

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
FOR
FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
Landgate Chambers
24 Landgate
Rye
East Sussex
TN31 7LJ

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Our focus is on inclusion, relieving those who are in need, in particular but, not exclusively, those of all ages, who are lonely, isolated, medically and emotionally challenged in the ward of Rother District Council and surrounding areas.

We provide the opportunity for a variety of Befriending services, including, peer support and guidance, Health and Wellness services who attend our monthly Informative and Social Events to keep rural communities aware of services available to them. This reflects in our weekly Companionship Calls.

Significant activities

Collaborating with a variety of Health & Wellness organisations, providing a monthly Cancer Café.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

During the period ending 31st March 2025, the charity has developed awareness of its services. Our initial monthly Tilling, Tea and Cake (850 attendees to date) has attracted regular attendees from across communities of Rother District Council in East Sussex.

Our approach to providing 'Informative and Social events, where professionals from a variety of Health & Wellness services, Citizens Advice, Police, Fire & Rescue, 1st Responders, Care groups, East Sussex Hearing, Disc Dementia, a Mental Health Counsellor, a GP and Sussex Outreach Support, plus locally produced cakes and savouries and a visually decorated room, all add to an enjoyable event. Based on this successful format, in 2025, we have launched 'Winchelsea, Tea and Cake'.

Our monthly Cancer Cafe - launched in January 2025 in collaboration with the community hub, part of the Rye & Winchelsea Memorial Hospital. We provide a quiet, bright room with a terrace, where our attendees can feel safe, knowing everything discussed, stays in the room. We provide peer support and guidance for people of all ages and are regularly supported by a Care company providing information and form filling on Wills, Powers of Attorney and Benefits. In addition, volunteers for A Touch of Gentleness provide relaxing hand massages and a Calmer Self provide opportunities to learn techniques to reduce stress and anxiety.

At the beginning of February 2025, we launched our weekly 'Companionship Calls' earlier than planned - delivered by volunteers. We are now actively working to establish relationships with respected organisations to receive referrals in addition to the NHS, Social Prescribers and receiving personal referrals.

Our new Befriending Coordinator, comes with a wide variety of skills, delivering funded projects for the NHS, working closely with GPs, is a Mental Wellbeing Therapist and Counsellor working with Ted, a fully trained Pets as Therapists dog. These skills will allow us to widen our services.

All of the above is made possible by our generous funders, The Lottery - Awards for All, Sussex Community Foundation, Cheyne Wind Farm, Chalk Cliff Trust, Benefact group, and donations from local businesses and attendees to our events.

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The total funds held at 31 March 2025 were £24,051 (2024 - £18,100) which includes restricted funds of £8,454 (2024 - nil).

The trustees set a goal of holding unrestricted financial reserves equal to 6 months of total running costs, based on these accounts the current reserves are in excess of this.

As the charity looks to increase its activity in the next accounting period, running costs are expected to increase. The trustees will continue to monitor reserve levels and budget accordingly.

Reserves policy

The trustees set a goal of holding unrestricted financial reserves equal to 6 months of total running costs, current reserves are in excess of this.

FUTURE PLANS

Based on our successful monthly 'Informative and Social events' we are developing plans for a Battle, Tea and Cake to launch later in 2025 and will look to establish in other communities across rural Rother in East Sussex in 2026.

Once our 'Companionship Calls' are established, we would like to establish weekly 'face to face' visits.

We are also planning new projects, Pets as Therapy with Ted, and we are being considered for the UOK East Sussex Wellbeing service as one of the 5 principle sub-contractors and a grantee partner, including working with young people and those who are isolated due to Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) and Elective Home Education(EHE), subjects currently high on the agenda of our MP Helena Dollimore and Central Government

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution adopted upon registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees have been recruited based on their individual skill-sets and how they can contribute to the running and growth of the charity.

Where necessary, trustees having been provided training on appointment.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1203412

Principal address

52 Vidler Square

Rye

TN31 7FP

Trustees

N K Forman

Dr S Jacques

M Symons

S Mohun-Smith

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner
Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
Landgate Chambers
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Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16th July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

N K Forman - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends Altogether in Rother

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends Altogether in Rother (the Trust) for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and 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.

Mr J Greenslade FCCA
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
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17th July 2025

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

				Year Ended 31/3/25 Total funds £	Period 5/6/23 to 31/3/24 Total funds £
	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £		
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		11,181	20,901	32,082	23,138
Charitable activities					
Events		-	-	-	241
Investment income	3	556	-	556	249
Total		<u>11,737</u>	<u>20,901</u>	<u>32,638</u>	<u>23,628</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Events		7,269	1,190	8,459	1,611
Befriending		116	7,485	7,601	-
Donations		140	-	140	-
Other		<u>6,715</u>	<u>3,772</u>	<u>10,487</u>	<u>3,917</u>
Total		<u>14,240</u>	<u>12,447</u>	<u>26,687</u>	<u>5,528</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(2,503)	8,454	5,951	18,100
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		18,100	-	18,100	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>15,597</u>	<u>8,454</u>	<u>24,051</u>	<u>18,100</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	1,141	-	1,141	1,320
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	1,327	-	1,327	405
Cash at bank		16,952	8,454	25,406	18,788
		<u>18,279</u>	<u>8,454</u>	<u>26,733</u>	<u>19,193</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(3,823)	-	(3,823)	(2,413)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>14,456</u>	<u>8,454</u>	<u>22,910</u>	<u>16,780</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>15,597</u>	<u>8,454</u>	<u>24,051</u>	<u>18,100</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>15,597</u>	<u>8,454</u>	<u>24,051</u>	<u>18,100</u>
FUNDS	11				
Unrestricted funds				15,597	18,100
Restricted funds				8,454	-
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>24,051</u>	<u>18,100</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16th July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

N K Forman - Trustee

S Jacques - Trustee

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Friends Altogether in Rother is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered in England and Wales. The charity's registered number and registered address can be found in the Report of the Trustees.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

There are no material uncertainties in relation to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, these financial statements have therefore been prepared on the going concern basis.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year Ended 31/3/25 £	Period 5/6/23 to 31/3/24 £
Deposit account interest	556	249
	<u>556</u>	<u>249</u>

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Finance £	Information technology £
Other resources expended	7,999	60	96
Events	246	-	-
Befriending	216	-	-
	<u>8,461</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>96</u>
		Governance costs	Totals
	Other £	£	£
Other resources expended	583	1,749	10,487
Events	-	-	246
Befriending	-	-	216
	<u>583</u>	<u>1,749</u>	<u>10,949</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Governance costs

	Year Ended 31/3/25 Other resources expended £	Period 5/6/23 to 31/3/24 Total activities £
Bookkeeping	1,269	-
Accountancy and legal fees	-	480
Independent review fee	480	-
	<u>1,749</u>	<u>480</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2025 nor for the period ended 31st March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2025 nor for the period ended 31st March 2024.

6. STAFF COSTS

	Year Ended 31/3/25 £	Period 5/6/23 to 31/3/24 £
Wages and salaries	18,576	812
	<u>18,576</u>	<u>812</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

Year Ended 31/3/25	Period 5/6/23 to 31/3/24
2	2
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	23,138	-	23,138
Charitable activities			
Events	241	-	241
Investment income	249	-	249
Total	<u>23,628</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,628</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Events	1,611	-	1,611
Other	3,917	-	3,917
Total	<u>5,528</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,528</u>
NET INCOME	18,100	-	18,100
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>18,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,100</u>

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1st April 2024	882	921	1,803
Additions	-	404	404
	<u>882</u>	<u>1,325</u>	<u>2,207</u>
At 31st March 2025			
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st April 2024	176	307	483
Charge for year	141	442	583
	<u>317</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>1,066</u>
At 31st March 2025			
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st March 2025	<u>565</u>	<u>576</u>	<u>1,141</u>
At 31st March 2024	<u>706</u>	<u>614</u>	<u>1,320</u>

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	<u>1,327</u>	<u>405</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	1,625	1,871
Taxation and social security	1,050	62
Other creditors	1,148	480
	<u>3,823</u>	<u>2,413</u>

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	18,100	(2,503)	15,597
Restricted funds			
National Lottery	-	8,454	8,454
	<u>18,100</u>	<u>5,951</u>	<u>24,051</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	11,737	(14,240)	(2,503)
Restricted funds			
Elm Tree Boot Sale	1,000	(1,000)	-
National Lottery	19,901	(11,447)	8,454
	<u>20,901</u>	<u>(12,447)</u>	<u>8,454</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>32,638</u>	<u>(26,687)</u>	<u>5,951</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	18,100	18,100
	<u>18,100</u>	<u>18,100</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>18,100</u>	<u>18,100</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	23,628	(5,528)	18,100
	<u>23,628</u>	<u>(5,528)</u>	<u>18,100</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>23,628</u>	<u>(5,528)</u>	<u>18,100</u>

National Lottery funding was received to support the charity running costs including employment, events and volunteer costs.

Elm Tree Boot Sale funding was received to support the befriending activities of the charity.

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

A donation of £720 was received from Rye News, a CIC organisation with a common director/trustee.

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Year Ended 31/3/25 £	Period 5/6/23 to 31/3/24 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	5,682	3,138
Grants	26,400	20,000
	<u>32,082</u>	<u>23,138</u>
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	556	249
Charitable activities		
Event income	-	241
	<u>32,638</u>	<u>23,628</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	14,408	-
Event expenses	1,158	1,611
Volunteer expenses	32	-
Donations	140	-
	<u>15,738</u>	<u>1,611</u>
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	4,168	812
Insurance	185	-
Telephone	334	60
Postage and stationery	332	307
Advertising	545	665
Sundries	324	186
Rent	1,260	750
Cleaning	76	137
Subscriptions	767	5
Travel costs	169	-
Training	101	-
Volunteer entertaining	200	-
	<u>8,461</u>	<u>2,922</u>
Finance		
Bank charges	60	-
Information technology		
Website and computer expenses	96	32

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Year Ended 31/3/25 £	Period 5/6/23 to 31/3/24 £
Information technology		
Other		
Plant and machinery	141	176
Computer equipment	442	307
	<u>583</u>	<u>483</u>
Governance costs		
Bookkeeping	1,269	-
Accountancy and legal fees	-	480
Independent review fee	480	-
	<u>1,749</u>	<u>480</u>
Total resources expended	<u>26,687</u>	<u>5,528</u>
Net income	<u>5,951</u>	<u>18,100</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements