

Trustees Annual Report for the financial year 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

Trustees

- **Rev David White (Chair)**
- **Dr Anne Fenning**
- **Dr Terry Smith**
- **Rev Trevor Harris**

Review of The Year

It has taken some time and effort to rebuild attendance at events, but steady progress is being made; there is no doubt that COVID has introduced a lasting impact.

Time has been invested in exploring new ways to engage with people, these are beginning to show fruit. Support for new interactions are fully shared with the trustees and support is available where needed.

Both the Manager & Assistant roles are now well established, with each of these valuable team members developing their roles.

Why we do what we do.

Charitable Objects and Activities:

1. To provide relief to older people (regardless of faith or ethnicity) through the provision of practical and spiritual assistance.
2. To promote the Christian Faith primarily for the benefit of older people in residential or care homes by the provision of practical and spiritual assistance in line with our statement of faith.

How we achieve our Objectives.

Following a vision day in November, with all the staff and Trustees our strategic plan was updated the overarching priorities of Building Community, Sharing Information, Opportunity for Faith and Making it all Happen remaining the same but the plan enables us to explore some new ways of achieving our goals.

By Building Community Better

We continue to run regular weekly activity sessions. On Tuesdays we have our Tech café where people can get support or ask questions about their phone, tablet or laptop. We have been able to help with updates, spam messages, games, train tickets and so many random questions. With so much only being done online now this has been a real 'life saver' for some who came in very stressed about an issue or an online bill. We have been able to talk them through and support them at their

pace to get things resolved. The weight that this has lifted off their shoulders is visible and great to see.

On Wednesdays we have tea and chat at Maidstone Road and Thursdays Games, tea and chat at OFCA in old Felixstowe. Each of these sessions has its own group of regulars and there are some people who come to both each week. Friendships are made during these sessions which are then developed outside with some people going for meals or walks with the new friends they have made while with us. Some of their feedback from these sessions has been:

- 'It's the best day of the week.'
- 'I come to be part of a group; I belong.'
- 'I come for friendship and to enjoy the company.'
- 'It's a very happy place, lots of laughter.'
- 'I feel better after a visit and go home uplifted.'
- 'I come to get things off my chest.'
- 'Thank you for all your kindness and care'
- 'Hope Trust is a blessing, so friendly and welcoming.'

Between November and the end of February, and in response to the 'cost of living crisis' and the town wide initiative to provide 'warm spaces' we extended our opening times on Wednesdays to 9.15-15.15 and opened our Thursday session for anyone needing to keep warm. Although we did not get new people through the door we did have some people who stayed the whole time we were open. It was good to be able to be flexible and adapt our service to offer this service and we will need to review this before we make any plans for next winter.

On Fridays we have tried some different monthly events. We have a men's munch, requested by the men as a group just for them, with bacon rolls of course! They enjoy getting together, putting the world to rights and having an occasional speaker. We have a new craft event, for those who want to make a card or some other paper project, numbers are low but increasing at this session. People get a great sense of achievement from having a go and being creative. The monthly film event remains a firm favourite as does the lunch that follows it. There is plenty of time to talk about the film or its subject matter, while enjoying a meal together.

We were able to return to the Hut on the seafront in May and July, and we were blessed with lovely weather on both days. Everyone who attended enjoyed the days with the company, food and quizzes being some of their highlights. We had 41 people join us at the Hut in May and 31 in July.

We held a Christmas event which 23 people attended. There was a lot of laughter, pass the parcel and silly cracker jokes as well as some festive food treats. It was great fun and put us all in the Christmas spirit.

One of our newer goals was to organize trips and meals out to build confidence, support and to enable people to try new things. We started in January with a minibus trip to the theater in Ipswich to watch a Rock and Roll pantomime, those that came

had a great time and enjoyed the whole trip, especially the music. In March we travelled to Woodbridge for lunch and time at the garden centre. It was lovely to provide those with no transport with a minibus ride right to the door. Everyone had a good time, and it was 'a real treat' to be out without the stress of travel and other arrangements.

Our 1:1 befriending service was able to support three people with visits in their homes during the last year. One of them gave the following feedback, 'I really look forward to her visits, she is lovely, and we always have so much to talk about' It may be a small number of people but it continues to make a real difference to these people.

By Sharing Information Better

The charity continues to purchase an advert, and accompanying article, in the local Flyer magazine. With a large circulation it covers the town and surrounding area and this continues to be a useful method of communicating what the charity is doing. This has proved to be a good way of letting people know about us and we have had several of our new arrivals coming following reading one of these articles.

We have continued to maintain our local profile, taking part in charity and church events and speaking at local groups when requested. We have joined the Felixstowe Can initiative to promote joint working across the town and attended meetings for the project. We have hosted the facilitator for the project at our centre and have also had visits from Ease the Squeeze workers, which benefited our attendees as well as showcasing our services.

We continue to use our website and Facebook to promote our activities and let more people know we are here, and we post monthly blogs onto the website.

We continue to have some very loyal volunteers who have continued to support us either at our activity sessions, 1-1 visits or serving as Trustees. Although our volunteer numbers are lower than in the past, we have been able to attract three new people to bolster our team recently. We ensured we kept the volunteers regularly updated and gave them all a small gift and card at Christmas to thank them for their work.

We took part in the Christmas tree festival at the Salvation Army this year. We asked our attendees to write on blue and yellow paper hearts what they enjoyed about Hope Trust or why they came. We then decorated the tree with over 150 hearts. It was great fun, they enjoyed doing it and the tree looked fantastic.

We have continued to keep financial supporters updated throughout the year.

Opportunity for Sharing Faith Better

We have been able to return to two local residential homes, who support the frail elderly including those with dementia, to support them with services for their

residents. This started again in November as the rules around visitors to care homes eased. We followed the guidance and rules of the individual homes when we went in and with us doing Covid tests before going in. Singing with face masks had its own challenges but it was lovely to be welcomed back and to make a difference to the people attending the services. There was positive feedback from the staff and the residents who enjoyed singing familiar hymns and praying together. Two of our Trustees assist in leading these services with our Charity Manager.

Making it all Happen Better

The desire is to make sure that we continue to grow our volunteer base, keep the Charity looking for new initiatives, ensure emerging technological needs are met while at the same time meeting our statutory and community responsibilities.

The day-to-day running of the charity is lead by the Charity Manager, and following a review of what staffing and support was needed we recruited a part-time assistant at the end of May. This allows two staff to be present at most activity sessions making them easier to manage and giving more support to the volunteers. This also allows more time to speak to new people coming in or people who are struggling and need that time to talk.

We are so thankful to our group of 15 committed volunteers (including our Trustees). They make such a difference to the smooth running of the service and all, in their own way, make such a difference whether it is making drinks, playing games, chatting to people. They all bring something different and their own life experience into their roles.

Each volunteer who has significant access to older people, is required to hold a valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate.

Public Benefit

All activities are open to people aged 50+ irrespective of gender or faith, in addition, all activities over the time span of this report covers were free of charge to those who attended, with exception of meals and trips out.

Financial Review:

During this financial year we have continued to receive regular support from (6) local churches and 8 individuals. Golden Sunset Trust were able to provide the majority of the other funding needed to meet last year's budget.

During the period of this report, we also received:

1. East Suffolk rates allowance £10,000
2. A number of smaller one-off donations from local organizations & people

Pension auto enrolment continues with the administration of this, salaries and CJRS undertaken by an outside contractor. A computerised financial system and regular Trustee meetings enable staff & Trustees to have visibility of the charity's finances.

Charity Structure:

The Hope Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and maintains strong links with The Golden Sunset Trust (GST) with one Trustees Dr Anne Fenning serving as a Trustee of both charities.

Trustees are appointed by the current Trustees team, who are in the process of appointing one new Trustee. Work was undertaken by the Trustees to ensure that all relevant policies and procedures were reviewed and updated to be compliant with current legislation.

The budget for the year was approved at the trustees meeting on 14th July 2022.

Beaton's continue to be appointed as the Independent Examiners for the charity. The reserve Policy figure remains at £20k, which equates to 3 months of operational costs.

The Trustees are very pleased with the way Tracy and Laura have worked well together and been able to build the client base of Hope Trust up after the pandemic.

Signed: 

Rev David White : 154 Colneis Road, Felixstowe IP11 9LQ

Date: 3/11/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Hope Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31st March 2023 which is set out on form CC16a.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


Basis of independent examiner's report

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 matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
J. J. Oakley F.C.A

Beatons Limited
Chartered Accountants
7 Three Rivers Business Park
Felixstowe Road, Foxhall
Ipswich, Suffolk
IP10 0BF

3 November 2023



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Hope Trust

No (if any)
1159866

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01.04.22		31.03.23


Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Golden Sunset Homes Trust Donations	41,258	-	-	41,258	41,580
Other Donations	6,898	-	-	6,898	10,323
Speaking	60	-	-	60	310
Investment Income	269	-	-	269	5
Fund Raising	1,216	266	-	1,482	1,279
Rentals	-	-	-	-	110
Gift Aid Tax Refund	278	-	-	278	522
Grants received	-	-	-	-	7,537
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	49,979	266	-	50,245	61,666
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	49,979	266	-	50,245	61,666
A3 Payments					
Staff Costs	32,444	-	-	32,444	45,339
Employer NI	-	-	-	-	-
Travelling	152	-	-	152	583
Insurance	782	-	-	782	752
Advertising	1,188	-	-	1,188	1,252
Office Costs	3,365	-	-	3,365	3,463
Utilities	3,359	-	-	3,359	1,772
Miscellaneous	3,424	-	-	3,424	2,761
Property	2,867	-	-	2,867	2,091
Project	178	266	-	444	44
Sub total	47,759	266	-	48,025	58,057
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	47,759	266	-	48,025	58,057
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,220	-	-	2,220	3,609
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	42,870	-	-	42,870	39,261
Cash funds this year end	45,090	-	-	45,090	42,870

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	44,888	-	-
	Petty Cash	202	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	45,090	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	General Computer and Office Equipment		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DAVID WHITE	03/11/2023