REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1203412

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

FOR

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

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

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

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FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026. 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.

Significant activities

Collaborating with a variety of Health & Wellness, Information and Advice organisations, providing a monthly Cancer Café for women and men of all ages who are post diagnosis, in treatment or recovery, we welcome family and carers also.

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.

ACHIEVEMENTS 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. We identified that numbers were becoming lower, some attendees were travelling in from out of area villages and towns, others advised us that Saturday mornings were less convenient as they often saw family and were less lonely and isolated at weekends. The experience gained by user feedback has led to us developing weekday events across rural villages.

Our approach to providing 'Informative and Social events, where professionals from a variety of Health & Wellness services has been well received. Examples are: Citizens Advice, Police, Fire & Rescue, 1st Responders, Carer Support Groups, Hearing Impairment services, Social Prescribers, a Mental Health Counsellor, Mediation Plus, Frailty Nurses, Age UK. We are supported by local bakeries providing locally produced cakes and savouries. The venues are visually decorated to enhance the experience, all add to an enjoyable event. Based on this successful format, in 2025, we have launched 'Winchelsea, Tea and Cake' and Rye Harbour Tea and Cake.

Our monthly Cancer Cafe - launched in January 2025 in collaboration with the Rye Community hub, part of the newly named Rye Health & Care which includes the Memorial Hospital. We provide a quiet, bright room with a terrace, where our attendees can feel safe, knowing everything discussed remains confidential. We provide peer support and guidance for people of all ages and are regularly supported by MacMillan Outreach. 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. Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen and significant reduction in successful funding applications, we were no longer able to subscribe to the secure platform used to make and record calls, this led to us withdrawing this service on the grounds of safeguarding. However, we have a good connection with Age Uk Befriending Services and refer service users to them when appropriate.

Our Community Coordinator, in post since January 2025, 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, Rye Bonfire Society, Elm Tree Boot Sale, Rural Pastimes, and donations from local businesses and attendees to our events.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The total funds held at 31 March 2026 were £8,248 (2025 - £24,051) which includes restricted funds of nil (2025 - £8,454).

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 Ore Tea and Cake and Iden Tea and Cake to launch early in 2027 and will look to establish in other communities across rural Rother in East Sussex in 2027.

It was proposed and agreed by The Board of Trustees in June 2026 that FAiR would relinquish use of rented office space, with notice given to Landlords for the agreement to end in September 2026, this has been actioned.

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 (resigned 21/9/2025)
Dr S Jacques (resigned 5/11/2025)
M Symons (resigned 5/11/2025)
S Mohun-Smith (resigned 5/11/2025)
C Yapp (appointed 21/11/2025)
Cllr S Learoyd Smith (appointed 20/11/2025)
S Bowler (appointed 21/11/2025)

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 8th October 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

C Yapp - Trustee

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	**2026 Total funds £**	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		**9,898**	**1,999**	**11,897**	32,082
Other trading activities	3	**2,300**	**-**	**2,300**	-
Investment income	4	**154**	**-**	**154**	556
Total		**12,352**	**1,999**	**14,351**	32,638
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Events		**11,280**	**182**	**11,462**	8,459
Befriending		**1,570**	**6,147**	**7,717**	7,601
Donations		**-**	**-**	**-**	140
Other		**6,851**	**4,124**	**10,975**	10,487
Total		**19,701**	**10,453**	**30,154**	26,687
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(7,349)**	**(8,454)**	**(15,803)**	5,951
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**15,597**	**8,454**	**24,051**	18,100
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**8,248**	**-**	**8,248**	24,051

The notes form part of these financial statements

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31ST MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	**2026 Total funds £**	2025 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	**613**	**-**	**613**	1,141
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	**220**	**-**	**220**	1,327
Cash at bank		**13,213**	**-**	**13,213**	25,406
		13,433	**-**	**13,433**	26,733
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	**(5,798)**	**-**	**(5,798)**	(3,823)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**7,635**	**-**	**7,635**	22,910
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**8,248**	**-**	**8,248**	24,051
NET ASSETS		**8,248**	**-**	**8,248**	24,051
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				**8,248**	15,597
Restricted funds				**-**	8,454
TOTAL FUNDS				**8,248**	24,051

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 8th October 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

C Yapp - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

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.

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3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Consulting	**2,300**	-

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Deposit account interest	**154**	556

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Information technology
	£	£	£
Other resources expended	**7,861**	**339**	**177**
Events	**182**	**-**	**-**
Befriending	**742**	**-**	**-**
	8,785	**339**	**177**

	Other	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Other resources expended	**568**	**2,030**	**10,975**
Events	**-**	**-**	**182**
Befriending	**-**	**-**	**742**
	568	**2,030**	**11,899**

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

Governance costs

	2026	2025
	Other resources expended	Total activities
	£	£
Bookkeeping	**1,550**	**1,269**
Accountancy and legal fees	**480**	**-**
Independent review fee	**-**	**480**
	2,030	**1,749**

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6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2026 nor for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2026 nor for the year ended 31st March 2025.

7. STAFF COSTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**21,265**	18,576
	21,265	18,576

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

	2026	2025
	2	2

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

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

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

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1st April 2025	**882**	**1,325**	**2,207**
Additions	**-**	**(415)**	**(415)**
At 31st March 2026	**882**	**910**	**1,792**
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st April 2025	**317**	**749**	**1,066**
Charge for year	**113**	**-**	**113**
At 31st March 2026	**430**	**749**	**1,179**
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st March 2026	**452**	**161**	**613**
At 31st March 2025	565	576	1,141

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Prepayments	**220**	1,327

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	**743**	1,625
Taxation and social security	**3,177**	1,050
Other creditors	**1,878**	1,148
	5,798	3,823

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/25 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/26 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**15,597**	**(7,349)**	**8,248**
Restricted funds			
National Lottery	**8,454**	**(8,454)**	**-**
TOTAL FUNDS	**24,051**	**(15,803)**	**8,248**

continued...

12. 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	**12,352**	**(19,701)**	**(7,349)**
Restricted funds			
Elm Tree Boot Sale	**2,000**	**(2,000)**	**-**
National Lottery	**(1)**	**(8,453)**	**(8,454)**
	1,999	**(10,453)**	**(8,454)**
TOTAL FUNDS	**14,351**	**(30,154)**	**(15,803)**

Comparatives for movement in funds

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

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted 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
	20,901	(12,447)	8,454
TOTAL FUNDS	32,638	(26,687)	5,951

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/4/24	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/26
	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	18,100	(9,852)	8,248
TOTAL FUNDS	18,100	(9,852)	8,248

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	24,089	(33,941)	(9,852)
Restricted funds			
Elm Tree Boot Sale	3,000	(3,000)	-
National Lottery	19,900	(19,900)	-
	22,900	(22,900)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	46,989	(56,841)	(9,852)

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.

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st March 2026.

FRIENDS ALTOGETHER IN ROTHER

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	**5,897**	5,682
Grants	**6,000**	26,400
	11,897	32,082
Other trading activities		
Consulting	**2,300**	-
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	**154**	556
Total incoming resources	**14,351**	32,638
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	**16,450**	14,408
Event expenses	**1,649**	1,158
Volunteer expenses	**156**	32
Donations	**-**	140
	18,255	15,738
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	**4,815**	4,168
Insurance	**266**	185
Telephone	**309**	334
Postage and stationery	**208**	332
Advertising	**489**	545
Sundries	**350**	324
Rent	**1,480**	1,260
Cleaning	**-**	76
Subscriptions	**656**	767
Travel costs	**179**	169
Training	**-**	101
Volunteer entertaining	**33**	200
	8,785	8,461
Finance		
Bank charges	**339**	60
Information technology		
Website and computer expenses	**177**	96
Other		
Plant and machinery	**113**	141
Carried forward	**113**	141

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Other		
Brought forward	**113**	141
Computer equipment	**455**	442
	568	583
Governance costs		
Bookkeeping	**1,550**	1,269
Accountancy and legal fees	**480**	-
Independent review fee	**-**	480
	2,030	1,749
Total resources expended	**30,154**	26,687
Net (expenditure)/income	**(15,803)**	5,951