

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

England & Wales - Charity number 1157612

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-06-26

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: OBJECTIVE TO RELIEVE THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL SICKNESS OF PERSONS, RESIDENT IN SUFFOLK, RECOVERING FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ABUSE BY THE PROVISION OF COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT FOR SUCH PERSONS.?

Activities: TO RAISE AWARENESS AND RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ACROSS SUFFOLK

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-26	£1,251	£3,932	-	-
2024-06-26	£1,057	£4,772	-	-
2023-06-26	£10,471	£4,211	-	-
2022-06-26	£1,960	£4,547	-	-
2021-06-26	£2,809	£4,824	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ELIZABETH MARY HARSANT		2016-04-18
Elizabeth Matterson		2022-11-07
Helena Gurney		2022-11-07
Luke Morris		2022-01-13

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

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FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Introduction:

The year to 26 June 2025 was one of consolidation for The Ferns.

The SARC is managed and run by Mountain Healthcare, funded by Police and NHS. The Charity no longer has any direct involvement.

The ISVA Service is funded by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

Whilst the SARC and ISVA service work in collaboration, they are separate services. The Charity has focussed on building its direct relationship with the ISVA Service to provide support.

SARC services:

- Immediate over-the-phone rape and sexual assault support and signposting to specialist services
- In-person rape or sexual assault crisis support and healthcare including access to medicine
- Forensic medical examinations
- Holistic examinations and care for non-recent cases
- Collection and storage of forensic samples
- Comprehensive Risk Assessments
- Referrals to specialist counselling and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) support.
- Follow-up calls after an appointment.

Services are offered based on your individual needs and can be used as much or as little as required.

ISVA services:

An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) is a specially trained worker who is there to provide all survivors of sexual violence and abuse with a non-judgmental, safe, and confidential space to access support.

The support offered can be accessed regardless of the person's gender, age and when the offence happened. Those accessing our support are not expected to travel to any office to access the service, ISVAs will work to identify a safe place or method to have contact.

Support can be accessed whether a police investigation is engaged or not.

The ISVA service will not make anyone report to the police.

The ISVA's role is to work with the survivor and to help them to access services to address both short term and long-term needs. They will complete an initial assessment to identify these requirements.

ISVA's can provide support and advice across a wide range of issues such as housing, health, and education. If the police are involved, the ISVA service can provide advice and support alongside the criminal justice system, including supporting the survivor at court.

If required, an ISVA can refer a survivor to different agencies or assist in accessing the services of these agencies.

The ISVA service is non-therapeutic, which means the ISVA is not able to provide counselling or therapy, but they can advise on the therapeutic support available.

The ISVA service is a free and confidential service.

An ISVA cannot discuss the evidential detail of what has happened.

Activities for the period:

Financially, the Charity has recorded a deficit for the year of £2,681. This is largely on account of the slowdown of direct fundraising activities whilst the best future of the Charity is considered by the Trustees. There is approximately 2 or 3 years of reserves at the current run-rate.

Payments for equipment and client services, such as counselling, have remained largely consistent with the prior year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Trustees. I especially would like to thank everyone at the Ferns and the ISVAs for the hard work they do in very difficult circumstance. I propose that the accounts are adopted as laid before this meeting.

Luke Morris

Chairman

11 September 2025

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 26/06/2025

	£ 2025	£ 2024
INCOME		
Fundraising Events	-	230
Donations & Grants	1,251	777
Gift Aid	-	49
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,251	1,057
EXPENSES		
Equipment	3,776	4,153
Fundraising Expenses	-	-
Totalgiving/Sprite charges	5	7
Website/Services	150	313
Critical Incident Work	-	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,932	4,772
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) :	<hr/>	<hr/>
	- 2,681	- 3,715
<i>Balance Carried Forward:</i>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,967	9,648

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

England & Wales - Charity number 1157612

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FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT, 7TH JANUARY 2025

Introduction:

The year was one of significant change for The Ferns, but services continue.

Therefore it is worth recapping on current status.

The SARC is now managed and run by Mountain Healthcare, funded by Police and NHS.

The ISVA Service is funded by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The SARC and ISVA service work in collaboration. They are separate services, and currently share an office building.

SARC services:

- Immediate over-the-phone rape and sexual assault support and signposting to specialist services
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- Holistic examinations and care for non-recent cases
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- Follow-up calls after an appointment.

Services are offered based on your individual needs and can be used as much or as little as required.

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The support offered can be accessed regardless of the person's gender, age and when the offence happened. Those accessing our support are not expected to travel to any office to access the service, ISVAs will work to identify a safe place or method to have contact.

Support can be accessed whether a police investigation is engaged or not.

The ISVA service will not make anyone report to the police.

The ISVA's role is to work with the survivor and to help them to access services to address both short term and long-term needs. They will complete an initial assessment to identify these requirements.

ISVA's can provide support and advice across a wide range of issues such as housing, health, and education. If the police are involved, the ISVA service can provide advice and support alongside the criminal justice system, including supporting the survivor at court.

If required, an ISVA can refer a survivor to different agencies or assist in accessing the services of these agencies.

The ISVA service is non-therapeutic, which means the ISVA is not able to provide counselling or therapy, but they can advise on the therapeutic support available.

The ISVA service is a free and confidential service.

An ISVA cannot discuss the evidential detail of what has happened.

Activities for the period:

Financially, the Charity has recorded a deficit for the year of £3,715. This is largely on account of the uncertainties around the Ferns and the outlook for the Charity in the coming years. The Trustees are currently consulting on the future of the Charity. There are approximately 3 years of reserves at the current run-rate.

Payments for equipment and client services, such as counselling, have remained largely consistent with the prior year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Trustees, particularly Rosie and Fenella who have decided to step down as Trustees in the coming year. I especially would like to thank everyone at the Ferns and the ISVAs for the hard work they do in very difficult circumstance. I propose that the accounts are adopted as laid before this meeting.

Luke Morris

Chairman

7 January 2025

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 26/06/2024

	£ 2024	£ 2023
INCOME		
Fundraising Events	230	1,793
Donations & Grants	777	8,310
Gift Aid	49	368
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,057	10,471
EXPENSES		
Equipment	4,153	3,688
Fundraising Expenses	-	-
Totalgiving/Sprite charges	7	43
Website/Services	313	150
Critical Incident Work	300	330
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,772	4,211
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) :	<hr/>	<hr/>
	- 3,715	6,260
<i>Balance Carried Forward:</i>	9,648	13,363

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

England & Wales - Charity number 1157612

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FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT, 13TH NOVEMBER 2023

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you all for coming here today and it is good to be able to meet up again in person with you all and, for some, to meet for the first time.

The past year has once again been (sadly) busy for the staff here and Louise and Carol will report on that in more detail a bit later on. There continues to be the burden of increasing regulation with reorganisations and ISO accreditation adding to an uncertain picture for the year ahead.

It's also sad that we say farewell to Karin Norman-Butler, who is stepping down as Chair and Trustee at this AGM. We would like to put on record our thanks for Karin's heroic efforts for the Charity over the past 10 years or so. She was first appointed on 22 November 2013, so this really represents a huge amount of dedication as a tireless advocate of the Charity.

We are also delighted to welcome Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, who will spend some time speaking with us about his role and his views on what the Fern's does.

Financially, the Charity has recorded a surplus for the year of £6,260. A donation from the Stratford Hills Horse Trials in February this year was very gratefully received. Sophie's quiz night and Fenella's dog walk all were hugely appreciated, as well as the number of smaller donations.

Payments for equipment and client services, such as counselling, have remained largely consistent with the prior year and I know that Louise and Carol will comment on other activities undertaken.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Trustees, everyone at the Ferns, and propose that the accounts are adopted as laid before this meeting.

We would also like to invite you all to take the opportunity to stay behind afterwards and enjoy a light lunch provided by the Trustees.

Luke Morris

Chairman

13 November 2023

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 26/06/2023

	£	£
	2023	2022
INCOME		
Fundraising Events	1,793	215
Donations & Grants	8,310	1,746
Gift Aid	368	-
	<u>10,471</u>	<u>1,960</u>
EXPENSES		
Equipment	3,688	4,161
Fundraising Expenses	-	231
Totalgiving/Sprite charges	43	6
Website/Services	150	150
Critical Incident Work	330	-
	<u>4,211</u>	<u>4,547</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) :	<u>6,260</u>	<u>- 2,587</u>
<i>Balance Carried Forward:</i>	<i>13,363</i>	<i>7,104</i>

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

England & Wales - Charity number 1157612

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FRIENDS OF THE FERNS
CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT, 7TH NOVEMBER
2022

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you all for coming here today and it is good to be able to meet up again in person with you all.

The past year has been (sadly) busy for the staff here and Louise and Carol will report on that in more detail a bit later on.

There are also more rules and regulations to be adhered to and this adds to the pressures here with an old adapted building , there are constant constraints on expenditure and ever more people that need our help. These are difficult times.

One of the highlights of the year was that we were selected to be put forward by our Lord Lieutenant for the highly coveted Queens Award for Voluntary Service. Sadly we didn't succeed but I would just like to read you this letter from Lady Claire Euston.....

It was disappointing but we should be proud that we got as far as we did.

My fellow Trustees have always been amazingly supportive and hard working and I thank them most warmly.

Fenella Agar has, all by herself, organized a Tennis Tournament and a Dog Walk at the Royal Hospital School in aid of us and the Blossom Appeal and, as a result, was able to give us a cheque for £1,450.

We made a rule that no Trustee could do more than 3 terms of 3 years and in this coming year several of us will be leaving having done 9 years.

The first to go is Alan Caton who has been on board since the very beginning and has been a tower of strength. Alan, your police knowledge and expertise and your deep interest in the way the SARC Centres serve people have been invaluable to us and we all thank you for all you have done. We will miss you .

Today I welcome 2 new Trustees, Buffy Matterson and Helena Gurney. I hope you both will enjoy serving as a Trustee of The Friends.

Last but by no means least I would like to welcome most warmly Professor Helen Langton , Vice Chancellor of our own University here in Ipswich. Professor Langton is going to address us in a little while and has been kind enough to agree to take questions.

We hope as many of you as possible will stay for a light lunch so that we can all meet with you and thank you in person.

Karin Norman-Butler

Chairman

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 2022

		£ 2022
INCOME		
	Fundraising Events	215
	Donations & Grants	1,746
	Gift Aid	-
		<hr/> 1,960
EXPENSES		
	Equipment	4,161
	Fundraising Expenses	231
	Totalgiving/Sprite charges	6
	Website/Services	150
	Critical Incident Work	-
		<hr/> 4,547
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) :		<hr/> <hr/> - 2,587
<i>Balance Carried Forward:</i>		<i>7,104</i>

Notes:

5/06/2022

£
2021

119
2,640
50

2,809

4,822
-
2
-
-

4,824

- 2,015

9,691

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

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FRIENDS OF THE FERNS ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Good afternoon everyone, and thank you for attending our second Zoom AGM.

It's been a difficult 18 months for everyone at The Ferns but I do feel that the staff there have coped magnificently in the circumstances and have managed to keep the Ferns open and available to everyone who has sought their services.

We will be updated later on the number of people helped.

It's been almost impossible to fund raise due to COVID but we did receive a very generous cheque from all the staff at Scrutton Bland. I know there are exciting fund raising initiatives in the pipeline for next year.

Our Catch 22 project is a new initiative we are pursuing to help fund an aid worker who would be able to go out into the community and spread the word and go out to schools and talk to children and young people. We have to wait until we have secure funding and then we can start to plan.

I want to thank all the Trustees for their continued support and help. You are all much appreciated.

Karin Norman-Butler
Monday 15th November 2021

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Year I

		£ 2021
INCOME		
	Fundraising Events	119
	Donations & Grants	2,640
	Gift Aid	50
		<hr/> 2,809
EXPENSES		
	Equipment	4,822
	Fundraising Expenses	-
	Totalgiving/Sprite charges	2
	Website/Services	-
	Critical Incident Work	-
		<hr/> 4,824
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) :		<hr/> <hr/> - 2,015
<i>Balance Carried Forward:</i>		9,691

Notes:

2019 Orwell Walk Fundraising Total = £2,437.39 (£1,294 accounted for in ending 26/06/2020)

Ended 26/06/2021

£ 2020	£ 2019
1,317	1,469
3,250	8,180
359	90
<hr/> 4,926	<hr/> 9,739
4,061	6,155
-	-
16	32
-	48
490	4,624
<hr/> 4,568	<hr/> 10,859
<hr/> 359	<hr/> - 1,120
<hr/> <i>11,706</i>	<hr/> <i>11,347</i>

2019, balance in