

Cholsey Volunteers Trust
Registered Charity No. 1197845
Trustees' Annual Report 2025

Names of Trustees

Mr. Christopher Fry	Chair
Mr. John Wheeler	Treasurer
Mrs. Louise McAlister	Secretary
Mrs. Eve Evans	
Mrs. Helen Powis	
Ms. Lizzy Hay	

Bank

Lloyds Bank Newmarket Branch 48 High St, Newmarket CB8 8LF

Governance

Cholsey Volunteers Trust was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 8 February 2022 and registered as charity no 1197845. This is our fourth Annual Report. The Trust was formed using the Foundation Model structure provided by the Charity Commission.

Appointment of Trustees

The founding trustees were appointed with staggered terms to ensure continuity: two for one year, three for two years, and two for three years. In 2026, Eve Evans and John Wheeler, having been founding trustees for one year and having completed their re-elected terms in February 2026 will have to stand for re-election of the two year balance of their two term entitlement

Policies and Procedures

To guide the Trustees in exercising their duty of care, the following policy statements have been adopted:

- Safeguarding Policy

- Data Protection Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Reserves Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Volunteer Drivers Policy
- Volunteers Policy

Additionally, a comprehensive range of employment policies has been established. Copies of these policies are available to Trustees and other interested parties.

Risk Management

The Trustees recognize their legal obligation to protect service users and employees through adequate and appropriate insurance. Suitable cover has been arranged by Macbeth Chartered Insurance Brokers of Theale for public liability, employers' liability, business interruption, and legal assistance. The Trust also own two vehicles, which are covered by a different broker, Wrightsure of Fareham.

Objectives of the Charity

The charity's constitution states that it has been established for the public benefit, aiming to relieve individuals in need due to youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantages in Cholsey and the surrounding area. This is achieved through the provision of free and subsidized food and volunteer support services, including but not limited to transport to appointments, assistance with the collection of shopping and medication, befriending, and advocacy.

Principal Activities in Pursuit of Objectives

Cholsey Volunteers has maintained and expanded the services developed over the past two years:

- Local transport, especially to and from hospitals and medical centres
- Prescription deliveries
- Delivery of Meals on Foot in association with the Cholsey Day Centre

- Operation of the Food Bank
- Operation of the Community Larder in association with SOFEA
- Establishment of an Advocacy and Support Hub

Our Development Officer, Jane Tyndall, continues to do a tremendous job maintaining the volunteer database and matching volunteers' aspirations with available opportunities. This has led to the creation of dedicated teams for the Community Larder and Food Bank, which now operate as almost autonomous units. We have also established Cholsey Welcome Space, a dedicated facility housed in Cholsey Pavilion, providing regular puzzle and meeting days throughout the year, as well as a Slow Cooker project funded through grants from South Oxfordshire Housing Association.

We have also, by way of a grant from Oxfordshire County Council, been able to employ a driver for maintaining our service level, and since our last annual report have received a grant from Oxfordshire Community Foundation to purchase a second vehicle.

The figures speak volumes about our achievements:

- 350 lifts to hospitals and doctors in the last 12 months, a 9% decrease on last year
- An average of 56 lifts per week to and from the Day Centre each week, which is a 34% increase on last year
- Approximately 2,800 meals delivered which is an 8% increase on last year, 1,700 treat bags delivered which is a 9% increase on last year, and 1,800 food boxes delivered which is a 14% decrease on last year,
- Our shopping and prescription deliveries remain in line with 2024.
- Our Community Larder membership has dropped by 17% due to an increased cost, however, we are starting to see a steady increase in new members.

Our growth and resilience have made us a permanent fixture in the village, encouraging a significant number of 'can-do' individuals to get involved, enriching the community.

Funding Strategy

The Trustees aim to manage the revenue budget on a self-financing basis. In 2025, this was largely achieved through public donations, fundraising, and several small grants, in addition to a surplus carried over from the previous year.

Recognizing that the era of generous grants during lockdowns has passed, the Trustees will seek to expand the funding base by approaching local businesses and seeking broader community support through regular donations.

Reserves Policy

The charity benefited from the winding up of another village charity, Cholsey Relief In Need, which transferred nearly £21,000 to the Trust during the application for charitable status. This enabled the Trust to set aside £20,000 as a long-term reserve. The aim remains to maintain this reserve over the next five years. Given this commitment, the Trust has been able to invest a large proportion of the reserve in fixed term bonds to maximise income,

Future Plans

In 2025, the Trust focused on consolidating existing provisions while securing its financial position and raising its local profile. This has been done to great effect. Cholsey Volunteers has become a widely recognised and accepted local 'brand', and has started to attract donations from further afield.

In the coming year, the Trust will continue efforts to secure a broader funding base and further integrate its work with Cholsey Pavilion, Cholsey Day Centre, and other village organizations, providing a sustaining network of support for the village.

Closing Statement

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed by email after the AGM on behalf of the charity's trustees

Mr Christopher Fry

Position Chair

Date 26 May 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
of Cholsey Volunteers Trust
for the year ended 31st December 2025

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that
 - proper accounting records are kept; and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date:

5/4/26

Name:

John Moore

Address:

5 Tudor Crescent, Swindon. SN3 4JS

Cholsey Volunteers Trust
Registered Charity No.1197845
Receipts and Payments Account 1 Jan 2025 - 31 Dec 2025

RECEIPTS	2025	2024
Grants	11100.00	14300
Fundraising	6279.45	4285.96
Donations	19278.50	14436.97
Food Bank	4932.00	4320
Sales	917.75	0
Other	220.84	714.65
Warm Hub	0.00	5940
	42728.54	43997.58
PAYMENTS		
Staff	27634.35	19544.40
Pensions	1528.13	1582.36
Payroll Costs	672.00	840.00
Vehicle	1392.17	1599.16
Web Hosting	336.48	367.95
Telephone	118.20	128.05
Supplies	1752.62	1122.09
Insurance	483.96	484.33
Premises	5100.00	0.00
Food Bank	6115.65	4584.44
Other	17287.11	2998.91
Community Lar- der	0.00	0.00
Warm Space	11.50	5908.75
	62432.17	39160.44
BALANCE	23045.12	42748.75

Closing bank £23,045.12

Bond £15,000.00

Total assets £38,045.12

Represented by:

Committed reserves:

Warm Hub £1,204.14

Food bank £3,078.39

OCC 2025 £5,000.00

OCF 2026 £5,000.00

Uncommitted reserves:

Reserve £20,000.00

Other £3762.59

Total reserves £38,045.12

Explanatory Note

The grants shown in the reserve are the residual balances of grants received in 2025, as below

Grants	All Grants	OCC 2025	Notes	OCF 2026	Notes	Other	Notes
Opening bal	£12,300	£12,300		£0		£0	
Add New	£11,100	£0		£10,100		£1,000	<i>Co-op & Truckfest</i>
Less Spent	£13,400	£7,300	<i>Driver payments General Admin</i>	£5,100	<i>Premises: Cholsey Pav + Day Centre</i>	£1,000	<i>Comm Larder General Op</i>
Closing bal	£10,000	£5,000		£5,000		£0	