WRVS BENEVOLENT TRUST

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 261931

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CONTENTS

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

2. TREASURERS REPORT AND FINANCIALS

3. HISTORY, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

4. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

APPENDIX

A) GRANTS' POLICY AND PROCESS

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

STEVEN BOYD



As we entered 2025, the WRVS Benevolent Trust and its dedicated Trustees prepared for what we anticipated would be a period of increased need from eligible WRVS, WVS and RVS applicants. We did so with a clear focus on ensuring that we remained responsive, resilient and able to support those who turn to us in times of difficulty.

I am delighted to say that our Trustees have remained constant throughout the year, continuing to operate as a cohesive, compassionate and highly committed team. Their willingness to mobilise quickly between meetings, responding promptly as applications are received, reflects an unwavering dedication to our beneficiaries. I extend my sincere thanks to each Trustee for the time, care and professionalism they bring to their role.

At the outset of the year, we were mindful of the potential for a “perfect storm”: rising living costs, economic uncertainty, possible investment volatility, and increasing financial pressure on those eligible for our support. In anticipation of these challenges, Trustees worked closely with our Investment Advisers and Investment Managers to review our portfolio, with the aim of maximising sustainable income while safeguarding the long-term future of the Trust.

This careful stewardship ensured that we could continue to maximise the level of grant support available in 2025, while remaining true to our duty to protect the Trust for future generations. We never take for granted the generosity of those who have donated to the WRVS Benevolent Trust over the years, regardless of the size of their contribution, and we remain committed to honouring that generosity through thoughtful and responsible decision-making.

During 2025, we were pleased to award individual grants ranging from £199 to £3,000. In every case, these grants provided practical relief at times when recipients were facing significant personal or financial challenges, helping to make a meaningful difference to their daily lives.

Looking ahead, I am confident that, alongside my fellow Trustees, we will continue to step forward with purpose and compassion - doing all we can to support as many eligible applicants as possible in 2026 and beyond.

Steven Boyd, Chair of WRVS Benevolent Trust
March 2026

14 GRANTS AWARDED

20% INCREASE IN VALUE OF GRANTS

£18,798 AWARDED

£191 LOWEST GRANT

£2,794 HIGHEST GRANT

EXAMPLES OF GRANTS AWARDED IN 2025

Humidifer	Decorating costs	Glasses
Car and car repairs	Fence	Cooker
White goods	Carpet	Bed and related furniture items
Contribution to mortgage payment	Contribution to accommodation and moving costs	Contribution to loan repayment

TREASURERS REPORT AND FINANCIALS

DAVE STOTT



2025 saw a busy start for the first 6 months, followed by a slow summer period, but some increased activity towards the end of the year. Comparatively, and on a positive note, 2025 also saw a circa 20% increase in the value of grants/bursary awards compared to 2024.

There was a real variety in items and support being requested; it would appear that more recipients are requiring financial support for general living costs and/or support with one off unexpected bills- potentially demonstrating the increased strain on finances due to the cost-of-living crisis and squeeze on personal budgets.

Our income (from our investments) continue to remain strong, despite a difficult landscape and we also received several donations for which we are grateful to be able to add to our available funds for awarding grants.

Total income for 2025 can be split as follows:

Rathbones investment income	£42,812
Donations	£5,897
Interest	£459
Total income	£49,169

Balance of accounts on 31 December 2025:

CAF Bank	£245,812
Rathbones	£1,313,804

Investments are managed conservatively to preserve capital and generate income.

Against an expenditure of:

Grants awarded	£18,798
Operating costs	£5,663
Total expenditure	£24,461

Dave Stott, Hon. Treasurer of WRVS Benevolent Trust
March 2026

IDEPENDENT EXAMINER REPORT

WRVS BENEVOLENT TRUST

Balance Sheet as of 31st December 2025

CURRENT ASSETS

Opening balance 1st January 2025	£221,339.49
Income less outgoings	£24,473.07
Closing balance 31 December 2025	£245,812.56

Represented by:

Cash in Bank	£245,812.56

Statement prepared by Dave Stott August 2026

.....

Auditors Report

In my opinion, these financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Benevolent Trust for the year ending 31 December 2025 and of the balance sheet as of that date.

Paul Hewitt

.....

Paul Hewitt
43 The Avenue
Prestatyn
LL19 9RD

HISTORY, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES



Image courtesy of the Royal Voluntary Service

The Trust's purpose is to provide financial assistance to individuals who are, or have been, volunteers or staff of the WVS, WRVS, or Royal Voluntary Service.

Grants are awarded to those in financial hardship, based on applications assessed by the trustees.

There was a Declaration of Trust, dated 22nd September 1953, when Stella Dowager Marchioness of Reading GBE, gave £1000 to WVS Trustees Ltd to create a fund for charitable purposes and thereby created the WVS Trust.

The Trust as we know it, was signed on 16th November 1970 in the sum of Ten Thousand Pounds, with seven trustees. These were Lady Reading GBE, Frances Clode CBE, Lady Margaret Charles OBE, Alice Crawford Johnston CBE, Doreen Harris OBE, Kathleen Halpin CBE and Enid Cubitt MBE.

Trustees have continued to maintain the name of WRVS Benevolent Trust, despite the changes in name of the organisation beneficiaries are drawn from.

Excerpt taken from the Trust deed:

"To pay or apply the trust at such time or times and in any such manner as the trustees shall in their own absolute discretion think fit for the relief, comfort, support and benefit of such persons who are or who have at any time been members of the organisation now known as Women's Royal Voluntary Service either in Great Britain or elsewhere in the world of limited means who for any reason become in need of financial or some other form of help and assistance"

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



Trust Details

Charity Name: WRVS Benevolent Trust

Charity Registration Number: 261931

Principal Address: PO Box 769, Chesterfield, S40 9NY

Independent Examiner: Paul Hewitt

Bankers: CAF Bank

Investment Managers: Rathbones

Reported information

Operating outside England and Wales: Yes; we receive applications from Scottish residents

Number of employees: None

Own or lease property: None

Regulated by any regulators or registrars: None

Received funding from central or local Gov.: None

Receive funds from the public: Yes

Recognised by HMRC: Yes; for gift aid

Trustees for the purpose of Charity law for the period ending 31 December 2025 were:

- Chair - Steven Boyd
- Vice Chair - Christopher Digby
- Hon. Treasurer – Dave Stott
- Hon. Secretary – Nigel Green
- Grants Manager – John Fallon
- Marketing – Gwen Deloux
- Marketing – Trevena Playle

The Trust has no paid staff with all trustees being volunteers. All trustees have confirmed the following:

- That information relating to trustee work can be found on the government website:
- https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission
- That all trustees are satisfied that all eligibility checks are relevant and appropriate for all the current and future trustees and that trustees are suitable to act as such
- That no trustees have current or undisclosed criminal convictions, bankruptcies, IVA agreements, disqualifications from being a company director or trustee
- All trustees are willing to act as a trustee of the WRVS Benevolent Trust
- All trustees understand the purposes and rules set out in the governing trust deed
- All trustees declare that the information provided to the Charities Commission is true, complete and correct
- All trustees confirm that the WRVS Benevolent Trust funds are held securely in its own name with a bank or bank accounts in England or Wales
- All trustees confirm that they will comply with their responsibilities as trustees and as set out in CC3 The Essential Trustee

Conflict of Interest Policy

Trustees must declare any conflicts of interest and abstain from decision-making where a conflict exists. The trustees believe the only real conflict of interests that can arise relate to relationships with applicants and the Royal Voluntary Service.

Where a relationship exists, the Trustee is to advise the board and unless extenuating circumstances suggest otherwise, they must refrain from voting or influencing the decision to avoid any potential actual or perceived conflict of interest. This must then also be noted on the minutes as being declared.

Safeguarding Policy

At present the Trustees do not believe there is a need for a formal safeguarding policy. The Trust however may respond to safeguarding vulnerable individuals in an emergency situation by contacting the relevant Social service or Emergency service. We may also access other Safeguarding services for advice.

Data Protection and Privacy Policy

The Trust complies with GDPR regulations and ensures that personal data is handled securely and confidentially.

Investment, Retention of Income and Reserves Policy

The Trust delegates investment decisions to its investment managers, with the trustees taking on the roles of Stewards. In effect, the trustee's policy is to:

- Agree the trusts risk profile and risk appetite
- Oversee the execution of investments by receiving updates from the investment managers

The Trustees recognise that, from time to time, the income in any one year can exceed the amount of grants that the Charity makes. Each year the Trustees will consider training and other activities which it feels further supports the Objects in raising awareness of the Grants in the hope that this will continue to encourage applications to the Trust.

It is the Trustees' intention to review the level of income against grants made on a yearly cycle, and any surplus at the end of that period will be at the Trustees discretion in how they use the surplus; which will normally be a) re-invested b) used for a specific purpose to benefit the Trust or c) given as a donation to a charity of the Trustees choice.

The Trust maintains reserves to ensure it can meet future grant obligations and operate effectively.

Risk Management Policy

The Trust maintains a risk register, reviewed annually, to identify and mitigate key risks, namely data protection, trustee liability and reputational damage.

Complaints Policy

All complaints to the Trust/Trustees will be acknowledged by the Chair in writing within a reasonable time; ideally within 5 days and advising the complainant that a full response will be issued within 20 days.

The Chair will then investigate the complaint with 2 Trustees and respond with a final response within 30 days. The formal response should include reference to the Charities Commission.

Grant Guidelines and Application Process

Refer to the our website which sets out the full guidelines and process trustees use.

Albert Einstein

“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

Declaration

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 12th March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Boyd

Chair of Trustees