

The Hope Trust - Charity No: 1159866
Vision - Helping Older People
Registered Office: Maidstone Hall, 127 Maidstone Rd, Felixstowe IP11 9EE

Trustees Annual Report for the financial year 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025

Trustees

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

Review of The Year

During 2024 events have continued to attract increased numbers with several new ventures on offer.

Staff and volunteers continue to be dedicated to their work and the trust maintains a strong reputation across the town.

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.

We continue to follow our strategic plan with the overarching priorities of Building Community, Sharing Information, Opportunity for Faith and Making it all Happen better.

By Building Community Better

We continue to run regular weekly activity sessions. On Wednesdays we have tea and chat and games at Maidstone Road the numbers for these sessions have continued to grow over the last year. We have moved some furniture out of the room to make more space for more people to attend.

Thursday's games, tea and chat at OFCA in Old Felixstowe has also grown as we have enjoyed new people joining us. We have up to six people coming across from the sheltered housing nearby. We also said a very sad farewell to some amazing people. We were able to visit them when they became too unwell to attend our sessions and until their sad passing.

We also started a new tea, chat and games session at the Wellbeing Hub in Felixstowe town centre on a Thursday afternoon. This has given us the opportunity to meet some new people who we probably would not have met at our other venues. The sessions have been small in number but meaningful to the people who come. Some of them have subsequently come to other things we do.

On Fridays we continue to run different events each week of the month. The film event continues to be a firm favourite and having lunch together afterwards is always enjoyed by all. One Friday a month we have started an extra games session with

lunch at OFCA the attendees enjoyed the chance of an extra session and to eat a meal together.

We also had speakers come in to give informative or entertaining talks, including one by the police around cybercrime. We enjoyed entertainment from individual singers and groups which went down really well, and quizzes and even musical bingo.

Some of their feedback from the benefits from these sessions and why people come along:

'Welcoming and uplifting'

'Wonderful, kind, caring and fun'

'It prevents social isolation, and it is so good to meet up with new friends'

'I feel so good when I come and much better when I leave'

'It keeps my mind and body active'

'Friends to chat with- makes one feel happier to be alive'

'So happy to have found the hope trust'

'It gets me out to meet others, I feel better and cannot wait to come again'

We have also been able to run three Bereavement Support Groups over the course of the year, with each group following a six-week course. The feedback from these was really positive with people finding them extremely helpful and made a positive difference for them at a really difficult time. Several of these people have continued to come to our activities and have found both friendship and support.

Bereavement Feedback

'It helped me a lot, Tracy and Laura very good, I learnt so much from the course'

'Very good and I would recommend it to others'

We held two Christmas events one at Maidstone Hall, with a singer and one at OFCA with games. Across the two we had 51 people, and we again had a lovely buffet from a local sandwich shop which was a special Christmas treat.

We have continued our trips and meals out to help people to get out and try new things. We again hired the local community bus for transport, when going out of Felixstowe, which is fully accessible. We did six trips out including Needham Lakes, Lavenham, Dobbies Garden Centre and a Christmas show. Additionally, we have been to six local pubs/cafes for meals or afternoon teas together, these always go down a treat. The feedback from the meals and trips has been really positive, people have enjoyed exploring new places together and so appreciated the 'door to door' service for the trips out on the bus.

Our 1:1 befriending service was able to support one person with visits in their home during the last year. Additionally, we have been able to continue to visit three people who use our services but have not been able to attend due to mobility or ongoing sickness issues. It has been so good to support people in this way for as long as it is needed. We were able to visit some people as their illness progressed and until they passed away.

In March we received a grant of £5000 from Suffolk Community Foundation from their Surviving Winter 2024/25 campaign to allow us to give grants of up to £175 to provide direct support to older people experiencing fuel poverty. We believe this is a real opportunity to support some of our attendees who meet the criteria for a one off grant.

By Sharing Information Better

The charity continues to purchase an advert 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.

We have continued to maintain our local profile, taking part in several charity and church events and speaking and having displays at local groups when requested.

We were able to launch a new website this year which is much clearer to navigate and makes it easier for people to see everything we are doing on the Calendar on the first page. We are still getting used to managing it but it has been well received by our users. We also use Facebook to promote our activities and let more people know we are here.

We have some very loyal volunteers who have continued to support us either at our activity sessions, 1-1 visits or serving as Trustees. Our volunteer numbers remain low, we had one new person join our team this year. We made sure we kept the volunteers regularly updated and are planning further training with them in June this year. We gave them all a token gift and card at Christmas to thank them for all their hard work.

We had fun preparing for the Christmas tree festival at the Salvation Army in December. This year we decorated the tree with people paperchains to show the work we do around connecting people. We then arranged to go to the festival together as a group with lunch out afterwards.

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

Opportunity for Sharing Faith Better

We have expanded our work in residential homes in Felixstowe who support the frail elderly, including those with dementia. We have gone from supporting one home to three over the course of the year. We assist the homes by providing a monthly service for their residents. Although all the homes are different in size and resident make up, they are very welcoming and the residents appear to really enjoy singing all the older hymns, hearing a short talk and praying together. It is lovely to be able to support both the residents and the homes by doing this. One of our Trustees assists by leading these services with our Charity Manager.

Making it all Happen Better

We want to continue to grow our team of volunteers, 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 led by the Charity Manager and her assistant. This allows two staff to be present at most activity sessions making them easier to manage and give support to the volunteers, as well as allowing 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 11 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 this report covers were free of charge to those who attended, with the exception of meals and trips out.

Financial Review:

During this financial year we have continued to receive regular support from (6) local churches and 4 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 £1272
2. A number of smaller one-off donations from local organizations & people
3. In memorials donations £1550
4. A grant of £5000 from Suffolk Community Foundation

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 two Trustees, Dr Anne Fenning and Rev Trevor Harris, serving as a Trustee of both charities.

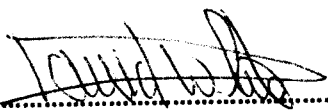
Trustees are appointed by the current Trustees team but no new trustees were appointed this year. Work was undertaken by the Trustees to ensure that all relevant policies and procedures were reviewed and updated to be compliant with current legislation.

The budget for the year was approved at the Trustees meeting on 26th April 2024.

Beaton's continue to be appointed as the Independent Examiners for the charity. The reserve Policy figure was increased to £25k in April 2024, which equates to 3 months of operational costs.

The trustees continue to be encouraged by the progress being made to provide opportunities for older people to enjoy the company of others and build community.

Signed:



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

Date: 24 / July / 2025

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 2025 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.

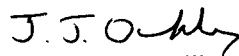
Basis of independent examiner's report

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

30 October 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Hope Trust

Charity No.
159857

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01.04.24

To

Account date
31.03.25

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	42,862	-	-	42,862	42,264
Other Donations	9,306	780	-	10,086	7,506
Legacy	-	-	-	-	21,636
Speaking	-	-	-	-	30
Investment Income	1,471	-	-	1,471	1,160
Fund Raising	2,979	1,315	-	4,294	4,150
Hall Hire	220	-	-	220	110
Grants	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
Gift Aid Tax Refund	270	-	-	270	265
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	57,108	7,095	-	64,202	77,121
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	57,108	7,095	-	64,202	77,121
A3 Payments					
Staff Costs	41,197	-	-	41,197	37,041
Employer NI	-	-	-	-	-
Travelling	37	-	-	37	35
Insurance	820	-	-	820	794
Advertising	1,131	-	-	1,131	1,209
Office Costs	4,240	-	-	4,240	4,100
Utilities	3,469	-	-	3,469	1,647
Miscellaneous	5,199	-	-	5,199	4,906
Property	2,668	-	-	2,668	2,118
Project	967	1,315	-	2,282	2,833
Sub total	59,727	1,315	-	61,042	54,683
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	59,727	1,315	-	61,042	54,683
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,619	5,780	-	3,161	22,438
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	67,528	-	-	67,528	45,090
Cash funds this year end	64,909	5,780	-	70,689	67,528

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	64,281	5,780	-
	Petty Cash	360	-	-
	Recoverable Gift Aid	267	-	-
	Total cash funds	64,909	5,780	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

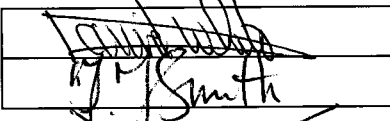
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	General Computer and Office Equipment		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DAVID WHITE	30/10/2025
	TERRY SMITH	30/10/2025