STRATFIELD MORTIMER RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity Number 237073

Stratfield Mortimer Relief in Need Charity
Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2025

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) entitled "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities effective January 2016" and comply with the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements comply with the Charity's governing document.

Administrative details

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:-

Chairman and Ex OfficioTrustee	Mr Edward Benyon
Treasurer and Co-opted Trustee	Mr Christopher Conran
Co-opted Trustee	Dr Derrick Lander
Co-opted Trustee	Mr Geoff Batchelar
Co-opted Trustee	Mr Michael Hatch
Ex Officio Trustee	Rev. Paul Chaplin
Nominative Trustee	Mrs Mollie Lock
Nominative Trustee	Mr Jim Thompson
Nominative Trustee	Mr Thomas Watt

The Charity is governed by a deed dated 9 August 1996 and is registered with the Charity Commission as number 237073. The address of the Charity is care of Mrs V Glanville (Administrator), 3 Beenham Court, Newbury Road, Headley, Hants RG19 8JX.

Advisors:-

Bankers:	National Westminster Bank, Reading
Solicitors:	Blandy and Blandy, Reading
Property Advisors	Simmons and Son, Henley-on-Thames
Independent Examiner	John Jenkins FCA

Objects, Organisations and Activities

Stratfield Mortimer Relief in Need Charity ("the Charity") is an amalgamation of several ancient charities dating back to the sixteenth century. The area it covers is the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Stratfield Mortimer, which now comprises the parishes of Stratfield Mortimer, Mortimer West End and Wokefield. Its principal asset is Burnt Common, in Mortimer West End, which has been used traditionally to provide winter fuel to the old and needy in the parish. The charity did this originally by providing wood from the land, and later by raising money from the provision of grazing rights to local farmers. In 1995 an agreement was entered into with ARC Southern (now Hanson Aggregates) to allow that company to extract gravel from the land. The licence entitled the Charity to a royalty based on the amount of gravel extracted.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (continued)

The gravel extraction was effectively completed in June 2006, following which the land is being restored, partly to agricultural land and partly to a nature reserve. During this time the Charity will be entitled to a rent of at least £2,000 per annum.

Heidelberg Materials (one of the world's largest companies in this field) have acquired Hanson Aggregates and thus responsibility for restoration of Burnt Common and arranging for the site to be managed by a suitable wildlife management entity for an 80 year period. Restoration works are still not complete and there is still an ongoing negotiation between Hampshire Wildlife Trust ("HWT") and Heidelberg as to what sum the latter should pay HWT to take on that responsibility. At the same time our Trustees are negotiating a payment to compensate the Charity for the likely loss of grazing income referred to in the report for 2024.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is governed by a formal constitution and managed by the Trustees, who form the body of charity trustees as defined by the Charities Act 1960. The Trustees comprise two Ex officio members, being a representative of the Lord of the Manor and the Vicar of Mortimer, three members nominated by the three relevant parish councils, and up to five co-opted members.

They meet as required to deal with the various grants of money and to administer the Charity. There are broadly two types of grant. The first is the traditional grant of money or vouchers to the old and needy for the provision of winter fuel in conjunction with Age Concern (Mortimer). In addition, more general grants are made in special cases of need. The second category is the grant of funds for the benefit of the people of the parish. This largely takes the form of grants to local organisations.

Following consultation with the Charity Commissioners, the Trustees were required to set aside 75% of the funds received from gravel extraction into a long-term capital fund, described in the accounts as the restricted fund, to give the Charity the ability to generate income after the gravel extraction was completed. The remaining 25% of the gravel extraction income was available for disbursement as described above together with the other income of the Charity.

The Trustees have considered the major risks which the Charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to ensure that the necessary actions may be taken.

Our thanks go to our administrator, Mrs Vicky Glanville, who manages the day-to-day affairs of the Charity, and acts as its principal point of contact.

Review of progress, achievements and finances

Investments and income

The Charity has benefited during the year from a marginal increase in income, while there was a decrease in capital values of £37,500 compared to 2024. As a result, the Trustees are reviewing our investments to decide what changes, if any, should be made. The net assets of the Charity at the year end were just over £2.05 million.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (continued)

Disbursements

The level of activities during the year remained the same with grants being made to local organisations. Grants paid in the year amounted to some £86,000 (2024: £72,000) and include £32,700 to enable our Schools in Mortimer to give extra help to pupils with special needs.

As in 2024, grants were made to individuals and families in need, including the provision of a number of Christmas hampers. Our support for Age Concern (Mortimer) in the form of fuel benefits continues.

Reserves

The Trustees' policy is to maintain a substantial margin available for distribution over and above the amounts of grants approved. At 31 December 2025 such available reserves were some £411,000 after allowing for £32,500 for future grants conditionally approved.

Statements of Trustees' Responsibilities

Laws applicable to charities in England and Wales require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 13/4/2026 and signed on their behalf by:-

Edward Benyon
Chairman

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Stratfield Mortimer Relief In Need Charity

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner.

As described on page 5, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that the audit requirement of s144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s145 (5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you of any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

    - to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act; and
    - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

    have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Seal Lodge
Simms Lane
Mortimer

John Jenkins FCA

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Statement of financial activities
Year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income				
Rent from land	**2,150**	-	**2,150**	2,150
Investment income	**62,690**	-	**62,690**	59,839
Bank Interest	**1,068**	-	**1,068**	1,612
Total income	**65,908**	-	**65,908**	63,601
Expenditure				
Charitable Activities				
Grants to local bodies (see note 5)	**70,399**	-	**70,399**	56,403
Age Concern Fuel benefit	**7,600**	-	**7,600**	7,400
Provision of for special cases	**7,311**	-	**7,311**	7,180
Vicar's relief in need fund	**1,000**	-	**1,000**	1,000
Total Charitable Expenditure	**86,310**	-	**86,310**	71,983
Other				
Administrative expenses	**4,383**	-	**4,383**	4,359
Independent Examiner's fee	**100**	-	**100**	100
Total expenditure	**90,793**	-	**90,793**	76,442
Net outgoings over income	**(24,885)**	-	**(24,885)**	(12,841)
Increase/(decrease) in value of investments	**(19,548)**	**(18,121)**	**(37,669)**	70,915
Net increase/(decrease) in funds	**(44,433)**	**(18,121)**	**(62,554)**	58,074
Balances brought forward	**488,622**	**1,671,829**	**2,160,451**	2,102,377
Balances carried forward	**444,189**	**1,653,708**	**2,097,897**	2,160,451

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form part of these Accounts

Balance sheet
At 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed Assets					
Investment property	2	**10,000**		10,000	
Investments	3	**2,032,584**		2,070,253	
			2,042,584		2,080,253
Current Assets					
Cash at bank and on deposit		**55,713**		82,778	
Current liabilities					
Accrued expenses	4	**(400)**		(2,580)	
Net current assets			**55,313**		80,198
Net assets			**2,097,897**		2,160,451
Funds					
Unrestricted funds			**444,189**		488,622
Restricted funds			**1,653,708**		1,671,829
			2,097,897		2,160,451

The Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of The Charities Act 2011, which allow exemption from audit on charities under a certain level of income.

Approved by the Trustees on 13/4/26 and signed on their behalf by:-

Edward Benyon
Chairman

Christopher Conran
Treasurer

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form part of these Accounts

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) entitled "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities effective January 2016" and comply with the Charities Act 2011.

b) Investment income

Investment income is recorded when receivable.

c) Expenditure

i) **Grants payable**
Expenditure on grants is recorded once the Trustees have agreed to pay the grant and this is communicated to the beneficiary.

ii) **Other expenditure**
Other expenditure is included in the financial statements on the accruals basis.

d) Investment property

The investment property is included at Trustees' valuation as at the balance sheet date.

e) Investments (Unit Trusts)

Investments in unit trusts have been valued at market value at the balance sheet date.

f) Realised/unrealised gains and losses on investments

Unrealised and realised investment gains and losses are shown net in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Notes to the financial statements- continued

2. Investment Property

The investment property is the land known as Burnt Common in Mortimer West End. It is included in the accounts at Trustees' valuation, which is on the basis of poor agricultural land.

3. Investments

The investments are in specific charity unit trusts and are included at market value at the balance sheet dates

	2025	2024
	£	£
Market value at start of year	**2,070,523**	1,999,338
Additional investments	**-**	-
Increase/(decrease) in value	**(37,669)**	70,915
Market value at end of year	**2,032,854**	2,070,253
Restricted Fund		
COIF Charities Investment Fund	**1,052,347**	1,105,254
Blackrock Charities Growth & Income Fund	**591,362**	556,575
	1,643,709	1,661,829
Unrestricted Fund		
COIF Charities Investment Fund	**388,875**	408,424
	2,032,584	2,070,253

Notes to the financial statements- continued

4. Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bookkeeping Fees	**300**	300
Independent Examiner's Fee	**100**	100
Christmas Hampers	-	2,180
	400	2,580

5. Grants to local bodies

	2025	2024
	£	£
St John's and St Mary's Schools	**32,732**	31,534
Clarkes Educational Foundation	**15,000**	14,000
Mortimer Scouts	**11,670**	-
Together in Mission	**6,000**	5,000
Mortimer Warm Space	**2,300**	2,250
Mortimer West End Produce Show	**1,197**	1,159
Mortimer Craft Club	**1,000**	-
Mortimer Fun Day	**500**	-
Methodist Church	-	1,960
Mortimer Library	-	500
	70,399	56,403

6. Trustee's costs

No trustee received any remuneration in the year and no trustee was reimbursed any expenses.