

# CHICHESTER HARBOUR VETERANS CLUB

England & Wales · Charity number 1206883

## Details

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2024-02-05

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

## Contact

**Address** Steps  
Trotton  
GU31 5EP

**Phone** 01730207447

**Email** [info@chi-harbour-vets.club](mailto:info@chi-harbour-vets.club)

**Website** <https://chivets.square.site/>

## Activities

**Objects:** TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS AND EX-MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND ASSOCIATED BODIES ("VETERANS") AND THOSE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THEM, LIVING IN THE CHICHESTER DISTRICT:A. THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONG VETERANS TO PREVENT THEM FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND TO HELP THEM INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY BY PROVIDING PEER SUPPORT GROUPS AND SIGNPOSTING TO SUITABLE, RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS;B. THE RELIEF OF POVERTY BY PROVIDING GRANTS AND SIGNPOSTING TO RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS

**Activities:** CHV is one of the network of Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs (AFVBCs), each run independently BY their members and purely FOR the benefit of their members. Like the other AFVBCs around the country and internationally, we are run purely by volunteers and our aim is to help veterans to feel supported, both by meeting other veterans socially and by offering to help colleagues in need.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Armed Forces/emergency Service Efficiency
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

## Geography

- Hampshire
- Portsmouth City
- West Sussex

## Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-12-31 | £6,402 | £5,180      | -      | -         |
| 2024-12-31 | £3,223 | £2,361      | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                  | Role  | Appointed  |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|
| David James           | Chair | 2024-02-06 |
| Alastair Neil Ryder   |       | 2024-02-06 |
| Geoffrey Talbot       |       | 2024-02-06 |
| Patrick James Laycock |       | 2024-02-06 |
| Rosemary Webb         |       | 2024-02-06 |

**CHICHESTER HARBOUR VETERANS CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1206883

---

# Accounts

---



# **Annual report and financial statements**

**for the year ended 31 December 2025**

Registered charity number: 1206883

## Trustees' annual report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

### **A. Legal and administration details**

1. Charity name: Chichester Harbour Veterans Club
2. Registered charity number: **1206883**
3. Charity's principal address: Steps, Trotton, Nr Midhurst, GU31 5EP
4. Charity structure: Chichester Harbour Veterans Club is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a constitution approved by the Charity Commission, and a set of rules approved by its members (both available on its website at: <https://chivets.square.site/>).
5. Charity objects: To promote for the benefit of members and ex-members of the armed forces and associated bodies ("veterans") and those closely associated with them, living in the Chichester district:
  - a. The promotion of social inclusion among veterans to prevent them from becoming socially excluded and to help them integrate into society by providing peer support groups and signposting to suitable, relevant organisations;
  - b. The relief of poverty by providing grants and signposting to relevant organisations;
6. Governance: The charity is managed by 3-6 trustees who also constitute its executive committee:  
David James (chairman)  
Patrick Laycock (treasurer)  
Neil Ryder (secretary)  
Geoffrey Talbot  
Mike Valler  
Rosemary Webb

### **B. Chairman's statement      Chairman: David James**

Happily, our club continues to thrive with 2025 producing increased membership, more and different events plus many ambitious plans for the coming year. Membership is now around 65 veterans and most of our events see about half that number in attendance. As we promised, we held a breakfast every month except December plus 8 other events through the year. We are undoubtedly meeting our aim of providing fellowship and engagement among local veterans as evidenced by attendance levels and by the lively conversations at all our gatherings.

Among our events in 2025 was a day trip to the Heritage Hangar and Fleet Air Arm Museum at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton. With a pub lunch to keep us all going, this was a very enjoyable day out and our most ambitious trip to date. We were fortunate to receive a generous donation from one of our members which allowed us to subsidise the cost of the coach hire. We are investigating several different outings over the next year or 2 and will probably use our own funds to subsidise coach hire for those events unless we find other sources of sponsorship. Our aim remains for all members to be able to participate in our events so we try to keep costs as low as possible and we offer support to any member who may struggle to cover the cost of an event.

We also maintain a small fund available to any member who may have unforeseen and unaffordable expense. The aim is to provide immediate but limited financial support until we are able to provide guidance to a more appropriate charity. Our bank balances are modest but healthy enough to support these aims.

In 2026 we will continue the monthly breakfasts and we also aim to hold a second event most months. This will include further day trips (Royal Hospital Chelsea is confirmed), 3 evening events and the occasional pub lunch.

My personal thanks to the other trustees for supporting an ever more ambitious program and to all our members for their friendship and company over the past year. I must also thank St John's Church in Southbourne for their support in our remembrance events and some of our breakfast meetings, and Thorney Island Sailing Club for the use of their club house for breakfast and evening events. Their continued support is very much appreciated.

I very much look forward to our continued fellowship in 2026.

## C. Trustees' report on activities

### 1. Membership

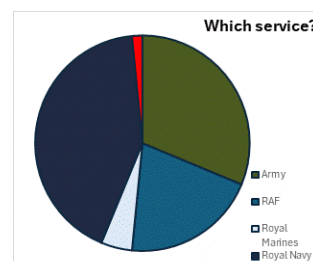
Membership officer: Neil Ryder

Following our second "cull" of inactive members (see below), we switched 15 inactive members to associate (non-voting) status and lost one altogether, but we welcomed 16 new members during 2025, keeping the total at 64 full (voting) members, with a further 21 associate (non-voting) members – including local district or parish councillors.

| Service         | Members   |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Army            | 20        |
| RAF             | 13        |
| Royal Marines   | 3         |
| Royal Navy      | 27        |
| Welfare officer | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>64</b> |

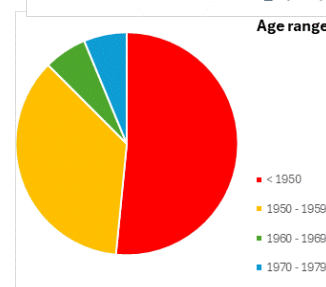
#### a. Which services?

The service mix has evened out slightly, with more of the new members coming from the army and RAF than from the navy. Members seem to welcome this diversity, as it offers a broader range of experiences and perspectives. However, we lost our only emergency (ambulance) service member.



#### b. What ages?

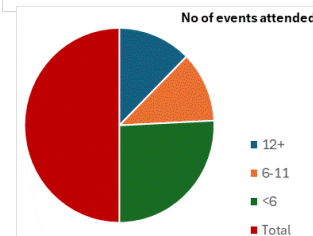
The age range has "improved" a bit, with the over 75s dropping slightly to half, as the new members were all in the next two brackets down. We would still like to encourage more serving soldiers from Thorney, and younger vets, to join to drop the average age a bit!



| ExtraText    | Members   |
|--------------|-----------|
| < 1950       | 33        |
| 1950 - 1959  | 23        |
| 1960 - 1969  | 4         |
| 1970 - 1979  | 4         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>64</b> |

#### c. How many meetings did members attend?

Almost half of the members (31) attended at least one meeting every other month, with 16 members (including 4 of the 6 trustees) attending at least one meeting every month. The trustees continue to look at the event mix to see



| No of meetings | Members   |
|----------------|-----------|
| 12+            | 16        |
| 6-11           | 15        |
| < 6            | 33        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>64</b> |

if other days of the week or times of the day might suit some of the other members.

#### d. Inactive members:

As we did last year, we recently sent out messages to all members who did not make it to any of our meetings in 2025, asking if they wish to remain as members. Nine responded explaining their absence and wanting to remain involved. The others have been switched to associate (non-voting) membership but will be reinstated if they ask to be. This has reduced the total number of full members from 76 to 64 but has "weeded out" those that are not participating or needing our help.

### 2. Events / meetings

Events & meetings: Rosemary Webb / Mike Valler

A total of 17 events were arranged during the year as follows:

| Date        | Type            | Details                                                                                                 | Attendance |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 16-Jan-25   | Visit           | 16/01/2025 - Visit to HMS Sultan - HMS Sultan                                                           | 18         |
| 30-Jan-25   | AGM & breakfast | 30/01/2025 - AGM & breakfast - TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club)                                       | 39         |
| 20-Feb-25   | Breakfast       | 20/02/2025 - Breakfast @ St Johns - St John's church hall                                               | 30         |
| 13-Mar-25   | Breakfast       | 13/03/2025 - Breakfast @ RAFA Bognor Regis - RAF Association                                            | 15         |
| 10-Apr-25   | Breakfast       | 10/04/2025 - Breakfast meeting - TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club)                                     | 28         |
| 07-May-25   | Evening meeting | 07/05/2025 - Evening barbecue at TISC with sea shanties - TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club)            | 21         |
| 22-May-25   | Breakfast       | 22/05/2025 - Breakfast @ St Johns (including 30 min talk on Chelsea Pensioners) - St John's church hall | 27         |
| 03-Jun-25   | Visit           | 03/06/2025 - Visit to D-day map rooms - Southwick House                                                 | 14         |
| 24-Jun-25   | Visit           | 24/06/2025 - Visit to Tangmere aviation museum - Tangmere aviation museum                               | 18         |
| 21-Aug-25   | Breakfast       | 21/08/2025 - Breakfast @ St Johns (including talk on online safety) - St John's church hall             | 30         |
| 03-Sep-25   | Evening meeting | 03/09/2025 - Evening barbecue at TISC with partners - TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club)                | 21         |
| 18-Sep-25   | Breakfast       | 18/09/2025 - Breakfast @ St Johns (including talk on dementia) - St John's church hall                  | 27         |
| 02-Oct-25   | Breakfast       | 02/10/2025 - Breakfast @TISC with Westbourne / other vet clubs - TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club)     | 29         |
| 16-Oct-25   | Visit           | 16/10/2025 - Visit to RNAS Yeovilton / Fleet Air Arm museum - Fleet Air Arm museum                      | 28         |
| 11-Nov-25   | Breakfast       | 11/11/2025 - Breakfast @ St Johns (including Remembrance service) - St John's church hall               | 31         |
| 20-Nov-25   | Breakfast       | 20/11/2025 - Breakfast @TISC - TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club)                                       | 29         |
| 20-Nov-25   | Visit           | 20/11/2025 - Optional visit to Fort Nelson - Fort Nelson                                                | 17         |
| <b>2025</b> |                 | <b>Average attendance</b>                                                                               | <b>25</b>  |

This was three more events than in the previous year and average attendance held steady at 25 (over 1/3 of the members) per event, demonstrating that our meetings continue to be popular and are making a contribution towards our primary mission of reducing social isolation. The trustees are planning at least as active a programme for 2026, combining the monthly breakfasts – some with informal talks - with 3 or 4 evening meetings, further visits to forces-related sites and trying out lunches or different days of the week.

3. **Welfare** Welfare officer: Geoff Talbot

An important aim of the Club is to provide guidance to members on welfare and other services available to veterans, their partners and families. The Club's website summarises these but, to keep this current, we have:

- Attended relevant meetings of County Armed Forces Conferences – (West Sussex Oct. 2025/Feb 2026, Hants Jun 26)
- Monitored progress on Armed Forces Bill 2026 which seeks to apply legal status to the Armed Forces Covenant
- Maintained a watching brief on the progress of the nationwide study by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust on the effectiveness of welfare provision, especially in respect of the "Thrive Together South East" review involving 9 South East Counties
- Attended other Breakfast Clubs and "Drop in Sessions" enabling a broader view of provision to be examined.
- Arranged informative club talks on well-being issues: i) Prostate Cancer. ii) Dementia.
- Accessed research projects to identify future presentations e.g. hearing loss and loss of cognitive function – provision and use of hearing aids.
- Monitored Club rule 4a which requires members to provide evidence of their veteran status (preferably the official HM Forces Veteran card, which offers a range of entrance fees, transport and other concessions. With a bit of persuasion, we now have only 12 members who have not verified their status.

4. **Treasurer's report** [see accounts below]

Treasurer: Patrick Laycock

I am sorry not to be able to attend the AGM but I am confident my fellow trustees understand the accounts and can handle questions at least as competently as I could!

We continue to bank with Lloyds TSB and to use Square for our electronic transactions. The system whereby attendance at events is paid for at the time of booking remains successful and saves considerable administrative effort. The secretary continues to seek appropriate software to further streamline the system.

Financial results: In the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 income exceeded expenditure by £1,222.06. Most local events achieved a modest financial surplus while our visits were generally subsidised, but the combined result was that they more or less balanced out. With the increased club activity this year - 17 events compared to last year's 14 - and with £802 in donations and £720 from the Veterans Raffle, the fund's balance reflects a year-on-year increase with net assets totalling a very healthy £2,744.00. We have donated £200 each to St John's Church and TISC in recognition of use of their premises. Our modest operating costs included insurance and the domain hosting fee.

Conclusion: The club is in a healthy position financially. However, as was reported last year we are very mindful of the club's objectives as detailed in our constitution, including the provision of grants for the short-term relief of hardship and directing members in need to appropriate organisations to provide support.

I would like to emphasise the value of the Veteran's Lottery to the Club. We require a minimum of 10 participants for 50% of their monthly donation to be paid to the Club and we are currently stuck on that total. I know that several of our members have won prizes in the monthly draw. I urge those who do not currently donate to consider doing so. Cards containing details of how to apply are available from the chairman/secretary/treasurer.

I would like to thank Sheila Hey for examining the accounts to ensure all are in order. I also thank Neil Ryder for deputising for me in presenting my report, and I acknowledge the amazing work that he does with his extensive database knowledge in acting as a virtual bookkeeper and integrating everything to produce invaluable reports.

Finally, I make no excuse for reminding you all that this is your fund, and I urge you to direct any suggestions about its usage to me.

**D. Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Chichester Harbour Veterans Club (Reg # 1206883)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the Club accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

**1. Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Trust are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act and section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act and the Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**2. Independent examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 63 of the 2008 Act and section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2008 Act and the 2011 Act; or
- 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *Sheila Hey*

(Sheila Hey, 53 Main Road, Emsworth, PO10 8AR)      Date: 6 Jan 2026

*[the original copy with the proper signature will be retained by the trustees and submitted to the Charity Commission]*

**Appendix: Financial summary, 01 January – 31 December 2025**





## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Financial year 01/01/2025 - 31/12/2025

#### Summary of receipts and payments:

|                                               | Year ending<br>31/12/2024 | Year ending<br>31/12/2025 |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>OPENING BALANCES PER BANK</b>              |                           |                           |
| Opening balance - cash a/c                    | £109.79                   | £23.19                    |
| Opening balance - current a/c                 | £550.28                   | £1,498.75                 |
| <b>Total opening balances</b>                 | <b>£660.07</b>            | <b>£1,521.94</b>          |
| <b>OPERATING RESULTS</b>                      |                           |                           |
| Item                                          | 31/12/2024                | 31/12/2025                |
| <b>Income</b>                                 |                           |                           |
| Event income                                  | £2,433.50                 | £4,772.00                 |
| Merchandise sales                             | £0.00                     | £108.00                   |
| Donations / sponsorship                       | £44.37                    | £802.00                   |
| Veterans Raffle income                        | £745.00                   | £720.00                   |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>                              | <b>£3,222.87</b>          | <b>£6,402.00</b>          |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                            |                           |                           |
| Grants / donations                            | £0.00                     | -£124.49                  |
| Event costs                                   | -£2,100.75                | -£4,557.04                |
| Online services                               | -£23.96                   | -£23.96                   |
| Other operating costs                         | -£64.49                   | -£208.62                  |
| Admin costs                                   | -£30.99                   | £0.00                     |
| Insurance                                     | -£96.00                   | -£99.15                   |
| Finance / interest costs                      | -£44.81                   | -£166.68                  |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>                              | <b>-£2,361.00</b>         | <b>-£5,179.94</b>         |
| <b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>                      | <b>£861.87</b>            | <b>£1,222.06</b>          |
| <b>CLOSING BALANCES PER INTERNAL ACCOUNTS</b> |                           |                           |
|                                               | <b>£1,521.94</b>          | <b>£2,744.00</b>          |
| <b>CLOSING BALANCES PER BANK</b>              |                           |                           |
| Closing balance - cash a/c                    | £23.19                    | £110.37                   |
| Closing balance - current a/c                 | £1,498.75                 | £2,633.63                 |
| <b>Total closing balances</b>                 | <b>£1,521.94</b>          | <b>£2,744.00</b>          |

#### Summary of assets and liabilities

|                                                            | 31/12/2024       | 31/12/2025       |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                              |                  |                  |
| Fixed assets                                               |                  |                  |
| The club has no fixed assets                               | £0.00            | £0.00            |
| Current assets                                             |                  |                  |
| Cash                                                       | £23.19           | £110.37          |
| Current account (Lloyds bank)                              | £1,498.75        | £2,633.63        |
| <b>Total assets</b>                                        | <b>£1,521.94</b> | <b>£2,744.00</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                                         |                  |                  |
| The club has no liabilities                                | £0.00            | £0.00            |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                          | <b>£1,521.94</b> | <b>£2,744.00</b> |
| <b>Discrepancies (Bank balance minus internal balance)</b> | <b>£0.00</b>     | <b>£0.00</b>     |
| Should be black but: Red if negative, Green if positive)   |                  |                  |

---

# Accounts

---



# **Annual report and financial statements**

**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Registered charity number: 1206883

# Trustees' annual report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

## A. Legal and administration details

1. Charity name: Chichester Harbour Veterans Club
2. Registered charity number: **1206883**
3. Charity's principal address: Steps, Trotton, Nr Midhurst, GU31 5EP
4. Charity structure: Chichester Harbour Veterans Club is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a constitution approved by the Charity Commission, and a set of rules approved by its members (both available on its website at: <https://chivets.square.site/>).
5. Charity objects: To promote for the benefit of members and ex-members of the armed forces and associated bodies ("veterans") and those closely associated with them, living in the Chichester district:
  - a. The promotion of social inclusion among veterans to prevent them from becoming socially excluded and to help them integrate into society by providing peer support groups and signposting to suitable, relevant organisations;
  - b. The relief of poverty by providing grants and signposting to relevant organisations;
6. Governance: The charity is managed by 3-6 trustees who also constitute its executive committee:  
David James (chairman)  
Patrick Laycock (treasurer)  
Neil Ryder (secretary & membership officer)  
Geoffrey Talbot (welfare officer)  
Rosemary Webb (events officer)

## B. Chairman's statement      Chairman: David James

2024 has been an active year for the club with 14 meetings and talks by the CO of HMS Medusa (followed by a very enjoyable visit to this historically significant vessel) and by the team from Veteran's Outreach Support. We continue to be well supported by currently serving soldiers from the Royal Artillery when we meet at Thorney Island sailing club and we relish the opportunity to hear a little from those serving our country today. The team at Southbourne Parish Church have been especially kind in supporting our commemoration of D Day 80 and our annual Remembrance Service. We are thus meeting our obligations to the charity commission in providing opportunities to meet and minimise isolation and loneliness.

Our accounts are modest but healthy and we are slowly accumulating a small fund that could be used to help an individual member in need, or perhaps to help fund more ambitious activities in the future. When we set the price for our meetings, we only aim to cover our costs but we also have a small income from the Veteran's Raffle. My thanks to Patrick (as treasurer), Sheila (as independent examiner) and Neil (for pulling the records together).

Thank you to all those who responded to our survey. As a result, we have an ambitious program for 2025, In addition to monthly breakfasts (which will mainly be in your preferred locations of TISC or the parish church), we plan to hold up to 3 evening events during the year and we are planning a lunchtime gathering (pub lunch) during the summer. We are also planning several visits, the first to the Airfield Museum at HMS Sultan in January. Around D Day, we are hoping to visit the museum in Portsmouth and possibly the map room at Southwick House (former wardroom of HMS Dryad). We are also in the early stages of planning a trip to Normandy in 2026. A trip to the FAA museum and Heritage Hangar at RNAS Yeovilton as well as a visit to one of the current aircraft carriers remains our ambition too. Hopefully, one or two members will give talks on unique aspects of their careers and we will organize a follow up meeting with both the Veteran's Outreach Support and the Bognor RAF Association. As always, we welcome your suggestions for other visits or any other activity you would like us to plan.

Responses to the survey also nominated four other members to fill the one remaining post as a trustee but, when I spoke to each of them, 3 declined for very valid reasons, so there is only one viable option for an additional trustee, Mike Valler, and the current trustees hope you will elect him at the AGM to join us.

On behalf of all members, a huge thank you to the other trustees for their help and support in bringing the events together – the club would be a much less successful venture without their support. As always, let us know how we can do better as we continue to evolve the club to meet your needs.

Finally, please accept my personal thanks for your company over the past year, I hope you have enjoyed our gatherings as much as I have and I look forward to welcoming you to our program in 2025. *Chairman: David James*

## C. Trustees' report on activities

### 7. Membership

Membership officer: Neil Ryder

The club reached 66 full (voting) members and 9 associate (non-voting) members by November – the latter mainly local district or parish councillors. However, we decided to do a member survey to give the trustees / exec committee some feedback from the full members, but also as a way of weeding out people who signed up originally but have not attended any meetings for a year or more.

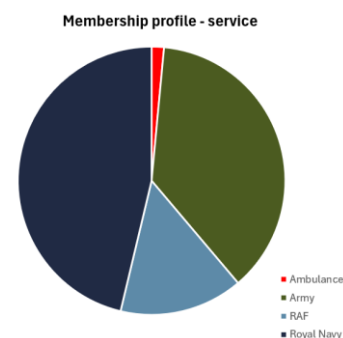
This has so far resulted in 6 resignations and there are still a few who have not responded; we will continue to try to contact them as we do not want to keep people on our membership list if they are not engaging with the club. In the meantime, though, we have accepted two more applications, so the current voting membership is 62.

The trustees have decided to approach the army at Thorney Island to ask them to encourage serving personnel to consider joining to support the club. They also plan to seek opportunities to achieve moderate media coverage for some of the club events, and other measures to try to reach other veterans living in the area. Existing members are also encouraged to recruit other veterans they know.

#### Which services?

| Service      | Member count |
|--------------|--------------|
| Ambulance    | 1            |
| Army         | 23           |
| RAF          | 10           |
| Royal Navy   | 29           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>62</b>    |

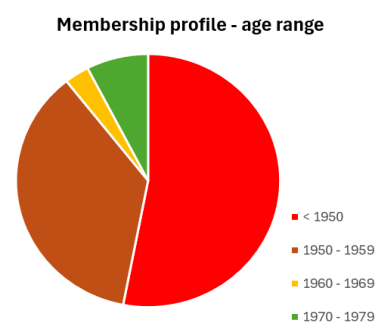
The service mix has not changed significantly, with the navy making up almost half and the army more than another third. I keep having to tell myself that it's quality that counts!



#### What ages?

| Age range    | Member count |
|--------------|--------------|
| < 1950       | 33           |
| 1950 - 1959  | 23           |
| 1960 - 1969  | 1            |
| 1970 - 1979  | 5            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>62</b>    |

Again the age range has not changed much, with the over 75+s making up over half and the 65+s over a third more. David is going to see if the army at T.I. are willing to encourage some serving soldiers to join but we should all see if we can recruit some younger members.



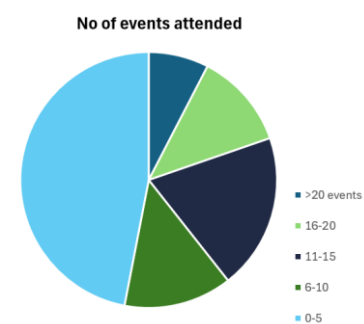
#### How many meetings did members attend?

| No of meetings | Members   |
|----------------|-----------|
| >20 events     | 9         |
| 16-20          | 10        |
| 11-15          | 10        |
| 6-10           | 12        |
| 0-5            | 21        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>62</b> |

| No of meetings | Members |
|----------------|---------|
| >10            | 29      |
| <10            | 33      |

As mentioned above, the member survey resulted in some of the inactive members deciding to cancel their membership but we still have some members who are not engaging very fully. Where this is because they find it hard to do so but they want to, we are certainly not going to discourage them from remaining as members – as David says above, we have listened to the feedback and plan a slightly more diverse range of meetings / visits, both to satisfy obvious member wishes but also to try to make it easier for members to engage. However, for practical as well as data protection reasons, we try to keep in contact with members and will use



our constitution to terminate voting membership of those who do not respond after 3 efforts to contact them.

#### Member survey

The survey was conducted mainly online in late November and early December, with just a few members who have no internet facilities giving their responses by telephone or in person. Of a starting total of 64 voting members, 48 responded, an excellent 75% response rate.

A summary of the feedback from the survey is attached as an appendix to this annual report, so I will not comment further here except to thank all those who went to the trouble to complete the survey, and to assure them that the trustees will be discussing the feedback fully and will do all they can to react accordingly.

8. Events / meetings Events officer: Rosemary Webb

A total of 14 events were arranged during the year as follows:

| Event date | Event type      | Venue                              | Attendees |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 18-Jan-24  | Breakfast       | The Fishbourne Centre              | 29        |
| 15-Feb-24  | Breakfast       | St John's church hall              | 21        |
| 21-Mar-24  | Breakfast       | St John's church hall              | 29        |
| 18-Apr-24  | Breakfast       | TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club) | 24        |
| 16-May-24  | Breakfast       | St John's church hall              | 24        |
| 05-Jun-24  | Evening meeting | TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club) | 31        |
| 20-Jun-24  | Breakfast       | The Fishbourne Centre              | 30        |
| 19-Jul-24  | Breakfast       | TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club) | 34        |
| 15-Aug-24  | Breakfast       | St John's church hall              | 33        |
| 09-Sep-24  | Visit           | HMS Medusa                         | 17        |
| 18-Sep-24  | Evening meeting | TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club) | 29        |
| 17-Oct-24  | Breakfast       | RAF Association                    | 13        |
| 07-Nov-24  | Breakfast       | St John's church hall              | 34        |
| 04-Dec-24  | Evening meeting | TISC (Thorney Island Sailing Club) | 36        |

The table shows that, apart from the 9 Sept and 17 Oct meetings, where numbers were limited by the hosts, attendance at the events ranged from 17 – 36, with no particular trends depending on meeting type or venue.

Our member survey (see appendix), showed that members rated the meetings very highly, with the sailing club and St John's hall (in that order) preferred to the Fishbourne Centre for breakfast meetings. Members suggested a number of other venues, and ideas for meetings, which the exec committee will discuss. On balance, they were happy with the main mix of meeting types, but they are keen to see more visits and meetings with other vet clubs. So we will be looking at what we can do to meet this demand. We also seem to have a good number who would like to do a trip to Normandy for D-day 2026, and we are already looking at making bookings for this. Members also reported very favourable views of our booking, payment and other event facilities, and with the pricing of the meetings

We are hoping we can recruit an extra trustee at the AGM to try to get some extra focus on visits and other events outside the regular breakfast programme, and to look at all the other useful suggestion that came out of the survey.

9. Welfare Welfare officer: Geoff Talbot

Since the last AGM, I have taken on the task of trying to collect information on all the welfare facilities available to veterans and the organisations that offer them. This has included:

- Attendance and discussion at appropriate conferences and meetings such as County Armed Forces conferences and welfare functions such as Fijian Regiment Bula Festival;
- Maintaining a watching brief on government changes in access to veterans' sources of information e.g. the change to the veterans' directory and sources of appropriate advice;
- Monitoring statements by NHS England and the Royal College of GPs on provision of supporting services to veterans; there is general acceptance that the number of veterans is under recorded and that attempts should be made to survey patients;
- Identification of local 'veteran friendly' accredited GP surgeries - efforts continue to persuade surgeries to display the accreditation logo;
- Attendance at drop in to Veterans Outreach Support to understand the services offered; arrangement of presentation by VOS to a Club meeting;
- Continued encouragement to apply for Veteran ID; this provides access to service records but also to a range of other benefits outlined on our website (see the "Advice and support" page).

This work – essentially aimed at fulfilling our aim of providing guidance to members on the welfare and other services available to them – is still a work in progress and we are trying to refine an "Advice and support" page on the club website, which will continue to develop.

One issue we will raise at the AGM is the suggestion that we use the HM Forces veteran card as our default means of verifying veterans who apply for membership (see AGM notice and agenda).

10. Treasurer's report [see accounts below]

Treasurer: Patrick Laycock

This report covers our first full accounting year as a charity and my first presented in person as I was absent at our last AGM and Neil deputised for me.

Banking: We continue to bank with Lloyds which, following some teething problems, now works well. David, Neil and I remain as signatories and all payments have to be authorised by two of us. We have transitioned almost entirely to cashless transactions which makes for more straightforward accounting. The recent innovation of requesting payment when booking has helped to alleviate backlogs at events when people queued to pay. It also helps to prevent the fund from suffering a loss when people book but don't turn up and the card transactions are all processed by Square who provide an accurate record of all transactions.

Financial results: In the year ending 31st December, income exceeded expenditure by £861.87. We enjoyed 14 events during the year - some making a small loss, others a small surplus - producing an overall excess of £332.75, and we were glad that the recent survey showed that members consider the event charges to be reasonable. Our other main income was £745 from the Veterans Raffle which covers our operating costs. We continue to donate £25 for each event hosted by St John's and TISC in recognition that neither charge a premises hire fee.

Of our admin costs the major outlay is for the annual unavoidable insurance. As we are now a registered charity we get all our main office technology for free from Microsoft and our current website is provided free of charge by Square, our payment services provider. The trustees are considering paying for some enhanced facilities in these systems to reduce the substantial workload and make the club less dependent on trustees' skill and time.

Conclusion: The club is in a healthy position but our aim is not just to continue to build the balance but rather to meet our objectives as stated in our constitution – namely, the relief of poverty by providing grants and signposting to relevant organisations and to support other activities as mentioned by David in his chairman's statement. The suggestions contained in the response to the recent members' survey will be considered with this in mind. I continue to urge members to join the Veterans Raffle for £10 per month, giving them a chance of winning up to £25,000 - with half of what they pay coming back to the club. There are other lesser value prizes each month and several of our participating members have been winners.

Finally, I would like to thank Sheila Hey for examining the accounts to make sure all is in order. I acknowledge in particular the great work done by Neil in using his extensive database skills in effectively acting as book-keeper by integrating all the club's various systems to link up with the financial records to produce valuable reports.

Please remember that this is your fund and please direct any questions or suggestion about our finances to me.

**D. Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Chichester Harbour Veterans Club (Reg # 1206883)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the Club accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

11. Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Trust are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act and section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act and the Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

12. Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 63 of the 2008 Act and section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2008 Act and the 2011 Act; or
- 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *Sheila Hey*

(Sheila Hey, 53 Main Road, Emsworth, PO10 8AR) Date: 6 Jan 2025

*[the original copy with the proper signature will be retained by the trustees and submitted to the Charity Commission]*





# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Financial year 31/12/2023 - 31/12/2024

### Summary of receipts and payments:

|                                  | Year ending<br>31/12/2023 | Year ending<br>31/12/2024 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>OPENING BALANCES PER BANK</b> |                           |                           |
| Opening balance - cash a/c       | £0.00                     | £109.79                   |
| Opening balance - current a/c    | £0.00                     | £550.28                   |
| <b>Total opening balances</b>    | <b>£0.00</b>              | <b>£660.07</b>            |

### OPERATING RESULTS

| Item                     | 31/12/2023        | 31/12/2024        |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>            |                   |                   |
| Event income             | £1,200.50         | £2,433.50         |
| Donations / sponsorship  | £244.26           | £44.37            |
| Veterans Raffle income   | £315.00           | £745.00           |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>         | <b>£1,759.76</b>  | <b>£3,222.87</b>  |
| <b>Expenditure</b>       |                   |                   |
| Event costs              | -£927.15          | -£2,100.75        |
| Online services          | £0.00             | -£23.96           |
| Other operating costs    | £0.00             | -£64.49           |
| Admin costs              | -£75.97           | -£30.99           |
| Insurance                | -£96.00           | -£96.00           |
| Finance / interest costs | -£0.57            | -£44.81           |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>         | <b>-£1,099.69</b> | <b>-£2,361.00</b> |
| <b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b> | <b>£660.07</b>    | <b>£861.87</b>    |

|                                               |                |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>CLOSING BALANCES PER INTERNAL ACCOUNTS</b> | <b>£660.07</b> | <b>£1,521.94</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|

|                                  |                |                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>CLOSING BALANCES PER BANK</b> |                |                  |
| Closing balance - cash a/c       | £109.79        | £23.19           |
| Closing balance - current a/c    | £550.28        | £1,498.75        |
| <b>Total closing balances</b>    | <b>£660.07</b> | <b>£1,521.94</b> |

### Summary of assets and liabilities

|                               |                |                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                 | 31/12/2023     | 31/12/2024       |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>           |                |                  |
| The club has no fixed assets  | £0.00          | £0.00            |
| <b>Current assets</b>         |                |                  |
| Cash                          | £109.79        | £23.19           |
| Current account (Lloyds bank) | £550.28        | £1,498.75        |
| <b>Total assets</b>           | <b>£660.07</b> | <b>£1,521.94</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>            |                |                  |
| The club has no liabilities   | £0.00          | £0.00            |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>             | <b>£660.07</b> | <b>£1,521.94</b> |

### Appendix: Summary of results: member survey December 2024





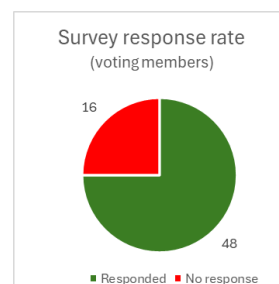
## Appendix

### Summary of results: member survey December 2024

#### Response rate

The survey was conducted mainly online, with just a few members who have no internet facilities giving their responses by telephone or in person.

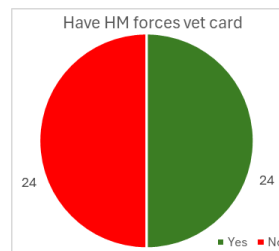
Of the initial total of 64 voting members, we were delighted that 48 filled in the survey by 15<sup>th</sup> December. Several others have done so since and we have now included these responses. Of the 16 who did not respond, 14 had attended 5 meetings or less, so we captured the views of most regular attendees.



#### Question responses

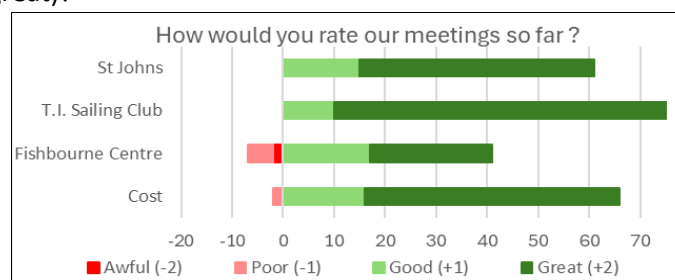
1. Do you have / have you applied for an HM Forces Veteran ID card?  
Of the 48 survey respondents, 24 have (or have applied for) a vets card and 24 have not.

The Charity Commission expects us to have a reasonable means of verifying the vet status of our voting members, and the trustees will be proposing at the AGM that the vet card should be the normal verification method (others will be accepted at the trustees discretion). The card offers a range of benefits outlined on our website (see the "Advice and support" page) and we strongly urge all existing members to apply for one - and we are prepared to offer help with the process.



2. How would you rate our meetings so far (1 = awful, 5 = great)?

Opinions of the venues and prices we have used for our meetings were overwhelmingly positive, with The Thorney Island Sailing Club (TISC) by far the most popular and Fishbourne Centre the least. To illustrate the results, scores of 1 and 5 have been doubled – ie ten members rated TISC as 4 and 33 rated it 5, so we have scored it at  $(10 \times 1) + (33 \times 2) = 76$ .



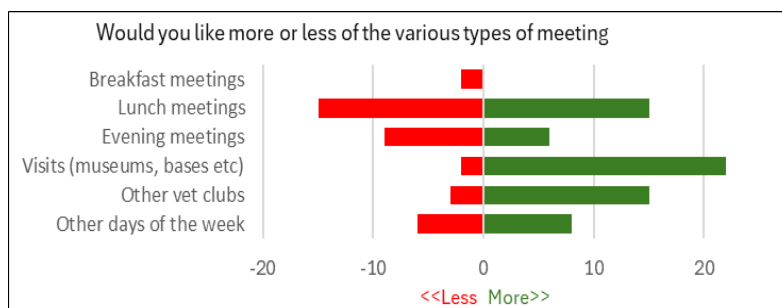
3. Would you like to suggest other venues for meetings?

Members suggested a number of other venues, which the exec committee will discuss:

- Pubs, other vet clubs
- Salt Shack Cafe, Northney Marina.
- Other vets clubs, themed visits to museums etc
- The Halton Apprentice Association hold their bi-monthly meet at the Nevil Duke hall at Tangmere - no food in the hall but there is a cafe/NAAFI attached to the museum.
- Bosham parish hall

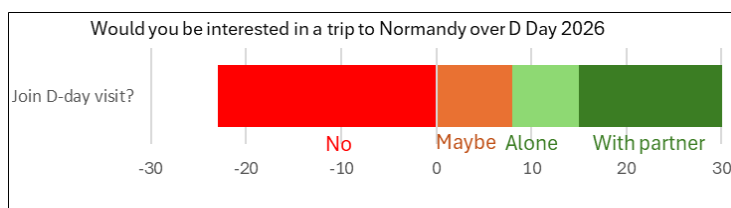
4. Would you like more or less of the following?

All but two respondents were happy with the number of breakfast meetings. Views varied more on other options, with lunches equally divided but quite strong votes in favour of more visits (bases, museums, etc) and more meetings with other vet clubs. Again, the exec committee will discuss this when planning future programmes.



5. Would you be interested in a trip to Normandy for D Day 2026 at an approx cost of £300 per head?

Seven members said they would be interested in going on their own and ten with partners – ie 27 people – with another 8 'Maybes', so this suggests a trip could be viable if the right facilities can be arranged.



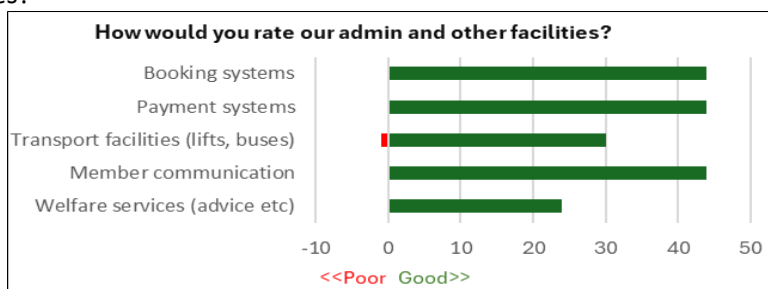
6. Would you like to suggest any other social activities?

Members made the following suggestions, which will be discussed by the exec committee:

- Meet with other vet clubs; T.I. mess evening
- Possible dinner
- Presentation on the Royal Hospital Chelsea?
- Pub lunch
- Skittle evening. We have the facilities at Thorney.
- Evening meetings allow partners to attend whenever possible.
- Commemoration of VE & VJ days should be included in Club Calendar.
- Talks, skittle evenings
- Possibly a couple more speakers at breakfasts during the year?

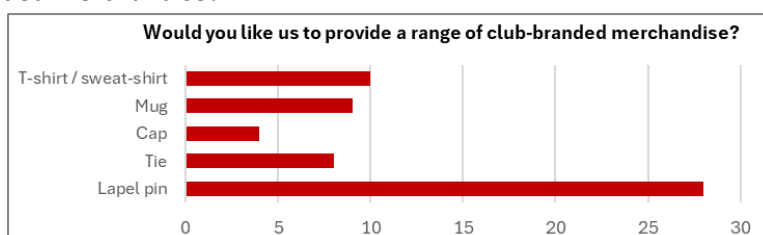
7. How would you rate our admin and other facilities?

Members rated our admin facilities very highly, which is gratifying for the exec committee members and volunteers who help to provide them! Welfare services are the most recent area of focus and are not yet fully developed.



8. Would you like us to provide a range of club-branded merchandise?

This was obviously a well-received idea, with every single respondent ticking at least one box. The lapel pin was by far the most popular option given, and two members also suggested looking at polo shirts and car stickers. We will explore suppliers shortly.



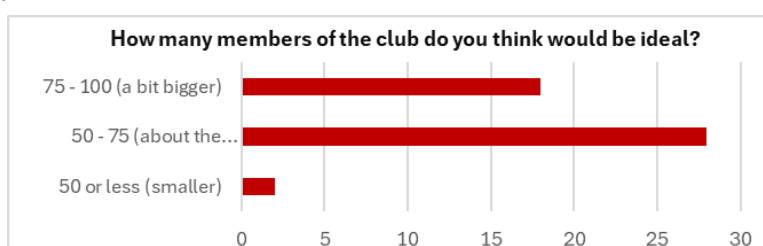
9. Do you think the club should be providing other services / facilities?

The only additional suggestions, which will be considered, were:

- Perhaps more use could be made of VOS facilities services/county led Armed Forces organisation
- Help / information on applying for Veterans ID card [two respondents]
- Help with IT devices

10. How many members do you think would be ideal?

Members are broadly happy with the present size of the club (28 votes), with 18 in favour of allowing it to get a bit bigger, just two preferring it smaller and none at all voting for growing it to 100+ members. This suggests that we can continue to accept new members for the foreseeable future.



11. Suggestions for improving the club - including recruitment if you voted for more members?  
The additional suggestions, which will be considered, were:
- Via other military orgs - eg Tangmere, Air Aces, etc; mini-poster in T.I. messes? Media articles for specific news
  - A little more local publicity, perhaps in free papers/magazines, and posters in public places.
  - More local advertising
  - Occasional posts on local Facebook groups.
  - Membership could be constricted by facilities available/widen area of visiting other vets clubs
  - Possibly, a quarterly news letter or magazine with forces related articles .
  - Evening meetings may increase attendance numbers for those of us still working. However it is important for the members that have retired to meet and socialise.
  - In addition to the Village Magazine, maybe use the Chichester Observer to spread the word.
12. Nominations for one extra trustee / exec. committee member  
There were four suggestions and those members suggested will be approached to see if they are willing to stand for election at the AGM.
13. Do you have any suggestions for the AGM agenda?  
There were no suggested topics for the agenda.
14. Overall, how happy are you with the club so far?  
**This graph needs no further comment!**

