

ROMSEY OPPORTUNITY GROUP FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

England & Wales · Charity number 266330

Details

Other names	THE ROMSEY OPPORTUNITY GROUP FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS, ROMSEY OPPORTUNITY GROUP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1974-08-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Appletree Centre Princes Road Romsey SO51 8DS
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Website	www.romseyopgroup.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 2.1 THE AIMS OF THE GROUP ARE TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS UNDER STATUTORY SCHOOL AGE FROM ROMSEY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA BY: A) OFFERING APPROPRIATE PLAY, CARE FACILITIES AND FAMILY LEARNING; B) ENCOURAGING THE STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF SUCH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES; C) PROVIDING RESPITE AND SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES OF SUCH CHILDREN; D) AND PROMOTING PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND RECOGNITION OF SUCH NEEDS IN ROMSEY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

Activities: THE GROUP ENABLES YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND DEVELOP THROUGH PLAY.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ROMSEY AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD
- Hampshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£36,490	£28,011	-	-
2024-07-31	£16,213	£20,613	-	-
2023-07-31	£24,951	£15,945	-	-
2022-07-31	£20,230	£19,513	-	-
2021-07-31	£10,836	£13,332	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Emma Dale		2023-03-07
KATIE MARIE HOOPER		2026-01-08
MR DICK HEWETT		2014-03-18
MRS SUE FISHER		2014-03-18
RUTH TERESA MARTIN		2017-04-27
Rebecca Louise Whettingsteel		2024-07-23

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Accounts

ROMSEY OPPORTUNITY GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Chair's Report (Ruth Martin)

- The children and families are at the centre of what we do, Volunteers and how valued they are and thanks to them. All roles are as important as each other and that's how the charity continues to be successful
- The funding is dribbling in, bit by bit and we couldn't continue without this. It is crucial that we all continue with the fundraising. ROG recently received a lottery funding grant (£15,000) which has been a huge help this year
- There are two incredibly important words that describe how ROG continues to be a success. They are trust and respect.
- Looking back over year, there have been challenges, but by all working together, we have overcome through trust and respect
- We thank everyone involved in ROG, from every day running, but also the wider community that continue to support ROG
- We must give an official welcome to Lauren (Deputy Head/Admin)
- We give special thanks to Helen, who has been Trustee and Chair for 16 years. Helen has now officially stepped down as Trustee. Thank you for all work and support over the years.

Manager's Report (Pauline Buckley)

It has been another busy, productive and positive year at Romsey Opportunity Group. Our team, trustees, families and volunteers have all contributed to what has been a period of continued growth, improvement and success.

Reflecting on 2024–25

Our focus last year was to strengthen our systems, raise the profile of ROG, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the group. I am proud to report that we have made excellent progress in all areas, supporting a total of 23 children and families in the last 12 months, 14 of which are currently attending the group.

1. Raising the Profile of ROG

We successfully redesigned our website, ensuring that it accurately reflects our ethos and services, and now includes a donation option to support fundraising.

Our social media presence has been consolidated and revitalised, with one Facebook and one Instagram account actively used to share updates, fundraising events, and our weekly Makaton signs.

A new banner and leaflet were created and distributed at community and fundraising events, helping to increase our visibility. Our half-termly newsletter has been streamlined and continues to help us share news and keep ROG at the forefront of our local community.

2. Improving IT and Communication Systems

Significant progress was made in modernising and securing our IT systems.

We introduced Microsoft 365 to provide professional, GDPR-compliant email and cloud storage, ensuring all ROG documents are stored safely and accessed consistently.

Communication with families and staff is now more efficient, with the use of shared cloud systems, simplified WhatsApp groups, and the introduction of Tapestry for securely sharing children's progress and photographs.

These changes have improved communication, strengthened safeguarding, and allowed for more flexible working.

3. Strengthening Management and Operations

A key milestone this year was the recruitment of Lauren Doyle who has supported day-to-day operations and reduced my managerial workload.

We established a clearer annual plan of events, including trips, visitors, and themed topics for children, helping ensure a varied and enriching programme. We have visited the 'I wanna Be' role play centre and parents have been visited by the 'Dentaid' charity.

Our strong and committed team of staff, volunteers and trustees continues to be our greatest strength.

Looking Ahead – Priorities for 2025–26

This coming year, we aim to embed and expand the progress we've made. Our focus will be on consistency, communication and connection.

We will:

- Finalise and roll out the updated induction packs and parent agreement, ensuring everyone connected with ROG has clear and shared expectations.
- Develop individual learning and support plans for each child to make sure every family feels understood, supported and involved.
- Strengthen our partnership with parents through workshops, guest speakers and more regular feedback opportunities.
- Continue to grow our Makaton confidence across staff, children and families, promoting inclusion and shared communication.
- Expand our fundraising by working with local businesses and community groups, attending events, and building on the current successes.

Through all this, we remain committed to providing a nurturing, inclusive and joyful environment where every child can thrive and every family feels part of the ROG community.

Conclusion

This year has been one of consolidation and progress. We have strengthened our foundations, enhanced communication, and modernised many aspects of our work — all while maintaining the warm, inclusive and nurturing environment that defines Romsey Opportunity Group.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff team, trustees, volunteers, and families for their unwavering commitment, hard work and support. Together, we continue to make ROG a place where children and families feel welcomed, valued and supported — a place that truly makes a difference in our community.

Treasurer's Report (Dick Hewett)

- Healthy year of finance – Surplus of £8,478
 - Lottery grant of £15,000 largely helped
 - Also £1,000 TVBC, £1,220 HCC
 - £4,627 in donations, including:
 - £500 Ghost Walks
 - £500 Squire Boggs Trust
 - £500 Bowden
 - £500 PCC, Romsey
 - £500 TK Maxx
 - £300 Jackie Currie – In memory of Grayson
 - £9,549 Dutton Gregory
 - £1,800 Romsey Ukelele Group
- Costs:
 - Wages (have given pay rises in line with national living wage)
 - Investment in new website and new equipment - £5,724
 - Outings for families, including Panto at Plaza & Hilliers lights – Dutton Gregory money used for this
- Good balance at the end of the year.
- All must help to continue to keep on top of costs and continue to maintain fundraising.
- We have been advised that we have been successful for Co-Op community funding, which will be at least £1,000, but amount to be confirmed.
- Every penny counts!

ROMSEY OPPORTUNITY GROUP 2024-25

SUMMARY

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
EASTER RAFFLE	562.00		
CHARITIES FAIRS	236.30		
MAYORS CHARITY	500.00		
MAYORS PICNIC	211.54		
BEGGARS BELIEF CONCERT	750.00		
ROMSEY SINGERS CONCERT	370.95		
OUTINGS CONTRIBUTIONS	0.00		
ROMSEY UKELELE GROUP	1,800.00		
DUTTON GREGORY	9,549.46		
BOOK SALES	17.50		
OTHER FUND RAISING	49.00		
GIFT AID	349.60		
OTHER DONATIONS	4,627.02		
INTEREST	196.91		
GRANTS	17,270.00		
	<u>36,490.28</u>		

WAGES		17,140.80	
MUSIC/ART		0.00	
INTERNET & LAPTOPS		6,648.17	
XMAS/EASTER/OUTINGS		998.22	
GEN EXP		367.95	
PLAY EQUIPMENT		728.53	
TRAVEL		562.00	
SAGE PAYROLL		145.20	
FUNDRAISING COSTS		325.66	
TRAINING		275.00	
INSURANCE/OFSTED		819.84	
		<u>28,011.37</u>	

SURPLUS/DEFICIT			<u>8,478.91</u>
BALANCE AT 1-8-24			19,387.33
CURRENT BALANCE			<u>27,866.24</u>

BALANCE SHEET

BAL BR FWD JULY 24	19,387.33	
INCOME 24-25	36,490.28	
EXPENDITURE 24-25	-28,011.37	
BALANCE	<u>27,866.24</u>	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	27,000.00	
CURRENT ACCOUNT	772.93	
PETTY CASH	93.31	
O/S CREDITORS	0.00	
O/S DEBTORS	0.00	
BALANCE	<u>27,866.24</u>	

As at 31/07/2025

Dick Hewett, Treasurer

