



## AGM 2018

Thursday 25th October 2018, The Ovin Room, Ely Cathedral Centre  
Palace Green, Ely. 14.00 – 16.00. Registration from 13.30

### Chairman's Foreward

The year under review has, as always, been an eventful and busy one for VCAEC. Helping Hands and the Social Car scheme continue to be very busy with ever increasing requests from our residents. Everyone continues to work very closely together and therefore it is particularly sad when we lose two key people. We were very sad to learn of the deaths of Toni Meadows, our office manager and Robert Bullen, a trustee for twenty years. Robert served as both Chairman and Vice Chairman and made a significant contribution to VCAEC. Steve Twigden has also decided to retire after twenty years as the gardening team supervisor. Alvin Feetham has moved on to a full time job as part of the ECDC Open Spaces team. We wish him well in his new job. Chris Yarrow is stepping down as treasurer, but we are pleased that he will stay with us as a Trustee.

However, we have been delighted to welcome David Passek, who is nominated as treasurer and Steve Uttridge. Both bring valuable business experience as volunteer trustees.

The statistics that Granville will explain demonstrate that our activity levels continue to increase, as does our social reinvestment back into East Cambridgeshire; this has only been achieved by the continued dedication and sheer hard work of the staff and volunteers, to which I pay tribute. The staff and volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation and I give my sincere thanks to them all for all their commitment, hard work and togetherness as a team. Our office team of Granville, Jol, David, Sandra, Rina, Barbara, Margaret and Chris are the front line of our organisation and I thank them all for the professional and welcoming way they operate.

The last year has not been easy with pressure on funding and we are grateful to our regular core funders who keep our organisation going, as well as the support we have received from other funders. It is not easy to obtain funding as it

requires time, real expertise and attention to detail to produce a bid which will be successful. We are really lucky that Granville is a real expert in this and he and his team are to be congratulated on our latest performance. All charitable and voluntary organisations face difficult times, as we have experienced, so our sincere thanks go to our funders because without their ongoing support we could not operate.

Working with and supporting the community is our main priority and our Helping Hands Gardening Team led by Steve and Alvin, and the many drivers of the Social Car Scheme are all individual ambassadors for VCAEC as well as providing much needed and valuable services. Both projects are seeing increasing activity levels responding to increased demand from people who need our help. As an organisation we are looking forward positively to the year ahead and I know our staff and volunteers will work to ensure our success continues.

My thanks are also due to my fellow trustees for their efforts and support, to Chris Yarrow for steering the finances of VCAEC as treasurer, our volunteer trustees Jol and David and Robert and Roderick. We are as ever still looking to recruit new trustees and would be grateful to hear from anyone interested in joining our board

Lis Every  
Chair of Trustees

### Granville Hawkes Project and Development Manager

Well I have to say my sixth year heading up VCAEC has been another roller coaster ride of ups and downs, but for all that an enjoyable one, with wonderful people giving me fantastic support.

I am also fortunate to have some amazing people who, over many years, have and



continue to offer their time on a voluntary basis. They in turn have been joined by some new faces to help the Centre run efficiently, provide a good service to our users and members, and ensure our projects continue to progress in a positive way.

I was of course sad and shocked that Toni Meadows passed away so suddenly and then to also lose Robert Bullen who put in so many years as a trustee – they will both be difficult to replace.

I also need to thank Steve and Alvin who run the Helping Hands Gardening Team. We seem to get busier and busier on an annual basis and their efforts five days per week ensure we operate efficiently and cohesively despite the unpredictable weather. I must also thank Steve for the wonderful afternoon we all spent in his garden for our second BBQ – a good time was had by all. By year end we will have said goodbye to both Alvin and Steve.

Whilst as ever in the current economic climate the funding outlook remains uncertain we really appreciate the existing funding support we receive from East Cambridgeshire District Council. I must acknowledge the support we receive from independent charities that help ensure our projects are able to continue. As an organisation we continue to look for opportunities to partner up with other organisations to increase our income and become sustainable in the future. I also continue to work hard to raise funding to ensure the helping Hands gardening project continues to move forward.

I must also mention our Board of Trustees who also give up their time to ensure we move forward in a positive way and remain financially sound and ready for whatever the future brings.

Granville Hawkes  
Manager VCAEC



## Who's who

### **President:**

Elaine Griffin-Singh

### **Trustees:**

- Lis Every (Chair)
- Chris Yarrow (Hon Treasurer)
- Roderick Mair
- David Ogilvie
- Jol Jackley
- David Passek Trustee elect
- Stephen Uttridge Trustee elect

### **Staff:**

- Granville Hawkes, Project & Development Manager
- Steve Twigden, Helping Hands Gardening Scheme Supervisor

### **Office volunteers:**

- Chris Read

### **Gardening Team Admin Volunteer:**

- Rina Skinner

### **Ely & District Volunteer Centre Volunteer Coordinators:**

- David Ogilvie
- Rina Skinner
- Mick Bowmer

### **Social Car Scheme Volunteer Coordinators:**

- Sandra McCarthy
- Jol Jackley
- Barbara Sullivan
- Margaret Clark



## Social Car Scheme



### Our volunteer drivers:

- Alma Wayman
- Brian Morriss
- Chris Stone
- Jerry Watkins
- George Flude
- John Harding
- Peter Tomalin
- Ken Brown
- Liz Taylor
- Michael Emmerson
- Pam Harding
- Sandra McCarthy
- Brian Broker
- Bryan Harper
- Clive Taylor
- Michael Judkins
- Graham Ramsey
- John Buttifant
- Keith Dorling
- Les Anderson
- Margaret Clark
- Noelle Benstead
- Pat Garnham
- Steve Utridge

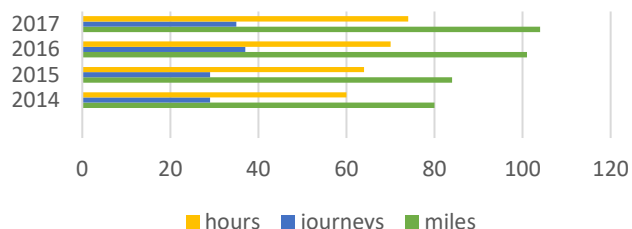
### We say goodbye to:

- Colin Attenborough
- Tony Tillett

### New drivers for this year:

- Trevor Woolnough

Car Scheme 2014-2017  
Figures in 000s



At the time of writing we have already driven further and for longer than at the same time last year.

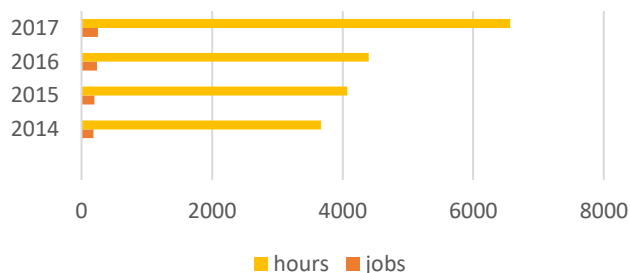
## Helping Hands Gardening Team



### Regular Gardening project volunteers:

- Les Norman
- Martin Thorn
- Steve Hobson
- Joe
- Kevin Barnes
- Graham McCann
- David Passek

Helping Hands 2014-2017



## Volunteering update

So far this year we have assisted in providing 1343 volunteering hours to 65 different agencies.

Local volunteering opportunities can be browsed at the Volunteer Centre and also appear on [www.do-it-org](http://www.do-it-org).

## Membership

To date 137 local groups and individuals have joined VCAEC as paid up members.

Membership is a one off payment of £10 for a group. Members receive regular newsletters.

Membership forms, information leaflets are available on our [website](#).



## Our Funders

We extend sincere thanks to all our funders that have supported our work.

- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- City of Ely Council
- Ely Community Unit
- Department of Transport
- Bus Operators Grant
- Triangle Club
- Sanctuary Housing
- CAMRA Ely Branch
- Mr & Mrs Smith & Mount Trust
- Ely Hereward Rotary Club
- Scheme Users

## Strategic Partnerships

- We have continued to develop our partnership-working at local, regional and national level.
- Granville was a member of CVS5, the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Chief Officers' forum and Volunteering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (VCP) the Volunteer Centre Managers' forum.
- VCAEC has Board representation on the East Cambs Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- VCAEC was also a partner in the "Going Local" project which aims to raise levels of local knowledge that will enable adult enquirers to be matched up with services and activities that enhance their lives
- Granville was a member of the Localism Task and Finish Group
- East Cambridgeshire CLAS
- GET Group

## Contact us

### CVS SERVICES

☎ 01353 666166

Granville [info@vcaec.org.uk](mailto:info@vcaec.org.uk)

### VOLUNTEER CENTRE

☎ 01353 666556

or log on to [www.do-it.org](http://www.do-it.org)

### SOCIAL CAR SCHEME

☎ 01353 666553

### HELPING HANDS GARDENING SCHEME

☎ 01353 666556 or email: [steve@vcaec.org.uk](mailto:steve@vcaec.org.uk)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow us Twitter  using @vcaec

 Like us on Facebook

### ADDRESS

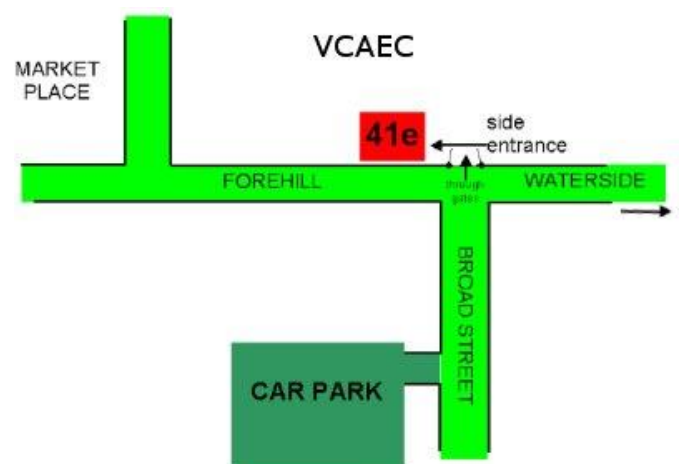
VCAEC

41e Forehill

Ely

Cambridgeshire

CB7 4AA



 Like us on Facebook



## Audited Accounts Review 2018-2019

2017/18 was a tough year in which statutory funding dropped by £11,256 and this was due to County funding for the CVS function being disbursed elsewhere during 2017. Despite this significant decrease we have once again exceeded expectations, as for every pound in funding received £2.91 of added value has been deployed into the community. We owe this to remarkable achievement to all our volunteers and especially the centres management in making best use of the limited financial resource.

Volunteering hours of in excess of 25,000 represents the work of 14 full time employees, which is completed direct to those most in need throughout the district. It stands to reason that the centre saves over a quarter of a million pounds of tax payers money because if it didn't exist, the cost of these hypothetical employees would need to be picked up by the Council.

The overall deficit for the year of £5,763 was expected and we forecast a neutral position this year. A small deficit may result should any unforeseen circumstances arise.

Total funds remain strong at £33,314 and this includes a ring fenced £20,000 emergency operating fund balance which the Trustees feel is a prudent level.

We would like to thank Ian Piper and Katherine Bebbington from Whiting & Partners for validating our numbers, preparing the statutory accounts and keeping their fee levels competitive in todays market place.

### Helping Hands

Helping Hands Gardening Scheme is part of the centres life blood and its purpose is closely aligned with our overall objects of promoting volunteering. The decision to take a small £1,000 management fee from the scheme reflects this and our aim to make Helping Hands self-sufficient progresses.

The £12,026 of voluntary donations received from the schemes users represents 45% of the total running costs of the project. This compares to 4 years ago when it was below 5%. The shortfall has been made up from loyal funders and in particular the Ely Community Unit whose objects are closely aligned with the scheme.

The deficit for the year of £2,057 is an improvement on our expectation. This has been covered by the fund balance at the start and the remains of a supporting change grant which was provided specifically for the purposes of making charitable projects semi sufficient, as we have seen with Helping Hands.

### Social Car Scheme

The Social Car scheme continues to thrive and has provided £10,000 in management charges to the centre to make up some of the core deficit of approximately £25,000 which is faced each year.

We have continued to become more efficient and this in part has been achieved by making better use of our booking software. This has helped us to scale the scheme to meet the demands of the forever increasing number of users.

