



Notes from the Trustees

This report relates to the activity of Redbourn Community Group from September 2024-August 2025. Throughout that year, as always, the core objective and action of RCG remained the same – “.....to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the Community in the Parish of Redbourn and its environs, in particular the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.”

Our key activities remain: driving clients to medical appointments in the village and wider area, arranging outings to places of interest and shopping trips to alleviate social isolation. We fulfilled all requests for lifts in the year where a client had no alternative option. In rare cases when no volunteer was available we provided a taxi, using funds from a ringfenced donation which is now exhausted. A driver recruitment campaign resulted in 11 additional volunteers. We are grateful to all our volunteers and always very happy to welcome more.

Our offer of friendly walks or talks from a team of volunteers remained a popular service. During the year RCG joined forces with Active in Redbourn and St Mary's Church to promote Wednesday Walks around the Redbourn Mile. The take-up of this opportunity to meet, exercise and chat, finishing with coffee at the Cricket Pavilion, has been positive. We also organised litter picking teams to walk, talk and improve their surroundings together.

We continue our close working relationship with St Albans and District Foodbank and Citizens' Advice St Albans and District, particularly

through their joint presence in the Parish Centre on Mondays. We have a strong relationship with the Social Prescribers at Lodge Surgery enabling shared awareness of vulnerable clients. We have formed connections with Redbourn Primary School, with the newly formed Redbourn Rovers football club and with the equally new Redbourn First Responders. These initiatives continue and have developed further since year end.

The impact of Redbourn Community Group is noteworthy. With our connections across the village and our generous volunteers the services we offer remain the glue which holds the community together. Without the volunteers and the office organisers, some Redbourn residents, particularly people of restricted mobility, would be unable to access healthcare and could become isolated from their own environment as well as the wider area.

Board of Trustees...



Ben Miller



Alan Mason
Treasurer



Simone Deans



Edward Wheen
Chair



Catharine Pusey
Vice Chair



James Regan



Ailsa Hulme
Safeguarding Lead



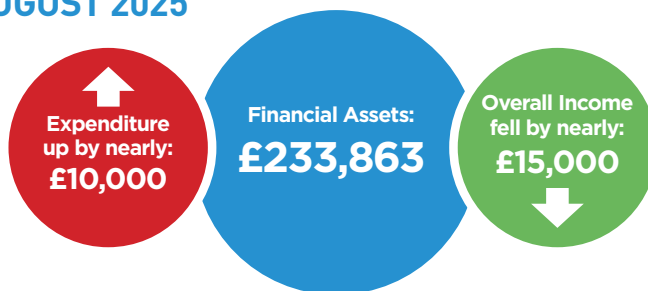
Sue Hill

Finance Report

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2025

Overview

During this financial year our funds fell by over £20,000, mainly because this year the Trustees have provided significant financial support to several extremely worthy local causes. Despite this fall, our financial assets at £233,863 remain in a very healthy position.



Income

Overall, our income fell by nearly £15,000 compared to last year. We continue to receive generous donations from clients and supporters either directly, through collection boxes or through other channels such as Just Giving, Charities Aid Foundation and the St Albans District Community Lottery. We are hugely grateful for the support we receive from these sources alongside the very significant contributions from other parties mentioned on page 4. Among our valued donors we are particularly grateful to a number of individuals who make regular donations to us, often by Standing Order. We also offer our appreciation to St Albans Roundtable who organised a 'Santa Sleigh' run for our benefit around Redbourn at Christmas when the generosity of Redbourn residents provided us with over £1,400.

We have again benefited from the higher interest rate environment with investment interest on our funds only slightly under last year's amount. We are hugely grateful to The Wednesday Club who gave us a generous donation after disbanding. We are also very grateful to Rayner Essex LLP, whose staff donated a significant sum. In both cases, we have ringfenced these donations at the request of the donors to be applied in the future to appropriate local projects.

Our healthy financial reserves have inhibited successful grant applications to funders leading to a drop of over £16,500 in that income compared to last year.

Expenditure

In addition to providing drivers for outings and journeys, we use our funds to maintain and lend mobility equipment, including electric scooters, to residents in need. This all helps to provide relief for residents affected by lack of mobility and loneliness.

This year we provided grants to a number of important local causes, including two significant contributions targeted at younger residents. First, we have provided funds to Redbourn Primary School to build a gazebo in their playground enabling pupils to benefit from an outdoor learning environment. Second, we have provided sponsorship to Redbourn Rovers, the new football club for girls and boys in the village, providing a pitch-side gazebo for use on matchdays.

We continue to use some of the grant funding we have received in past years to pay for the hire of the Parish Centre for the weekly food bank.

Overall, our expenditure was nearly £10,000 higher than last year, primarily because of the significant Grants we have issued and the costs of running the office that reflect a full year of our salaried Services Coordinator.

Alan Mason
Treasurer

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is paramount at RCG for staff, volunteers, clients and Trustees. All volunteers have initial training and courses are available regularly. All Trustees and staff have regular training and updates. We have clear guidelines which we adhere to and all information is recorded. We work closely with other organisations who support us.

Ailsa Hulme RCG Trustee and Safeguarding Lead

"To Becky and all the wonderful volunteers of RC group. Thank you all for helping to make our lives easier with shopping and fun with garden centre trips and pubs!"

Income and Expenditure Statement

	2024-2025	2023-2024
INCOME		
Donations	£25,945.42	£28,536.83
Bequests / in memoriam	£2,622.34	£340.00
Miscellaneous Income	£0.00	£1,854.64
Herts CC mileage	£393.30	£869.40
Gift Aid tax refunds	£3,249.28	£3,670.19
Investment Interest	£10,075.83	£10,771.69
Grants and other restricted income received	£6,441.69	£16,980.84
Transfer from Redbourn Care Trust	£0.00	£232.13
	£48,727.86	£63,255.72
EXPENDITURE		
Minibus costs	£3,513.60	£4,460.36
Scooter costs	£3,283.00	£3,063.01
Foodbank Room Hire	£2,016.00	£1,912.50
Business Insurance	£1,152.82	£1,118.10
Services Coordinator employment costs	£29,616.81	£20,383.79
Office expenses	£3,657.77	£3,876.87
Training expenses	£0.00	£2,767.80
Marketing expenses	£1,168.94	£742.62
IT expenses	£1,843.11	£2,129.99
Volunteer expenses	£1,293.37	£1,715.45
Grants issued	£13,513.47	£9,037.11
Events & outings	£5,401.75	£4,569.85
Taxis	£560.00	£1,245.00
Miscellaneous costs	£623.96	£882.80
Subscriptions, Fees, & DBS charges	£1,367.00	£1,324.20
Sum Up and Just Giving fees	£476.37	£583.69
Bank Charges	£70.80	£73.54
Transfer to Redbourn Care Trust	£30.00	£0.00
	£69,588.77	£59,886.68
NET ADDITION TO FUNDS	-£20,860.91	£3,369.04

The figures in this statement have been reviewed by an Independent Examiner in accordance with appropriate accounting standards and Charity Commission requirements.

Key statistics



"I have driven the Group's minibus on various trips since the summer of 2025 and find it very rewarding. It's good to give something back to our community, filling a hole in provision which otherwise might leave our clients stranded in their homes"

"Three hours from time to time, which I can easily spare, makes such a difference to those who wish to have the independence to do their weekly shop. This makes all of us feel good about ourselves."

"I was interested in this role as I grew up in Redbourn and I wanted to give back to the village. It's been great reconnecting with people and I really appreciate the efficient organisation of the RCG office"

And finally ...

Thanks to our donors:

- Peter Brown from sales of his artwork
- Redbourn U3A
- Redbourn Classics
- Redbourn Lodge
- St Albans 41 Club
- The Wednesday Club
- Rayner Essex LLP

We acknowledge grants received in 2024-2025 from:

- Hertfordshire County Council

In memoriam:

- Harriet Mackintosh
- John Schofield
- Owen Jefford

We are also very grateful to:

- Redbourn Auto Solutions for supporting and generously maintaining the minibus
- The Cricketers of Redbourn for hosting monthly Trustee meetings

Thanks to Redbourn based **Whiteing Design Partnership** for keeping prices to a minimum in designing this 2024-2025 Annual review

Thank you!

