance at the end of the year of £40k which reflects a 12-month reserve.

During the year there has been an operating deficit of £25,017 due to a number of factors which are now being addressed.

RVT ceased to receive its core funding end of June 2021 when its core funder, West Sussex County Council, radically changed its Commissioning approach to the Voluntary and Community Sector to require them to provide District Council- wide provision of services. As a small local community organisation, RVT did not have the capacity to bid for such extensive service provision. In addition, the service model, carefully developed and improved over 10 years, did not fit with that of a larger potential partner organisation which was the eventual successful bidder.

Despite this set-back, we have demonstrated that we can sustain our services for the benefit of our local community. Our members, their families and friends and the local community continue to recognise the essential contribution to the overall local community effort to support older vulnerable people. As evidence of this is approximately £28k donated by the local community towards our running costs this year.

The total amount raised this year, however, was less than in the previous year mainly as a result of the loss of two local regular donors. This reduction resulted in the use of some of our Reserves to ensure the club could respond to the increases in running costs due to inflationary pressures on our fixed costs of staffing, catering, room hire, and transport provision. The Board of Trustees recognised the potential risk of further inflationary costs and has put in place a fundraising team and strategy to meet this challenge. This has already had some success in that £1.5k was achieved through operational efficiency savings and £24k from donations in the first quarter of 2024/25,

Membership subscriptions

After consultation with members, and their families, where relevant, annual membership subscriptions and contributions requested towards transport and lunch costs were increased slightly for 2023/24. Although membership has been slow to grow post pandemic, and membership levels difficult to maintain due to the age and health profile of both new and existing members, indications are that these are gradually increasing. In addition, plans to extend and develop services will bring increased membership and therefore additional income.

Conclusion

Despite the continuing service and resourcing difficulties following Covid 19, the challenges in recruiting volunteers and meeting the cost-of-living financial pressures, we are confident of a positive future. New initiatives and planned efficiencies are in hand and these together with the on-going commitment and support from members, families, staff, volunteers, donors and the wider local community will ensure we can continue to deliver our services well into the future.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have examined the Company's requirements for reserves and has concluded that there is a need to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to meet its commitments to beneficiaries. As at 31 March 2024 the amount of free reserves held by the Company was considered satisfactory.

The Trustees continue to review, on an ongoing basis, the Reserves Policy and the level of reserves held to ensure that those reserves are adequate to fulfil the Company's obligations and to ensure its financial stability.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr A Mardle FCA has indicated his willingness to be reappointed as the Independent Examiner.

Approved by the Trustees on 22 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



M Guest
Trustee

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

I report to the trustees on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required under section 145 of the 2011 Act.

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Commission. 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 consideration 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 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 connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirements that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's trustees, as a body, for my work for this report.

Signed:



Alain Mardle FCA
Chartered Accountant
Greens Court, West Street
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NQ

Date: 28.10.24

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income & Expenditure Account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2024 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2024 £	Total Funds 31 March 2024 £	Total Funds 31 March 2023 £
Income from:	2.3 & 3				
Donations & legacies		32,822	0	32,822	17,183
Charitable activities		23,373	0	23,373	22,504
Other income		4,530	0	4,530	3,851
		60,725	0	60,725	43,538
Expenditure on:	2.4 & 4				
Fundraising		451	0	451	585
Charitable activities		84,547	0	84,547	76,487
Other expenditure		744	0	744	810
		85,742	0	85,742	77,882
Net movement in funds		(25,017)	0	(25,017)	(34,344)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		54,911	9,190	64,101	98,445
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		29,894	9,190	39,084	64,101

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

This statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	31 March 2024		31 March 2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	8		4,039		5,217
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	1,164		1,459	
Cash at bank and in hand		40,866		63,156	
		<u>42,030</u>		<u>64,615</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>6,985</u>		<u>5,731</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>35,045</u>		<u>58,884</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			39,084		64,101
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year			0		0
NET ASSETS			<u><u>39,084</u></u>		<u><u>64,101</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY:					
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	11		29,894		54,911
Restricted funds	12		9,190		9,190
			<u>39,084</u>		<u>64,101</u>

For the period ended 31 March 2024 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) 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 responsibility for:

- 1) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and
- 2) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the Company.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 22 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



M Guest
Director/Trustee

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Rother Valley Together is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of Preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The financial statements 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 16 July 2014 and FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing these accounts the directors have considered whether in applying the comparative figures was needed. No such restatements were required.

The Company has taken advantage of a number of disclosure exemptions permitted by FRS 102.

The Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The directors consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.2 Funds

The Trustees review incoming resources to determine whether any funds should be treated as restricted. Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income recognition

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis, when the Company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

2.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised where there is an obligation to make payments to third parties. Irrecoverable VAT is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less their estimated residual values, over their useful lives on the following bases:

Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance
Equipment	25% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

2.6 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The Trustees consider that there are no critical estimates or judgements.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

3. INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2024 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2024 £	Total Funds 31 March 2024 £	Total Funds 31 March 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations & legacies:				
Town Council grants	3,000	0	3,000	3,000
Legacy	0	0	0	0
Other grants & donations	29,822	0	29,822	14,183
	32,822	0	32,822	17,183
Charitable activities:				
Club activities	23,373	0	23,373	22,504
	23,373	0	23,373	22,504
Other trading activities:				
Fundraising	4,530	0	4,530	3,851
	4,530	0	4,530	3,851
Total income	60,725	0	60,725	43,538

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

4. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2024 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2024 £	Total Funds 31 March 2024 £	Total Funds 31 March 2023 £
Expenditure on:				
Fundraising:				
Fundraising costs	451	0	451	585
	451	0	451	585
Charitable activities:				
Activities & outings	400	0	400	150
Room hire	9,990	0	9,990	9,275
Wages	47,424	0	47,424	41,931
Lunches	18,306	0	18,306	17,727
Motor expenses	4,822	0	4,822	3,940
Insurance	683	0	683	754
Telephone	458	0	458	400
Postage & stationery	365	0	365	354
Website & promotion	375	0	375	209
Small items of equipment	0	0	0	25
Depreciation	1,178	0	1,178	1,558
Sale of assets	0	0	0	0
Other expenses	546	0	546	164
Advertising for staff	0	0	0	0
	84,547	0	84,547	76,487
Other expenditure:				
Accountancy	744	0	744	810
	744	0	744	810
Total expenditure	85,742	0	85,742	77,882

5. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
This is stated after charging:-		
Independent Examiner's remuneration	744	720
	744	720

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

6. TAXATION

The Company, being a registered charity, is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Company.

7. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

None of the Directors received any remuneration during either year.

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2023 – 4).

8. FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost:			
At 1 April 2023	38,400	700	39,100
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 March 2024	<u>38,400</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>39,100</u>
Depreciation:			
At 1 April 2023	33,844	39	33,883
Charge for the year	1,139	39	1,178
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 March 2024	<u>34,983</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>35,061</u>
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,417</u>	<u>622</u>	<u>4,039</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,556</u>	<u>661</u>	<u>5,217</u>

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

9. DEBTORS

	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Accrued income	292	358
Other debtors & prepayments	872	1,101
	1,164	1,459

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Accrued expenses	6,985	5,731
	6,985	5,731

11. GENERAL FUND: MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Balance at 1 April 2023	54,911	89,255
Net movement in funds	(25,017)	(34,344)
Transfers between funds	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2024	29,894	54,911

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS: MOVEMENT IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Balance at 1 April 2023	9,190	9,190
Net movement in funds	0	0
Transfers between funds	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2024	9,190	9,190

The restricted fund represents a Lottery grant of £10,000 to fund the New Horizons club. This has been put on hold due to the Covid 19 virus.

12. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no post-balance sheet events.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1147272

Accounts

**ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07818979
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1147272**

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEX TO THE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Page	
1 - 7	Report of the Trustees
8	Independent Examiner's Report
9	Statement of Financial Activities
10	Balance Sheet
11 - 16	Notes to the Financial Statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees presents their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 issued on 16 July 2014 (FRS 102).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name: Rother Valley Together

Charity registration number: 1147272

Company registration number: 07818979

Registered Office and operational address: The Grange Centre, Bepton Road,
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9HD

Directors and Trustees: Mrs M Guest
Rev C Boxley
Ms P Watts
Mr R Maguire

Independent Examiner: Mr A Mardle FCA

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Rother Valley Together was incorporated on 21 October 2011 as a company limited by guarantee and without a share capital. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established its objects and powers, and is governed by its Articles of Association.

The Company was registered as a charity on 16 May 2012.

In the event of the Company being wound up each member may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before he or she ceased to be a member.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

Trustees and Organisational Structure

The Directors of the Company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The names of possible new Trustees, when needed, are brought forward by existing Trustees, who provide good reason and evidence for their suitability. Candidates may then be invited to attend a meeting as a guest before formal election.

All Trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid to them during the year. No Trustee, or person connected with a Trustee, received any benefit from the Company.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified and conducted a review of the major risks to which the Company is exposed, and systems and procedures have been established to manage and mitigate those risks. It is recognised that these systems and procedures can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks are being adequately managed.

The Trustees consider that any continuing rise in the Cost-of-Living, which would impact on the rising cost of lunches, transport, and hire of premises; and the on-going impact of Covid on adequate staffing of the services, constitute the major risks.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trustees are mindful of, and have given careful consideration to, the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The aims and objectives of the Company are:

- to work within the Rother Valley and surrounding area
- to work with partners to create integrated and community led and designed services
- to engage and consult with, and represent, the community (both individuals and groups) to ensure relevant and creative solutions to identified needs
- to support and empower individuals to participate in their local community to mutual benefit and to access services

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR

The Company began providing community clubs for older people in the Rother Valley/Midhurst area in November 2011. These clubs are based at the Grange Community and Leisure Centre, Midhurst. The lunch and activities clubs, provided for three days per week had to close in March 2020 at the time of the first "lockdown" due to the pandemic (Covid 19 virus). Owing to the vulnerability of club members due to age, chronic ill health, and disability, and for many the need to "shield", and on the advice of Public Health, these services remained closed until 25 May 2021. However, adjustments made to the service for 2020/21 and 2021/22, as previously reported, continued to meet the Charity's objects and the needs of club members.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

Club Activities:

During 2022/23 the clubs have been fully operational, offering a wide range of activities, refreshments, and two-course cooked lunches on 3 days per week. Activities, as proposed by members, included: Chair Yoga, a “Reading Aloud” and discussion group, arts, and crafts, talks and demonstrations by outside speakers, musical bingo, dominos, quizzes, memory games, singing for fun, and a variety of card and board games. Occasional outings to the seaside, garden centres, local open days for private gardens and various outdoor exhibitions were also on offer during the summer months.

Special Events: The clubs held their customary Harvest celebratory meal and their Christmas celebratory lunch with some of our friends and community partners. Rother College 6th form Music Department visited to provide a musical event with tea and cakes and conversation. A local Children’s Nursery visited the club to sing Christmas songs and to chat with our members. In May 2022 The clubs celebrated the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with an indoor street party and music provided by the South Downs Ukulele Band. Local Primary Schools provided the colourful bunting, flags, and decorations while local businesses provided generous raffle prizes. In October our local Rotary club hosted a Community Quiz Night for us which raised £2,600 as a result of participation and donations by a range of community groups and friends and families of RVT at the event.

Transport: The club’s minibus, which is a key part of our service, being based in a rural area with few transport links, continues to be available to members to access the club when required. Our minibus offers 10 seats plus space for one wheelchair. Members regularly use our transport either owing to their limited mobility or to the lack of public or alternative community transport. In March 2023 most members (20) lived in Midhurst; 9 lived within 5 miles of Midhurst, and 12 more than 5 miles away from the club’s base, itself. However, this balance frequently changes and since the Covid epidemic there has been an increasing number of new members joining later in life and with more debilitating medical conditions and mobility challenges. We are therefore working with local community bus providers to improve our individual transport services and links to better serve our growing older and frequently isolated population. Volunteers assist with transport to the club using their own cars when required and a few members are brought to the club by their partners in private vehicles. Volunteer drivers from partner community organisations e.g., Yellow Community Bus and Tandem also assist occasionally when our own driver is unavailable. Our minibus is also available to assist members to participate where possible in community events e.g. the Midhurst Arts and Drama (MADhurst) August event.

Involvement in local community: As described above we invite other clubs’ members and volunteers to our Special Events when accommodation allows and encourage and assist our members to participate in other community activities on offer too.

We were able to participate in the local community’s Christmas Fair held in early December at the Grange Community Centre where staff, volunteers, members, and friends raised £600, with raffle prizes donated by local businesses, trustees, and members themselves. Local businesses and community groups sold raffle tickets and gave generously of their time in supporting the club on the day.

Local Parish Councils have continued to recognize the added social value of the services that RVT provides to their communities by maintaining their annual donations, amounting to approximately £3.5k, which assist with RVT’s day to day operational costs. Many other community and voluntary groups have supported our clubs in a variety of ways with their time, and sharing of resources,

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

expertise, and skills, and with donations. (Yellow Bus, Tandem, local faith groups, local Rotary and Inner Wheel, MADhurst, Lions, local businesses, MIND, and Dementia Support). Local individuals and families of members have been generous too in making financial donations in recognition of the value to them of our services. We are very appreciative of all their support and that of our local community generally in their acknowledgement of the value of the services and support we provide to our community.

Staff and Volunteers

There continues to be 4 part-time staff: a manager, 2 support/activity workers and a driver. They continue to work extremely hard maintaining a friendly, caring, lively and inclusive service and support for members. This is despite the additional pressures placed on them due to the deteriorating health and subsequent increased needs of our members since covid, and the ongoing impact of covid infection on their own health and that of their families. Their enthusiasm and evident enjoyment of their roles, and their commitment to support members to get the most from the club, whatever the external circumstances, has been rewarded by the trust and respect of the members towards them. Trustees recognise and value how much the service benefits from our stable, committed, and skilled staff group, who often give their time for free to ensure that members can take full advantage of the club's available services.

We also have a committed and experienced group of volunteers (16 including 4 trustees- 8 fewer since covid) who cover a variety of roles such as bus buddies, activity leads and assistants and general support within the clubs to enable members to participate fully. Their continued loyalty and support are also highly valued. Unfortunately, several volunteers have stepped down over the year due to their failing health or increasing family caring responsibilities. We, like most voluntary organisations, continue to be challenged by the need to constantly recruit new volunteers to keep the service safe and effective. We place regular features in the local press, parish magazines and other local media outlets including social media but with limited success. Local contacts and "word of mouth" continue to be more successful.

Membership

Numbers have not fully recovered since covid. There were 44 members at the beginning of April 2022 and only an increase of 1 to 43 in January 2023. (There were 52 members in March 2020; 54 in 2019 and 65 in 2018). Since the start of the year (April 2022) we have gained 13 new members but lost 16 members. There is a constant churn to membership numbers due to failing health, admissions to Care Homes and sadly death. This year we lost most members due to their deteriorating health and independence which required personal care at home. Anecdotally this is thought to have been due to some delay in members seeking medical help for deteriorating health conditions. However, during recent months we have had several enquiries about membership because of existing members and their families' recommendations and our improved social media profile. We are confident that our numbers will again increase over the coming year as we put more resource into raising yet further our community profile and have identified a dedicated resource to do so.

Our members have continued to regularly express their own appreciation for the support we have offered over this year, enabling them to keep in touch with friends and make new ones, have a supportive and friendly ear to listen to their concerns and help alleviate anxieties, and to advise on where further assistance can be obtained to support their health and wellbeing.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

At the same time members continue to enjoy a range of fun and interesting activities and a nutritious cooked lunch. Members and families continuing appreciation and commitment to the club is evident from the letters of thanks we regularly receive, personal recommendations and endorsements. Their enthusiastic support of, and participation in, our fundraising activities, including personal financial donations and legacies is also proof of their appreciation and wish for others to continue to benefit from our services in the future. This has all increased since members and their families became aware that our core funding from West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) ceased in June 2021 and that we are now totally dependent on local individual and community charitable donations and fundraising. And for their additional support we are extremely grateful.

Members' needs continue to increase year on year not only because existing members are becoming less independent and frailer over time, but also because new members are joining us at an older age and with deteriorating and more advanced chronic health conditions. Most live alone and their average age is 82 years. Members have a range of disabilities and chronic illnesses. Most have mobility issues; some a hearing loss or visual impairment; some mental health and/or cognitive issues including dementia, and others a learning disability; several have multiple disabilities. These factors will continue to put an increasing demand on the resources of staff and volunteers in both their time and skills. However, we are confident that working with partners such as MIND, Dementia Support, and Age UK and developing our own staff's skills we will be able to respond effectively to these changing demands.

Our intention to launch a new club, New Horizons, in November 2020 remains on hold owing to the continuing uncertainties around future funding and the changing needs of older people in our local community. There are older people living in small villages isolated by the lack of appropriate transport and access to services with whom we have yet to make contact. We are aware of the changing balance in the demographics of our local area as the numbers of those 85yrs+ continues to rise. We have seen the increase in those 75 years plus moving into recent developments of retirement flats in the area. These new residents are looking to meet new people and to get involved in gentle but interesting activities in a friendly welcoming place. There is also an increasing need, and a requirement from potential funders, to focus on promoting and providing for, the mental and physical health and independence at home of our local older population. We are therefore working with partners in MIND, Age UK, Dementia Support, local Parish Councils and Churches, local Retirement Housing providers and residents themselves to develop appropriate new services and focus. These developments will also better ensure the sustainability of our other clubs, increasing membership numbers and offering opportunities for recruiting more volunteers too. We are planning to proceed with these developments in the Autumn of 2023.

Partners

We continue to build on our work with a range of partners developing integrated, community-led and designed services for the benefit of our community, including shared facilities with the local Dementia Hub and Active Minds. County, District, and Parish Councils support us with grants, Health and Well-being services and advice, and payroll and pension administrative services; the Community and Leisure Centre which accommodates our clubs offers inclusive sports and leisure activities and access to library and IT facilities for our club members. We are also working with an increasing number of local voluntary organisations, such as local Parish Care Groups, Church Friendship groups, Carers' Support Groups, Tandem, SAGE Dementia Care, MIND Mental Health services and our local

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

Community Transport schemes, to ensure our members can easily access appropriate assistance, and that we can together offer more integrated services and continue to be responsive to local needs.

Consultation and Representation

Through membership of local voluntary networks, and formal links with all levels of local government bodies, we ensure that our members' needs and those of our local community are heard. These formal links and involvement in networks of support have been maintained throughout the year, often through attendance and participation by trustees at regular Zoom meetings with council officers and leaders of community and voluntary groups. Some of these meetings are now face to face. Members and volunteers continue to be kept informed of plans and events through regular newsletters. Views have been sought from members and volunteers on future club activities, membership fees and charges through short questionnaires and face to face discussions and consultations.

Participation in local Community

See above "Involvement in local community."

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

Financial performance

RVT had a healthy bank balance at the end of the year of £63,156 which reflects a 12 month reserve.

During the year there has been an operating deficit of £34,344.

We ceased to receive our core funding end of June 2021 when our main funder, West Sussex County Council, radically changed its Commissioning approach to the Voluntary and Community Sector to require them to provide District Council- wide provision of services. As a small local community organisation, we did not have the capacity to bid for such extensive service provision. In addition, our service model, carefully developed and improved over 10 years, did not fit with that of a larger potential partner organisation which was the eventual successful bidder.

Despite this set-back, we have demonstrated that we can sustain our services for the benefit of our local community. Our members, their families and friends and the local community generally continue to recognise the essential contribution to the overall local community effort to support older vulnerable people. As evidence of this is approximately the £21k donated by them towards our costs this year.

The amounts raised this year were less than in the previous year mainly as a result of the loss of two local regular donors. This reduction resulted in the use of some of our Reserves to ensure the club could respond to the increases in running costs due to inflationary pressures on catering, room hire, and transport provisions. The Board of Trustees recognised the potential risk of further inflationary costs and has put in place a fundraising team and strategy to meet this challenge. This has already had some success in that £25k has already been raised in the first Quarter of 2023/24

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

Membership subscriptions

After consultation with members, annual membership subscriptions and contributions requested towards transport costs were increased slightly for 2022/23. Although membership has been slow to grow post pandemic, indications are that this is steadily increasing. In addition, plans to extend and develop services will bring increased membership and therefore additional income. The lottery grant will fund some of our new planned developments described earlier. It is expected that these initiatives will also increase membership.

Conclusion

Despite the service and resourcing difficulties following Covid 19, and the impact the effects of covid had on the general health of members, staff, and volunteers; and the ongoing challenge of recruiting the latter we are confident of a positive future. New initiatives are in hand and funds are available to implement these which will increase membership and volunteers and so compensate for some increases in operational costs.

We have on-going committed support including financial support from the local community and regular donors. We have a fundraising team working on bids to external funders and a healthy bank balance and adequate reserves.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have examined the Company's requirements for reserves and has concluded that there is a need to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to meet its commitments to beneficiaries. At 31 March 2023 the amount of free reserves held by the Company was considered satisfactory.

The Trustees continue to review, on an ongoing basis, the Reserves Policy and the level of reserves held to ensure that those reserves are adequate to fulfil the Company's obligations and to ensure its financial stability.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr A Mardle FCA has indicated his willingness to be reappointed as the Independent Examiner.

Approved by the Trustees on 26 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



M Guest
Trustee

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

I report to the trustees on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 9 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required under section 145 of the 2011 Act.

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Commission. 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 consideration 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 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

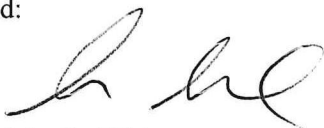
In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirements that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's trustees, as a body, for my work for this report.

Signed:



Alain Mardle FCA
Chartered Accountant
Greens Court, West Street
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NQ

Date: 04.10.23

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income & Expenditure Account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2023 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2023 £	Total Funds 31 March 2023 £	Total Funds 31 March 2022 £
Income from:	2.3 & 3				
Donations & legacies		17,183	0	17,183	41,900
Charitable activities		22,504	0	22,504	26,781
Other income		3,851	0	3,851	928
		43,538	0	43,538	69,609
Expenditure on:	2.4 & 4				
Fundraising		585	0	585	50
Charitable activities		76,487	0	76,487	67,747
Other expenditure		810	0	810	708
		77,882	0	77,882	68,506
Net movement in funds		(34,344)	0	(34,344)	1,103
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		89,255	9,190	98,445	97,342
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		54,911	9,190	64,101	98,445

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

This statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	31 March 2023		31 March 2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	8		5,217		6,075
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	1,459		1,922	
Cash at bank and in hand		63,156		93,460	
		64,615		95,382	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	5,731		3,012	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			58,884		92,370
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			64,101		98,445
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year			0		0
NET ASSETS			64,101		98,445
REPRESENTED BY:					
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	11		54,911		89,255
Restricted funds	12		9,190		9,190
			64,101		98,445

For the period ended 31 March 2023 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

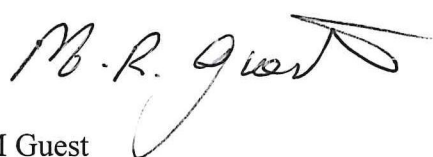
The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

- 1) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and
- 2) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the Company.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 26 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



M Guest
Director/Trustee

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Rother Valley Together is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of Preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The financial statements 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 16 July 2014 and FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing these accounts the directors have considered whether in applying the comparative figures was needed. No such restatements were required.

The Company has taken advantage of a number of disclosure exemptions permitted by FRS 102.

The Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The directors consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.2 Funds

The Trustees review incoming resources to determine whether any funds should be treated as restricted. Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income recognition

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis, when the Company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

2.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised where there is an obligation to make payments to third parties. Irrecoverable VAT is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less their estimated residual values, over their useful lives on the following bases:

Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance
Equipment	25% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

2.6 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The Trustees consider that there are no critical estimates or judgements.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

3. INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2023 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2023 £	Total Funds 31 March 2023 £	Total Funds 31 March 2022 £
Income from:				
Donations & legacies:				
Town Council grants	3,000	0	3,000	3,000
Legacy	0	0	0	5,000
Other grants & donations	14,183	0	14,183	33,900
	17,183	0	17,183	41,900
Charitable activities:				
Local Authority services	0	0	0	12,500
Club activities	22,504	0	22,504	14,281
	22,504	0	22,504	26,781
Other trading activities:				
Fundraising	3,851	0	3,851	928
	3,851	0	3,851	928
Total income	43,538	0	43,538	69,609

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

4. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2023 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2023 £	Total Funds 31 March 2023 £	Total Funds 31 March 2022 £
Expenditure on:				
Fundraising:				
Fundraising costs	585	0	585	50
	585	0	585	50
Charitable activities:				
Activities & outings	150	0	150	376
Room hire	9,275	0	9,275	5,649
Wages	41,931	0	41,931	43,254
Lunches	17,727	0	17,727	11,022
Motor expenses	3,940	0	3,940	3,007
Insurance	754	0	754	753
Telephone	400	0	400	486
Postage & stationery	354	0	354	671
Website	209	0	209	289
Small items of equipment	25	0	25	83
Depreciation	1,558	0	1,558	2,025
Sale of assets	0	0	0	0
Other expenses	164	0	164	133
Advertising for staff	0	0	0	0
	76,487	0	76,487	67,748
Other expenditure:				
Accountancy	810	0	810	708
	810	0	810	708
Total expenditure	77,882	0	77,882	68,506

5. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
This is stated after charging:-		
Independent Examiner's remuneration	720	708
	720	708

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

6. TAXATION

The Company, being a registered charity, is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Company.

7. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

None of the Directors received any remuneration during either year.

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2022 – 4).

8. FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost:			
At 1 April 2022	38,400	660	39,060
Additions	0	700	700
Disposals	0	(660)	(660)
At 31 March 2023	<u>38,400</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>39,100</u>
Depreciation:			
At 1 April 2022	32,325	660	32,985
Charge for the year	1,519	39	1,558
Disposals	0	(660)	(660)
At 31 March 2023	<u>33,844</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>33,883</u>
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,556</u>	<u>661</u>	<u>5,217</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>6,075</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,075</u>

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

9. DEBTORS

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£
Accrued income	358	801
Other debtors & prepayments	1,101	1,121
	1,459	1,922

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£
Accrued expenses	5,731	3,012
	5,731	3,012

11. GENERAL FUND: MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2022	89,255	88,030
Net movement in funds	(34,344)	1,225
Transfers between funds	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2023	54,911	89,255

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS: MOVEMENT IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2022	9,190	9,312
Net movement in funds	0	(122)
Transfers between funds	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2023	9,190	9,190

The restricted fund represents a Lottery grant of £10,000 to fund the New Horizons club. This has been put on hold due to the Covid 19 virus.

12. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no post-balance sheet events.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1147272

Accounts

**ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07818979
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1147272**

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEX TO THE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Page

1 - 8 Report of the Trustees

9 Independent Examiner's Report

10 Statement of Financial Activities

11 Balance Sheet

12 - 17 Notes to the Financial Statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees presents their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 issued on 16 July 2014 (FRS 102).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name:	Rother Valley Together
Charity registration number:	1147272
Company registration number:	07818979
Registered Office and operational address:	The Grange Centre, Bepton Road, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9HD
Directors and Trustees:	Mr C Hughes (resigned 31.03.22) Mrs M Guest Rev C Boxley Mr M Adsett (resigned 19.10.21) Mr J Quilter (resigned 19.10.21) Ms P Watts Mr R Maguire (appointed 19.10.21)
Independent Examiner:	Mr A Mardle FCA

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Rother Valley Together was incorporated on 21 October 2011 as a company limited by guarantee and without a share capital. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established its objects and powers, and is governed by its Articles of Association.

The Company was registered as a charity on 16 May 2012.

In the event of the Company being wound up each member may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before he or she ceased to be a member.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

Trustees and Organisational Structure

The Directors of the Company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The names of possible new Trustees, when needed, are brought forward by existing Trustees, who provide good reason and evidence for their suitability. Candidates may then be invited to attend a meeting as a guest before formal election.

All Trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid to them during the year. No Trustee, or person connected with a Trustee, received any benefit from the Company.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified and conducted a review of the major risks to which the Company is exposed, and systems and procedures have been established to manage and mitigate those risks. It is recognised that these systems and procedures can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks are being adequately managed.

The Trustees consider that any continuing rise in the Cost-of-Living, which would impact on the rising cost of lunches, transport, and hire of premises; and the on-going impact of Covid on adequate staffing of the services, constitute the major risks.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trustees are mindful of, and have given careful consideration to, the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The aims and objectives of the Company are:

- to work within the Rother Valley and surrounding area
- to work with partners to create integrated and community led and designed services
- to engage and consult with, and represent, the community (both individuals and groups) to ensure relevant and creative solutions to identified needs
- to support and empower individuals to participate in their local community to mutual benefit and to access services

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR

The Company began providing community clubs for older people in the Rother Valley/Midhurst area from November 2011. These clubs are based at the Grange Community and Leisure Centre, Midhurst. The lunch and activities clubs, provided for three days per week had to close in March 2020 at the time of the first "lockdown" due to the pandemic (Covid 19 virus). Owing to the vulnerability of club members due to age, chronic disease, and disability, and for many the need to "shield", and on the advice of Public Health, these services remained closed until 25 May 2021. However, adjustments made to the service for 2020/21, as previously reported, continued up to this date to meet the Charity's objects and the needs of club members.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

Club Activities:

From April 2020 until we re-opened in May 2021, our alternative service provided in 2020/21 continued. This included a telephone - buddying system in which staff and volunteers contacted all club members on a weekly basis, some more frequently, while those members assessed as “high risk” were contacted personally, by the manager and appropriate adjustments to their support made, depending on their circumstances and other community support becoming available; the purpose of each contact was to ensure members had access to essential items of shopping- food and medications, to check on members’ general well-being and available support from friends and family, and always to offer a friendly chat. This continued to be an essential service for many, especially for those living alone whose mental health was a key issue of concern. Several onward referrals to statutory agencies for further assistance were necessary during this period for some of the most vulnerable members. A sign-posting service also continued to be provided for those wanting further advice about the coronavirus, on-going assistance with shopping or prescription deliveries until we re-opened fully in July.

From May until late July 2021, we operated a reduced service, initially without lunch and with a reduced number of sessions, mornings only and with fewer members (11 per session) owing to the continuing requirement to take precautionary measures around social distancing. There was also a need to provide additional support to those members then attending whose health, mobility and confidence had significantly deteriorated during lockdowns. Activities previously led by outside volunteers were also curtailed at this time owing to the increased risk they could present to our vulnerable members. These necessary adjustments put added pressure on our staffing resources, their time, skills, and creativity. However, by the end of July, we were able to provide 2 full days of activities with lunch, and to increase numbers attending up to 18 per session.

From August to end September 2021 we continued to provide activities and lunch for 2 days per week and were able to reintroduce some activities led by outside volunteers such as tabletop pottery. We also added Friday outings, with limited numbers on the minibus to ensure appropriate social distancing, for those not sufficiently confident to return to the main club but who were looking for some social contact and the opportunity to get out and about safely.

During this period we sent regular newsletters to members, their families and volunteers up-dating them on how we were managing covid risk mitigation in the clubs and on our plans to return to providing a full service- all being kept under regular review.

By October we were again fully operational offering a wide range of activities and cooked lunches on 3 days per week. Activities, as proposed by members, included: seated exercises, tabletop pottery, arts, and crafts, talks and demonstrations by outside speakers, bingo, dominos, quizzes, memory games, musical bingo, singing for fun, a reading and discussion group, and a variety of card and board games.

From mid-December to 25 January 2022, we had to close the club again owing to the emergence of the omicron variant and the risks this posed to our vulnerable elderly members. However, since then we have again been able to operate our normal service while staff and volunteers continue to take basic precautions against infection, i.e., by regular hand sanitising, checking of temperature, and staying at home if covid symptoms arise.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

Special Events: In view of covid restrictions we were unable to hold our usual Harvest celebratory meal or our Christmas celebratory lunch with our community partners. The local Nursery and Primary School also cancelled their usual Christmas musical entertainment for our club members due to risks from covid. However, we were able to offer an early in-house Springtime celebratory meal and fun activities for members in February. This was very much appreciated as a first big social occasion since covid social restrictions for some and was enjoyed by all. This was helpfully reported on our local social media Parish Community Boards which attracted some new members.

Transport: The club's minibus, which had been a key part of our alternative service as described above, continues to be available to members to access the club when required. From May to September 2021, while social distancing was recommended, places on the minibus were limited to 6 people which necessitated double journeys and therefore increased demand on our resources, as members' confidence in returning happily increased. Since then, our minibus has returned to offering 12 places (or 10 with a wheelchair). Members regularly use our transport either owing to their mobility issues or to the lack of transport, public or private, where they live; 10 members live within 5 miles of Midhurst, 12 more than 5 miles away and 23 from within Midhurst, the club's base, itself. Volunteers also assist with transport to the club using their own cars when required. Volunteer drivers from partner community organisations e.g., Yellow Community Bus and Tandem also assist occasionally when our own driver is unavailable. As local community events re-start following Covid, our minibus will again be available to assist members to participate where possible. Having consulted with our members and other local transport providers, we decided against re-starting our 6 weekly outings owing to our reduced number of volunteer escorts and the alternatives of regular outings offered by our community partners, the Yellow Bus and Tandem. This is also a better use of our limited resources. However, we ensure our members are made aware of these alternative opportunities and how to book their places.

Involvement in local community Regrettably, this year, owing to the pandemic, we were unable to hold all our customary annual special events and celebrations with other community groups at Harvest time or at Christmas. Our involvement in community events such as the Christmas Street Party was also prevented due to the new covid variant, omicron. However, the expectation is that these opportunities for our members participation will again be part of the club's programme of activities for 2022/23.

We were able to participate in the local community's Christmas Fair held in early December at the Grange Community Centre where staff, volunteers, members, and friends raised £600, with raffle prizes donated by local businesses, trustees, and members themselves. Local businesses and community groups sold raffle tickets and gave generously of their time in supporting the club on the day.

Despite our more limited services and activities during parts of 2021/22 due to the pandemic, local Parish Councils have continued to recognize the added social value of the services that RVT provides to their communities by maintaining their annual donations, amounting to approximately £3.5k. This assists with RVT's day to day operational costs. Many other community and voluntary groups have supported our clubs in a variety of ways with their time, and sharing of resources, expertise, and skills. Local individuals and families of members have been generous too in making financial donations in recognition of the value to them of our services. We are very appreciative of all their support and that of our local community generally and of their acknowledgement of the value of the services and support we provide to the community as a whole.

As an example of this, the local Inner Wheel made us their Charity of the Year in December 2021, following a presentation by our manager, and they had raised £550 for us by March 2022.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

Staff and Volunteers

There continues to be 4 part-time staff: a manager, 2 support/activity workers and a driver. All staff were retained on their contractual hours during the pandemic to maintain and ensure an effective alternative service. They continue to work extremely hard maintaining a friendly, caring, and inclusive approach with members. This is despite the additional pressures placed on them due to the deteriorating health and subsequent increased needs of our members since covid, and the ongoing impact of covid infection on their own health and that of their families. Their enthusiasm and evident enjoyment of their roles, and their commitment to support members to get the most from the club, whatever the external circumstances, has been rewarded by the trust and respect of the members towards them. Trustees recognize and value how much the organisation benefits from our stable, committed, and skilled staff group, who often give their time for free to ensure that members can take full advantage of the club's available services. Trustees were therefore pleased to be able to award the staff a small increase in pay of 1.75% in March 2022 backdated to April 2021, in keeping with the National Joint Council pay scales and award for local government staff.

We also have a committed and experienced group of volunteers (12 including 4 trustees, a reduction of 6 prior to pandemic) whose continued loyalty and support is also highly valued. We were able to hold our regular annual social event for volunteers in November 2021 to thank them for their huge contribution to the continuing success of the club despite the challenges posed by covid and the need often to provide essential support, as carers themselves to their own family and friends. We acknowledged their continuing commitment as volunteers and friends to the club and re-committed to ensuring that their views and concerns, if they arise, are listened to and acted on. There is a continuing need to recruit more volunteers, particularly as escorts/bus buddies, to ensure the sustainability of the service and the continuing safety of members. This continues to be a challenge. We place regular features in the local press, parish magazines and other local media outlets including social media but with limited success. Local contacts and "word of mouth" continues to be more successful.

Membership

Numbers have reduced during the year of lockdowns and social restrictions. There were 44 members at the beginning of April 2022 (44 in March 2021; 52 in March 2020; 54 in 2019 and 65 in 2018). Since the start of the year (April 2021) we have gained 19 new members but lost 15 members. There is a constant churn to membership numbers due to failing health, admissions to Care Homes and sadly death. This year we lost a higher number of members than usual due to death. Anecdotally this is thought to have been due to some delay in members seeking medical help for deteriorating health conditions; also, to an absence of caring oversight due to members social isolation and the absence of direct face to face contact with professionals and the staff/volunteers in social clubs such as RVT. Previously RVT staff and volunteers would have been able to identify members' health issues early and, with their consent, refer them to appropriate health and care services. However, during recent months we have had several enquiries about membership because of existing members and their families' recommendations and our improved social media profile and are confident that our numbers will again increase over the coming year,

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

Our members have continued to regularly express their own appreciation for the support we have offered over this year, enabling them to keep in touch with friends and make new ones, have a supportive and friendly ear to listen to their concerns and help alleviate anxieties, and to advise on where further assistance can be obtained when required; and at the same time enjoying a range of fun and interesting activities and a nutritious cooked lunch. Members and their families continuing appreciation and commitment to the club is evident from the letters of thanks we regularly receive, and the personal recommendations and endorsements. Their enthusiastic support of, and participation in, our fundraising activities, including personal financial donations and legacies is also proof of their appreciation and wish for others to continue to benefit from our services in the future. This financial support has also increased since members and their families became aware that our core funding from West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) had ceased in June 2021. And for their additional support we are extremely grateful.

Members' needs continue to increase year on year not only because existing members are becoming less independent and frailer but also because new members are joining us at an older age and with deteriorating and more advanced chronic health conditions. Most live alone and the average age is 84 years. Members have a range of disabilities and chronic illnesses. Most have mobility issues; some a hearing loss or visual impairment; some mental health and/or cognitive issues including dementia and others a learning disability; several have multiple disabilities. These factors will continue to put an increasing demand on the resources of staff and volunteers in both their time and skills. However, we are confident that working with partners such as MIND and Age UK and developing our own staff's skills we will be able to respond positively to these changing demands.

Our intention to launch a new club, New Horizons, in November 2020 remains on hold owing to the continuing uncertainties around the pandemic and the changing needs of our local community. There are older people living in small villages isolated by lack of transport and access to services with whom we have yet to make contact. We are aware of the changing balance in the demographics of our local area as the numbers of those 85yrs+ continues to rise. We have seen the increase in those 75 years plus moving into recent developments of retirement flats in the area. These new residents are looking to meet new people and to get involved in gentle but interesting activities in a friendly welcoming place. We are therefore working with partners in MIND, Age UK, local Parish Councils and Churches, and local Retirement Housing providers and residents themselves to develop appropriate new services. These developments will also better ensure the sustainability of our other clubs, increasing membership numbers and offering opportunities for recruiting more volunteers too. We are planning to proceed with these developments in the Autumn 2022.

Partners

We continue to build on our work with a range of partners developing integrated, community-led and designed services for the benefit of our community, including shared facilities with the local Dementia Hub and Active Minds. County, District, and Parish Councils support us with grants, Health and Well-being services, and payroll and pension administrative services; the Community and Leisure Centre which accommodates our clubs offers inclusive sports and leisure activities and access to library and IT facilities for our club members. We are also working with an increasing number of local voluntary organisations, such as local Parish Care Groups, Church Friendship groups, Carers' Support Groups, 4 Sight, SAGE Dementia Care, MIND Mental Health services and our local Community Transport schemes, to ensure our members can easily access appropriate assistance, and that we can together offer more integrated services and continue to be responsive to local needs.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

Consultation and Representation

Through membership of local voluntary networks, and formal links with all levels of local government bodies, we ensure that our members' needs and those of our local community are heard. These formal links and involvement in networks of support have been maintained throughout the lockdowns and social restrictions through attendance and participation by trustees at regular Zoom meetings with council officers and leaders of community and voluntary groups. Some of these meetings are now face to face. Members and volunteers continue to be kept informed of plans and events through regular newsletters. Views have been sought from members and volunteers on future club activities, membership fees and charges through telephone, short questionnaires and face to face discussions and consultations.

Participation in local Community

See above "Involvement in local community"

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

Financial performance

RVT had a healthy bank balance at the end of the year of £93,460 which reflects an 18 month reserve.

During the year there has been an operating surplus of £1,225 which reflects some service reductions and adjustments required during the periods of lockdown and social distancing requirements.

We ceased to receive our core funding during the year (end of June 2021) when our main funder, West Sussex County Council, radically changed its Commissioning approach to the Voluntary and Community Sector to require them to provide District Council- wide provision of services. As a small local community organisation, we did not have the capacity to bid for such extensive service provision. In addition, our service model, carefully developed and improved over 10 years, did not fit with that of a larger potential partner organisation which was the eventual successful bidder.

Despite this set-back, we have demonstrated that we can sustain our services for the benefit of our local community. Our members, their families and friends and the local community generally continue to recognise the essential contribution to the overall local community effort to support older vulnerable people. As evidence of this is approximately £42k donated by them towards our costs this year. A further £27k approximately was raised from local charitable trusts.

Although the clubs were closed for several weeks in 2021/22, we continued to incur costs for premises, staff and transport during these periods and the costs of all these items also increased. Staff received a salary increase which was backdated. Transport costs increased too for an extended period due to double journeys being required owing to the requirement for social distancing on the minibus limiting the number of passengers being safely carried at any one time.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

Membership subscriptions

After consultation with members, annual membership subscriptions have been increased for 2022/23 and contributions for transport will also be increased. Although membership has been slow to grow post pandemic, indications are that this is now steadily increasing. In addition, plans to extend and develop services will bring increased membership and therefore additional income. The lottery grant will fund our new planned developments described earlier. It is expected that these initiatives will also increase membership.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges and difficulties of Covid 19, and the loss of our core funding from WSCC, we are confident of a positive future. New initiatives are in hand and funds are available to implement these thus increasing membership and volunteers which in turn will lower costs.

We have on-going committed support including financial support from the local community and regular donors. We have a fundraising team working on bids to external funders and a healthy bank balance and adequate reserves.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have examined the Company's requirements for reserves and has concluded that there is a need to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to meet its commitments to beneficiaries. On 31 March 2022 the amount of free reserves held by the Company was considered satisfactory.

The Trustees continue to review, on an ongoing basis, the Reserves Policy and the level of reserves held to ensure that those reserves are adequate to fulfil the Company's obligations and to ensure its financial stability.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr A Mardle FCA has indicated his willingness to be reappointed as the Independent Examiner.

Approved by the Trustees on 12 July 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



M. R. Guest
Trustee

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

I report to the trustees on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 10 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required under section 145 of the 2011 Act.

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Commission. 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 consideration 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 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 connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirements that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's trustees, as a body, for my work for this report.

Signed:



Alain Mardle FCA
Chartered Accountant
Greens Court, West Street
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NQ

Date: 14 JULY 2022

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income & Expenditure Account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2022 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2022 £	Total Funds 31 March 2022 £	Total Funds 31 March 2021 £
Income from:	2.3 & 3				
Donations & legacies		41,900	0	41,900	4,726
Charitable activities		26,781	0	26,781	50,000
Other income		928	0	928	0
		69,609	0	69,609	54,726
Expenditure on:	2.4 & 4				
Fundraising		50	0	50	0
Charitable activities		67,625	122	67,747	51,217
Other expenditure		708	0	708	696
		68,384	122	68,506	51,913
Net movement in funds		1,225	(122)	1,103	2,813
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		88,030	9,312	97,342	94,529
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		89,255	9,190	98,445	97,342

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

This statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	8		6,075		8,100
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	1,922		1,143	
Cash at bank and in hand		93,460		88,795	
		<u>95,382</u>		<u>89,938</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>3,012</u>		<u>696</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>92,370</u>		<u>89,242</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			98,445		97,342
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year			0		0
NET ASSETS			<u><u>98,445</u></u>		<u><u>97,342</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY:					
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	11		89,255		88,030
Restricted funds	12		9,190		9,312
			<u>98,445</u>		<u>97,342</u>

For the period ended 31 March 2022 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) 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 responsibility for:

- 1) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and
- 2) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the Company.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 12 July 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



M R Guest
Director/Trustee

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Rother Valley Together is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of Preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The financial statements 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 16 July 2014 and FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing these accounts the directors have considered whether in applying the comparative figures was needed. No such restatements were required.

The Company has taken advantage of a number of disclosure exemptions permitted by FRS 102.

The Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The directors consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.2 Funds

The Trustees review incoming resources to determine whether any funds should be treated as restricted. Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income recognition

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis, when the Company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

2.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised where there is an obligation to make payments to third parties. Irrecoverable VAT is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less their estimated residual values, over their useful lives on the following bases:

Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance
Equipment	25% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

2.6 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The Trustees consider that there are no critical estimates or judgements.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)**

3. INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2022 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2022 £	Total Funds 31 March 2022 £	Total Funds 31 March 2021 £
Income from:				
Donations & legacies:				
Town Council grants	3,000	0	3,000	3,000
Legacy	5,000	0	5,000	
Other grants & donations	33,900	0	33,900	1,726
	<u>41,900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>41,900</u>	<u>4,726</u>
Charitable activities:				
Local Authority services	12,500	0	12,500	50,000
Club activities	14,281	0	14,281	0
	<u>26,781</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,781</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Other trading activities:				
Fundraising	928	0	928	0
	<u>928</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>928</u>	<u>0</u>
Total income	<u>69,609</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>69,609</u>	<u>54,726</u>

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

4. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2022 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2022 £	Total Funds 31 March 2022 £	Total Funds 31 March 2021 £
Expenditure on:				
Fundraising:				
Fundraising costs	50	0	50	0
	50	0	50	0
Charitable activities:				
Activities & outings	376	0	376	492
Room hire	5,649	0	5,649	276
Wages	43,254	0	43,254	41,992
Lunches	11,022	0	11,022	2
Motor expenses	3,007	0	3,007	1,868
Insurance	753	0	753	648
Telephone	486	0	486	506
Postage & stationery	671	0	671	226
Website	167	122	289	467
Small items of equipment	83	0	83	690
Depreciation	2,025	0	2,025	4,050
Sale of assets	0	0	0	0
Other expenses	133	0	133	0
Advertising for staff	0	0	0	0
	67,626	122	67,748	51,217
Other expenditure:				
Independent examination	708	0	708	696
	708	0	708	696
Total expenditure	68,384	122	68,506	51,913

5. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
This is stated after charging:-		
Independent Examiner's remuneration	708	696
	708	696

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

6. TAXATION

The Company, being a registered charity, is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Company.

7. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

None of the Directors received any remuneration during either year.

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2021 – 4).

8. FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost:			
At 1 April 2021	38,400	660	39,060
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 March 2022	<u>38,400</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>39,060</u>
Depreciation:			
At 1 April 2021	30,300	660	30,960
Charge for the year	2,025	0	2,025
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 March 2022	<u>32,325</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>32,985</u>
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2022	<u>6,075</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,075</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>8,100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,100</u>

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)**

9. DEBTORS

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Accrued income	801	0
Other debtors & prepayments	1,121	1,143
	1,922	1,143

**10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Accrued expenses	3,012	696
	3,012	696

11. GENERAL FUND: MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2021	88,030	85,039
Net movement in funds	1,225	2,991
Transfers between funds	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2022	89,255	88,030

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS: MOVEMENT IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2021	9,312	9,490
Net movement in funds	(122)	(178)
Transfers between funds	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2022	9,190	9,312

The restricted fund represents a Lottery grant of £10,000 to fund the New Horizons club. This has been put on hold due to the Covid 19 virus.

12. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no post-balance sheet events.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1147272

Accounts

**ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07818979
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1147272**

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEX TO THE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Page	
1 - 7	Report of the Trustees
8	Independent Examiner's Report
9	Statement of Financial Activities
10	Balance Sheet
11 - 16	Notes to the Financial Statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees presents their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 issued on 16 July 2014 (FRS 102).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name: Rother Valley Together

Charity registration number: 1147272

Company registration number: 07818979

Registered Office and operational address: The Grange Centre, Bepton Road,
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9HD

Directors and Trustees: Mr C Hughes
Mrs M Guest
Rev C Boxley
Mr M Adsett
Mr J Quilter
Ms P Watts

Independent Examiner: Mr A Mardle FCA

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Rother Valley Together was incorporated on 21 October 2011 as a company limited by guarantee and without a share capital. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established its objects and powers, and is governed by its Articles of Association.

The Company was registered as a charity on 16 May 2012.

In the event of the Company being wound up each member may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before he or she ceased to be a member.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

Trustees and Organisational Structure

The Directors of the Company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The names of possible new Trustees, when needed, are brought forward by existing Trustees, who provide good reason and evidence for their suitability. Candidates may then be invited to attend a meeting as a guest, before formal election.

All Trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid to them during the year. No Trustee, or person connected with a Trustee, received any benefit from the Company.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified and conducted a review of the major risks to which the Company is exposed, and systems and procedures have been established to manage and mitigate those risks. It is recognised that these systems and procedures can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks are being adequately managed.

The Trustees consider that the withdrawal or dilution of funding by West Sussex County Council constitutes the major risk.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trustees are mindful of, and have given careful consideration to, the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The aims and objectives of the Company are:

- to work within the Rother Valley and surrounding area
- to work with partners to create integrated and community led and designed services
- to engage and consult with, and represent, the community (both individuals and groups) to ensure relevant and creative solutions to identified needs
- to support and empower individuals to participate in their local community to mutual benefit and to access services

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR

The Company began providing community clubs for older people in the Rother Valley/Midhurst area from November 2011. Our clubs are based at the Grange Community and Leisure Centre, Midhurst. These lunch and activities clubs, provided on three days per week had to close in March 2020 at the time of the first "lockdown" due to the pandemic (Covid 19 virus). Owing to the vulnerability of our members due to age, chronic disease, and disability, and on the advice of Public Health, these services remained closed. However, we have continued to make adjustments to our service offer in order to meet the Charity's objects and the needs of club members.

From April 2020 until we re-opened fully in May 2021, we have continued to operate an alternative service, including a telephone - buddying system in which staff and volunteers contacted all club members on a weekly basis, some more frequently, while those members assessed as "high risk" were contacted personally by the manager. Frequency of contact was regularly reviewed, and

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

appropriate adjustments made, depending on members' needs and other community support becoming available; the purpose of each contact being to ensure members had access to essential items of shopping- food and medications, to check on members' general well-being and support from friends and family, and always to offer a friendly chat. This continued to be an essential service for many, especially for those living alone whose mental health is a key issue of concern. Several onward referrals to statutory agencies for further assistance have been necessary during this period for some of our most vulnerable members.

A sign-posting service has also been provided for those wanting further advice about the coronavirus, on-going assistance with shopping or prescription deliveries. In addition, in partnership with Sage House, a local Dementia Care provider, our staff developed activity packs more tailored for our members.

These were delivered on a 4-6 weekly basis in our minibus, with its well-recognised club signage, by our driver who provided a friendly and familiar face to face contact and re-assurance. Staff also provided a regular friendly listening ear to carers of those members who have mental health and/or cognitive impairments. This alternative service was kept under regular review by the manager with support from trustees.

Transport: The club's minibus has been part of the alternative service in delivering Activity Packs to 48 members across the Rother Valley at 4-6 weekly intervals; food hampers and mini trees at Christmas and Easter Eggs and Daffodils at Easter. We were financially supported at Xmas and Easter in these efforts by our local Rotary Club. Transport by our minibus and volunteers' cars will again be available to members to access the club where required, and for regular outings to local places of interest when we re-open.

Involvement in local community Regrettably, this year, owing to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our customary annual special events and celebrations with other community groups at Harvest time, Christmas, or Easter. Our involvement in community events such as the Christmas Street Party and the annual summer Midhurst Arts and Drama Festival was also prevented by the pandemic though the expectation is that these opportunities for our members participation will again be part of our support programme when we re-open.

In spite of our more limited service during "lockdowns" and subsequent restrictions due to the pandemic, local Parish Councils, have continued to recognize the added social value of the services that RVT provides in maintaining their annual donations, amounting to approximately £3.5k, which assist with RVT's day to day operational costs. Many other community and voluntary groups have supported our alternative services in a variety of ways with their time, and sharing of resources, expertise, and skills. Local individuals and families of members have been generous in making financial donations in recognition of our services. We are very appreciative of all their support and that of our local community generally in their acknowledgement of the value and service we provide.

Our members have continued to frequently express their own appreciation for the support we have offered, enabling them to keep in touch with friends, have a supportive and friendly ear to listen to their concerns and help alleviate anxieties, and to advise on where further assistance could be obtained while isolating. Members' commitment to the club is also evident from their decision to maintain payment in full of their annual membership fee, in spite of the more limited service we were able to offer.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

Staff and Volunteers

There are 4 part-time staff: a manager, 2 support/activity workers and a driver. All staff were retained on their contractual hours during the pandemic to maintain and ensure an effective alternative service. They have worked hard maintaining a friendly caring and inclusive approach with members in spite of the limitations placed on the service during the pandemic. Their enthusiasm and evident enjoyment of their roles, and their commitment to support members to get the most from the club, whatever the external circumstances, has been rewarded by the trust and respect of the members towards them. Trustees recognize and value how much RVT benefits from our stable, committed, and skilled staff group, who often give their time for free to ensure that members can take full advantage of the club's available services.

We also have a committed and experienced group of volunteers (18 including 6 trustees) whose continued loyalty and support is also highly valued. We were unable to hold our regular annual social event for volunteers owing to the on-going social restrictions necessitated by the "lockdown". However, we plan to do this as soon as restrictions are lifted to acknowledge the huge contribution volunteers and friends make to the club and to ensure that their views and concerns, if they arise, are listened to and acted on. However, there is a continuing need to recruit more volunteers, particularly as escorts/bus buddies, to ensure the sustainability of the service and the safety of members. This continues to be a challenge. We place regular features in the local press, parish magazines and other local media outlets including social media but with limited success. Local contacts and "word of mouth" continues to be more successful.

Membership

Numbers have reduced during the year of lockdowns and social restrictions. There were 44 members at the end of March 2021 (52 in March 2020; 54 in 2019 and 65 in 2018). Since the start of the year (April 2020) we have lost 14 members (11 died, 2 moved to a Care Home, 1 became too frail to attend.) In previous years we have only had, on average, 4 members die so consider that the increase in the number of deaths this year may reflect in some way the impact of covid. However, during the year we have also had several enquiries about membership and are confident that our numbers will again increase when we re-open.

Members' needs continue to increase year on year not only because existing members are becoming less independent and frailer but also because of new members joining us at an older age and with deteriorating and more advanced chronic health conditions. Most live alone and the average age is 84 years. Members have a range of disabilities and chronic illnesses. Most have mobility issues; some a hearing loss or visual impairment; some mental health and/or cognitive issues including dementia and others a learning disability; several have multiple disabilities. These factors will continue to put an increasing demand on the resources of staff and volunteers in both their time and skills.

Our intention to launch a new club, New Horizons, in November 2020 remains on hold owing to the continuing uncertainties around the pandemic and requirements for social distancing. This new club is intended to attract a younger age group 70-75 years, including those recently arrived in the area, who are looking to try something new in a friendly welcoming place where they can also learn of other activities and opportunities for getting out and about in the community. The new venture will better ensure the sustainability of our other clubs, increasing membership numbers and offering

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

opportunities for recruiting more volunteers too. We plan to proceed with this new club as soon as is practicable after we re-open.

Partners

We continue to build on our work with a range of partners developing integrated, community-led and designed services for the benefit of our community, including shared facilities with the local Dementia Hub. County, District, and Parish Councils support us with grants and administration services; the Community and Leisure Centre which accommodates our clubs offers inclusive sports and leisure activities and access to library and IT facilities for our club members. We are also working with an increasing number of local voluntary organisations, such as local Parish Care Groups, Church Friendship groups, Carers' Support Groups, 4 Sight, SAGE Dementia Care, MIND Mental Health services and our local Community Transport schemes, to ensure our members can easily access appropriate assistance, and that we can together offer more integrated services and be more responsive to local needs.

Consultation and Representation

Through membership of local voluntary networks, and formal links with all levels of local government bodies, we ensure that our members' needs and those of our local community are heard. These formal links and involvement in networks of support have been maintained throughout the lockdowns and social restrictions through attendance and participation by trustees at regular Zoom meetings with council officers and leaders of community and voluntary groups. Members and volunteers have been kept informed through regular newsletters. Views have been sought from members and volunteers on future club activities, membership fees and charges through telephone surveys and short questionnaires.

Participation in local Community

See above "Involvement in local community"

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

Financial performance

RVT had a healthy bank balance at the end of the year of £88,641 which reflects an 18month reserve.

During the year there has been an operating surplus of £2,991 which reflects some service reductions and adjustments required during the periods of lockdown and social distancing requirements.

We continued to receive our core funding during the year as our main funder recognised the value of the alternative services we were providing (referred to above), and our essential contribution to the overall local community effort to support older vulnerable people and those shielding during the pandemic. They also acknowledged that, despite our operational constraints during this period, we were able to evidence that we continued to meet their funding requirements to reduce social isolation and loneliness in our community.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

As we have not been operating in the Grange during this period there has been a reduction in costs that we usually incur. We have not had costs for room hire which for the previous year were £8,475. This current year they were £276.

However, as we decided to retain our staff for their contracted hours rather than furlough them, staff salaries were paid in full for the entire year. This decision was based on the importance of retaining experienced and skilled staff and being then able to offer an effective and sustainable alternative service and to support the whole community effort to safeguard and support vulnerable people during the pandemic. This also required us to purchase PPE equipment to protect both staff and our members, for which we did receive some funding from the local authority at a later date.

In addition, during the year we continued to have costs relating to the running and maintenance of our minibus which was an essential part of delivering our alternative service to those isolating at home and those living in the more rural parts of our community.

Membership subscriptions

Membership is down on last year due to the clubs being closed during the lockdowns, a resulting lack of opportunity to attract new members and an ageing and frailer membership resulting in more than usual leaving us this year. As referred to earlier in this report an initiative is planned to recruit a new cohort of members. A lottery grant has been received which will fund this new initiative and result in an increase in members. Targeting the 70s with plenty of activities and an interesting program of learning.

Fundraising

Due to the pandemic the staff team and club members have been unable to take part in their customary successful fundraising activities that not only raise money but raise the profile of the club.

However, we have been fortunate to receive several generous donations from families and friends of members.

The Lottery has funded £10,000 for the new initiative of NEW HORIZONS. This money has been received and is held in our current account pending the re-opening of our clubs and the launch of this initiative.

Midhurst Town Council has continued to contribute generously to the running of the club and other local charities have donated funds to ensure we could continue to provide small gifts for members at Christmas and Easter.

Conclusion

Despite the current difficulties incurred by Covid 19, RVT are confident of a positive future. New initiatives are in hand and funds are available to restructure the Friday Club increasing members and volunteers which in turn will lower costs.

We are mindful, however, that our core funding from West Sussex County Council, which has ensured our financial stability to deliver the current level of service to our members over many years, ceased at the end of June 2021. Therefore, we are fortunate to have healthy reserves which will enable us to continue to operate while we review our essential costs and seek out alternative funders. We have already received offers of support from individual donors and commitments of on-going funding support from local individuals, community groups and statutory bodies.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

In spite of this, we do not underestimate the challenges ahead when we are able to fully re-open services. We are aware of the likely greater demand on our services as our local population is ageing and we will be seeking alternative support as statutory services will also struggle to meet increased demand after the pandemic. Our current membership has told us of their desperate need to get out and about again and meet with others. Families have recognised the impact the lockdowns have had on the physical and mental health of their older isolated relatives and are already contacting us for support on their behalf. There will be greater demand for our services but also more demand for funding from charitable organisations as local authorities also struggle with funding issues. There will be opportunities to work more closely and partner with other local organisations to make more efficient use of all our local resources for the benefit of our community. We therefore remain confident in our ability to sustain RVT's much needed and valued services in our community.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have examined the Company's requirements for reserves and has concluded that there is a need to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to meet its commitments to beneficiaries. At 31 March 2021 the amount of free reserves held by the Company was considered satisfactory.

The Trustees continue to review, on an ongoing basis, the Reserves Policy and the level of reserves held so as to ensure that those reserves are adequate to fulfil the Company's obligations and to ensure its financial stability.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr A Mardle FCA has indicated his willingness to be reappointed as the Independent Examiner.

Approved by the Trustees on 11 October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr C Hughes
Secretary

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

I report to the trustees on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required under section 145 of the 2011 Act.

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Commission. 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 consideration 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 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 connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirements that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's trustees, as a body, for my work for this report.

Signed:



Alain Mardle FCA
Chartered Accountant
Greens Court, West Street
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NQ

Date: 27.10.21

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income & Expenditure Account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2021 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2021 £	Total Funds 31 March 2021 £	Total Funds 31 March 2020 £
Income from:	2.3 & 3				
Donations & legacies		4,726	0	4,726	13,810
Charitable activities		50,000	0	50,000	68,414
Other income		0	0	0	1,297
		54,726	0	54,726	83,521
Expenditure on:	2.4 & 4				
Fundraising		0	0	0	128
Charitable activities		51,039	178	51,217	83,337
Other expenditure		696	0	696	696
		51,735	178	51,913	84,161
Net movement in funds		2,991	(178)	2,813	(640)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		85,039	9,490	94,529	95,169
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		88,030	9,312	97,342	94,529

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

This statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	31 March 2021		31 March 2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	8		8,100		12,150
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	1,143		946	
Cash at bank and in hand		88,795		87,151	
		<u>89,938</u>		<u>88,097</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>696</u>		<u>5,718</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>89,242</u>		<u>82,379</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			97,342		94,529
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year			0		0
NET ASSETS			<u><u>97,342</u></u>		<u><u>94,529</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY:					
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	11		88,030		85,039
Restricted funds	12		9,312		9,490
			<u>97,342</u>		<u>94,529</u>

For the period ended 31 March 2021 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) 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 responsibility for:

- 1) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and
- 2) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the Company.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 11 October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



C Hughes
Director/Trustee

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Rother Valley Together is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of Preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The financial statements 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 16 July 2014 and FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing these accounts the directors have considered whether in applying the comparative figures was needed. No such restatements were required.

The Company has taken advantage of a number of disclosure exemptions permitted by FRS 102.

The Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The directors consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.2 Funds

The Trustees review incoming resources to determine whether any funds should be treated as restricted. Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income recognition

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis, when the Company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

2.4 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised where there is an obligation to make payments to third parties. Irrecoverable VAT is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less their estimated residual values, over their useful lives on the following bases:

Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance
Equipment	25% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

2.6 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The Trustees consider that there are no critical estimates or judgements.

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

3. INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2021 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2021 £	Total Funds 31 March 2021 £	Total Funds 31 March 2020 £
Income from:				
Donations & legacies:				
Town Council grants	3,000	0	3,000	3,000
Other grants & donations	1,726	0	1,726	10,810
	4,726	0	4,726	13,810
Charitable activities:				
Local Authority services	50,000	0	50,000	50,000
Club activities	0	0	0	18,414
	50,000	0	50,000	68,414
Other trading activities:				
Fundraising	0	0	0	1,297
	0	0	0	1,297
Total income	54,726	0	54,726	83,521

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

4. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds 31 March 2021 £	Restricted Funds 31 March 2021 £	Total Funds 31 March 2021 £	Total Funds 31 March 2020 £
Expenditure on:				
Fundraising:				
Fundraising costs	0	0	0	128
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>128</u>
Charitable activities:				
Activities & outings	492	0	492	368
Rent	276	0	276	8,475
Wages	41,992	0	41,992	44,480
Lunches	2	0	2	16,491
Motor expenses	1,868	0	1,868	4,635
Insurance	648	0	648	1,393
Telephone	506	0	506	357
Postage & stationery	226	0	226	1,298
Website	289	178	467	617
Small items of equipment	690	0	690	791
Depreciation	4,050	0	4,050	4,050
Sale of assets	0	0	0	0
Other expenses	0	0	0	382
Advertising for staff	0	0	0	0
	<u>51,039</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>51,217</u>	<u>83,337</u>
Other expenditure:				
Independent examination	696	0	696	696
	<u>696</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>696</u>
Total expenditure	<u>51,735</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>51,913</u>	<u>84,161</u>

5. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
This is stated after charging:-		
Independent Examiner's remuneration	696	696
	<u>696</u>	<u>696</u>

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

6. TAXATION

The Company, being a registered charity, is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Company.

7. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

None of the Directors received any remuneration during either year.

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2020 – 4).

8. FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost:			
At 1 April 2020	38,400	660	39,060
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 March 2021	<u>38,400</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>39,060</u>
Depreciation:			
At 1 April 2020	26,250	660	26,910
Charge for the year	4,050	0	4,050
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 March 2021	<u>30,300</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>30,960</u>
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2021	<u>8,100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,100</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>12,150</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,150</u>

ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

9. DEBTORS

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Other debtors & prepayments	1,143	946
	1,143	946
	1,143	946

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Accrued expenses	696	5,718
	696	5,718
	696	5,718

11. GENERAL FUND: MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Balance at 1 April 2020	85,039	97,841
Net movement in funds	2,991	(10,130)
Transfers between funds	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2021	88,030	85,039
	88,030	85,039

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS: MOVEMENT IN THE YEAR

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Balance at 1 April 2020	9,490	0
Net incoming resources	0	10,000
Transfers between funds	(178)	(510)
Balance at 31 March 2021	9,312	9,490
	9,312	9,490

The restricted fund represents a Lottery grant of £10,000 to fund the New Horizons club. This has been put on hold due to the Covid 19 virus.

12. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no post-balance sheet events.