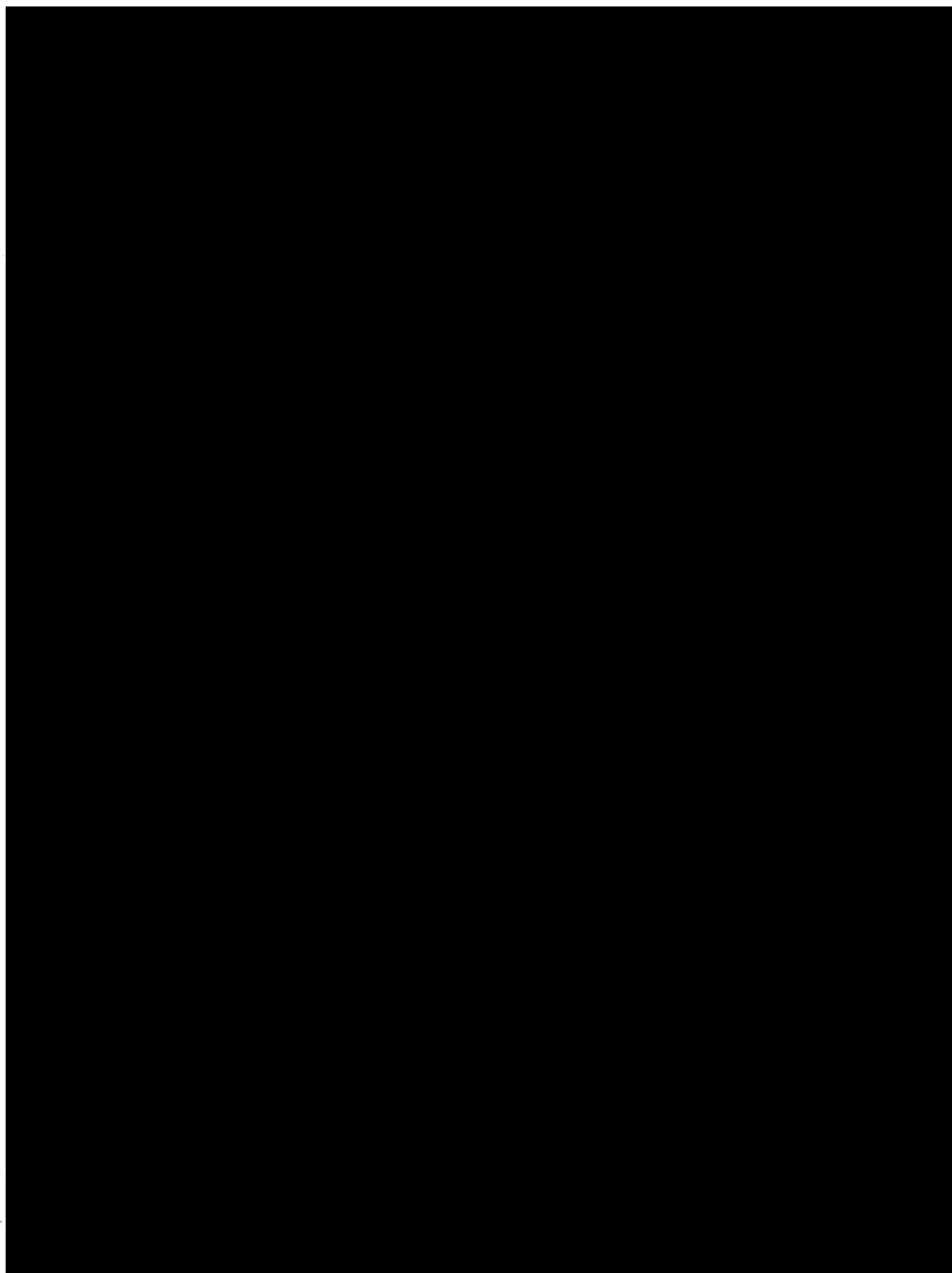
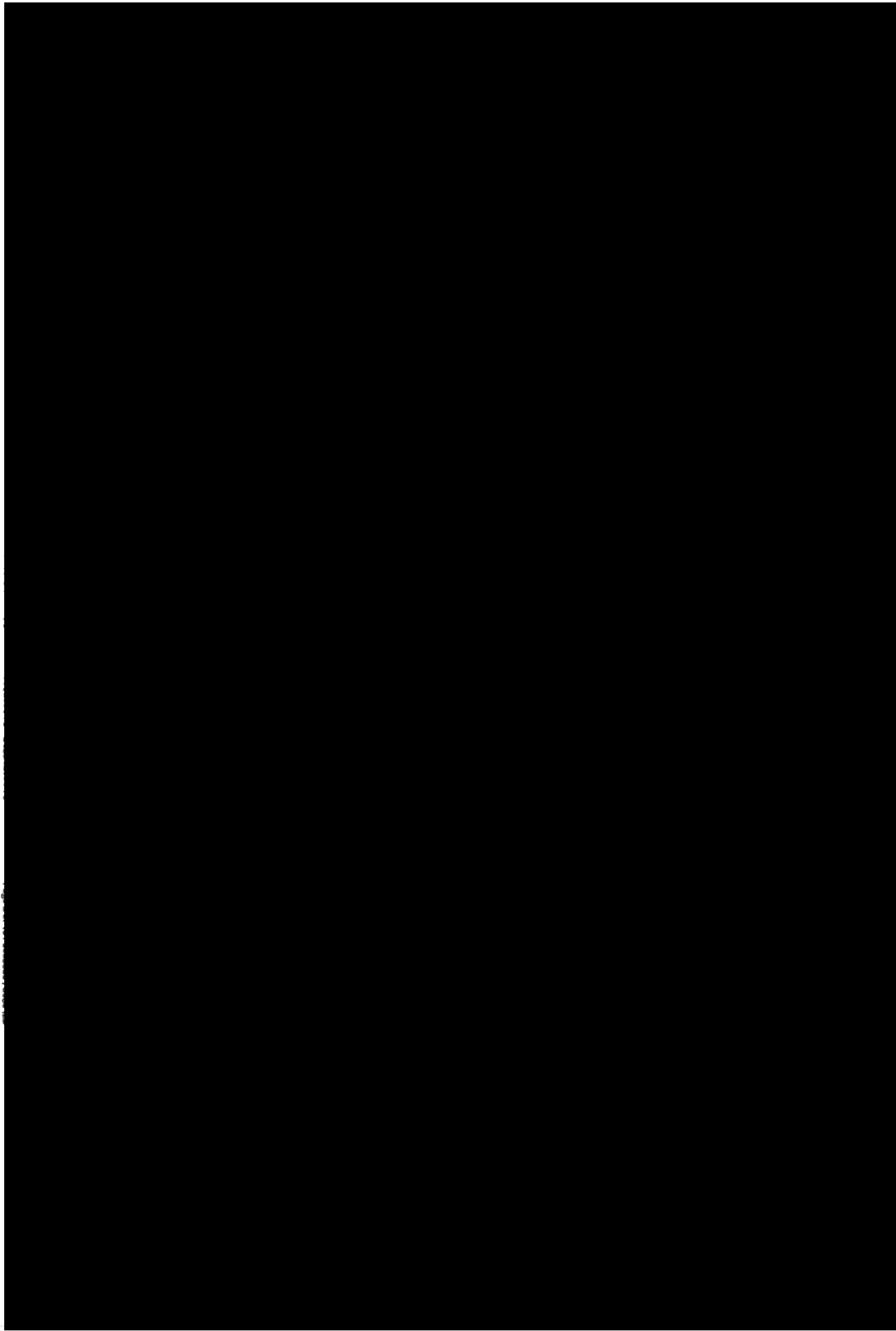


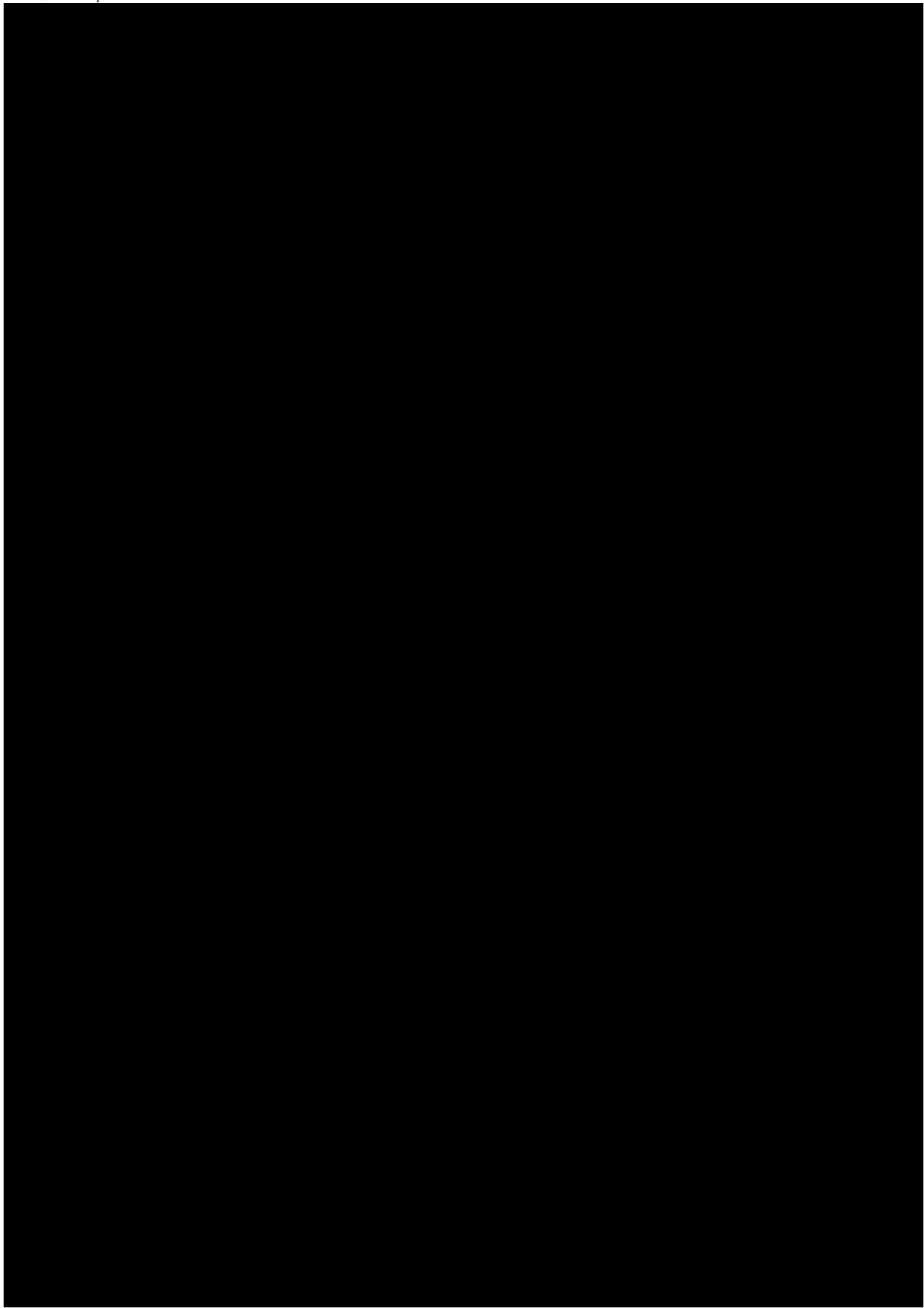
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

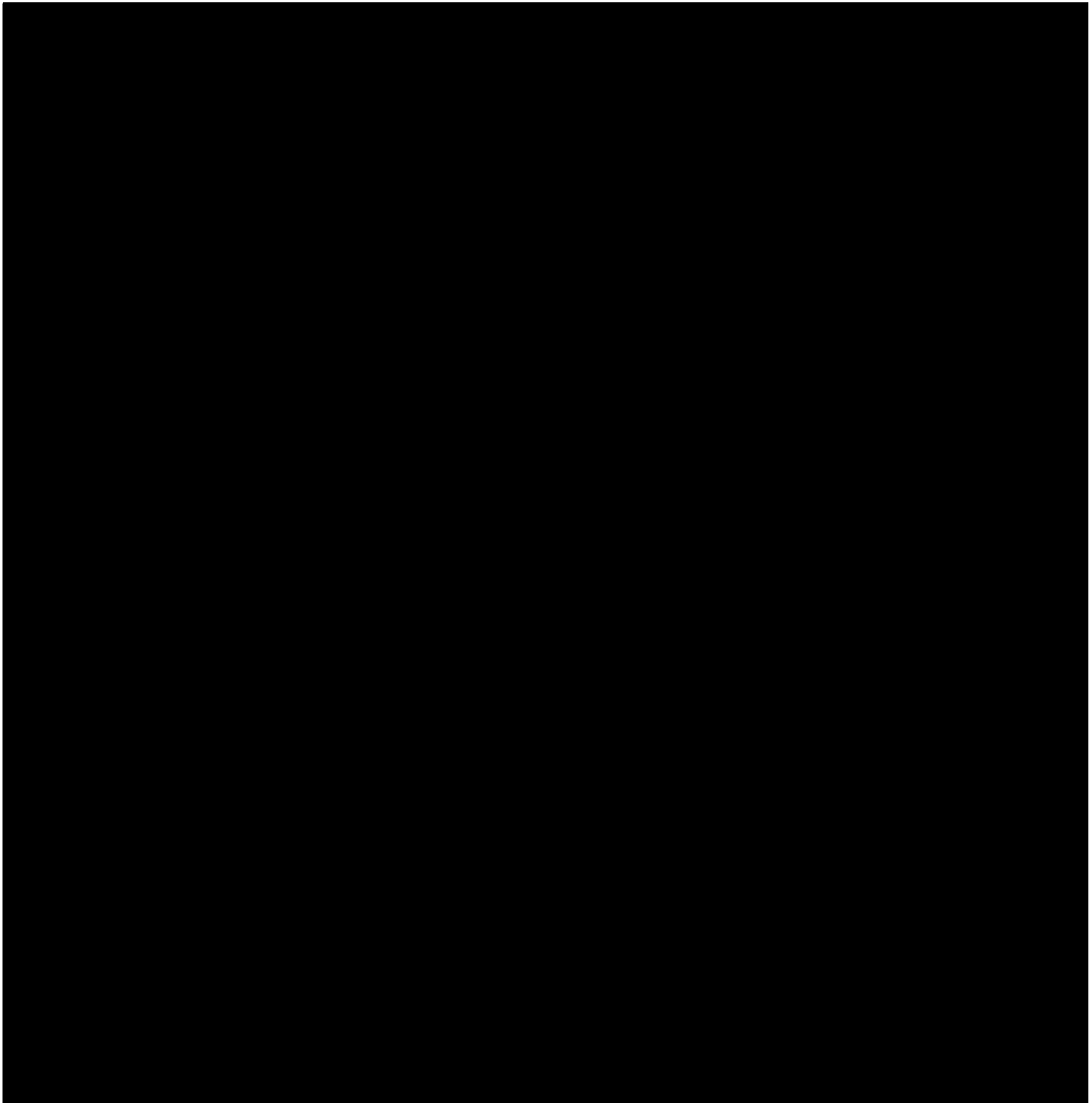
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS











Revised
8/2/9



VolunteerCentre
Huntingdonshire



HUNTINGDON

together

Trustees Annual Report

2022—2023

‘Our Volunteers Helping Local People’

Registered Office

Huntingdon Volunteer Office

1 Princes Street

Huntingdon

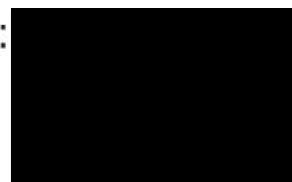
PE29 3PA

Telephone: 01480 414766

info@huntsvc.org.uk

www.huntsvc.org.uk

Registered Charity:
Company Number:



Trustees

Mike Baker	Chairman
Robert Young	Treasurer
Jenny Clarke	Secretary
Anthony Clarke	Trustee (Payroll)
Jim Abele	Trustee
Richard Brown	Trustee
Chris Myles	Trustee
Gordon Thorpe	Trustee
Debbie Townsend	Trustee
Keith Woodward	Trustee
Steve Burdett	Trustee

The Charity may by ordinary resolution at an Annual General Meeting appoint a person who is willing to act as a Trustee. At least 14 clear days written notice shall be given to the members of the names of those nominated or otherwise standing for appointment or re-appointment as a Trustee. The persons to be appointed as Trustees shall be determined by ballot of the members.

The Trustees may appoint a person who is willing to act as a Trustee. Any Trustee appointed under this clause must retire at the next Annual General Meeting.



Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre

'Supporting Huntingdonshire communities through volunteering'

We are a small registered charity, locally funded, supporting local people through our valued services.

Our mission is to actively engage with Huntingdonshire communities by promoting and encouraging the involvement of volunteers in a variety of initiatives including our four valued Community Car Schemes and our Community Shop in Huntingdon.

Staff

Radha Roychowdhury
Debbie Windsor

General Manager (up to Sept 2022)
St Ives (up to February 2023)
Interim General Manager (Oct
2022– Jan 2023)
General Manager (from Feb 2023)
Huntingdon
St Ives (from February 2023)
Ramsey

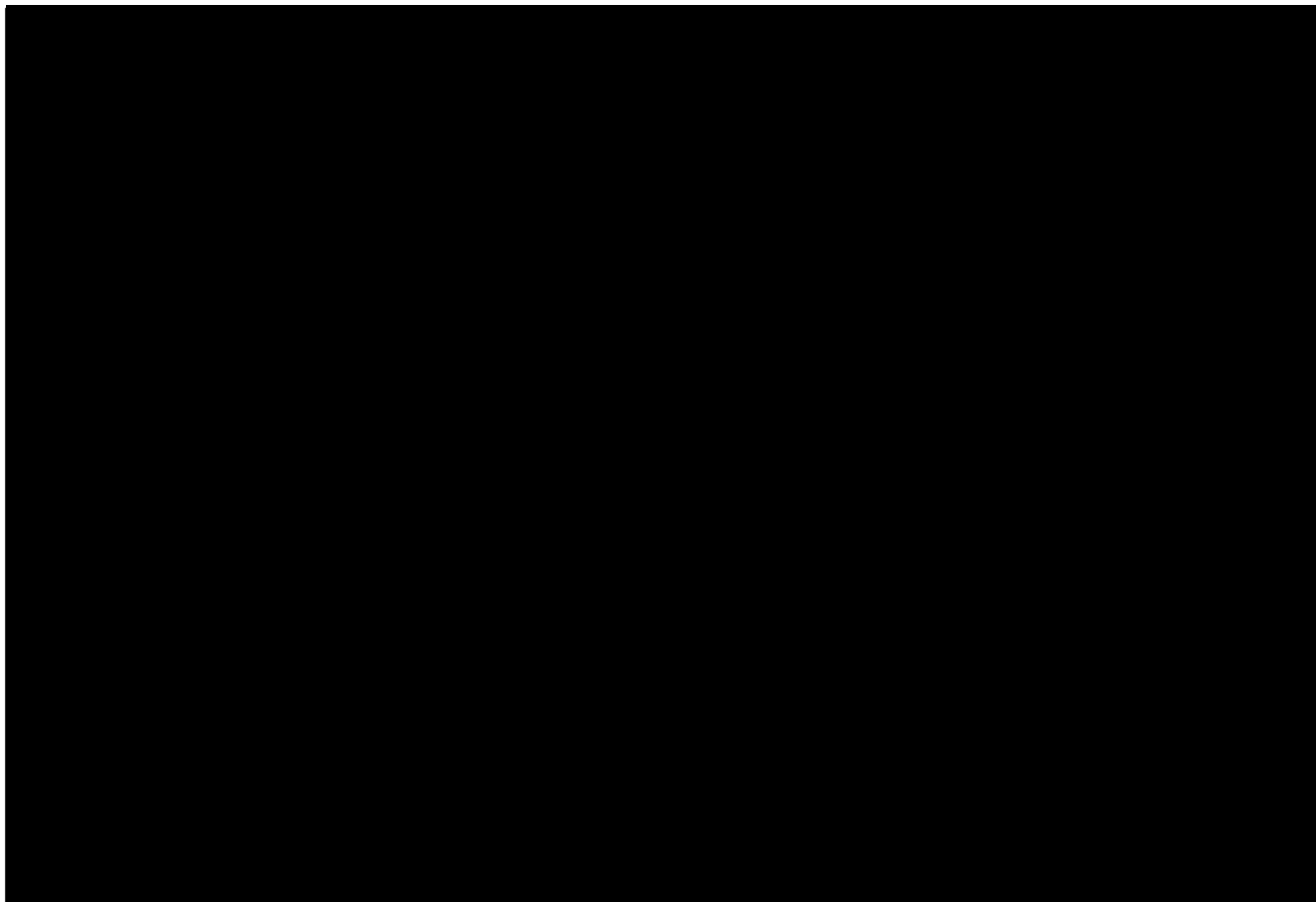
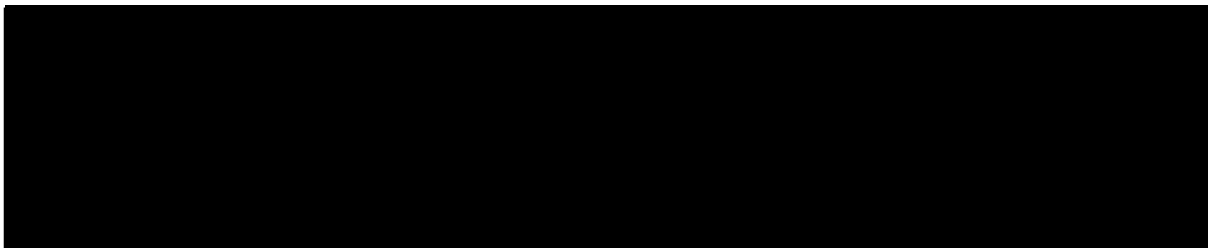
Tripti Woolf
Kirsty Fletcher
Marie Webb



Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre

'Making Lives of People Better'

Thank you to our six hard-working and dedicated part-time staff members . **Thank you** to over 150 volunteers who use their skills to help as Trustees, volunteer in the shop, help with car scheme administration, not to mention our wonderful car scheme volunteer drivers. Your help is vital in supporting our local communities. You have all made a real difference!



Chairman's Report

2022/2023

Mike Baker



I am sometimes given donations for our organisation from clients or their immediate family in appreciation of the service we provide. This is always very significant to me- not because of the money involved, although donations do help us maintain our services, but it means that what we do is meaningful and profoundly important to the people who we help and that is both pleasing and reassuring.

As we move out of COVID restrictions, the use of our Car Scheme has escalated and we are increasingly in demand for drives to hospital and doctors appointments. Our drivers are great advertisements for the Volunteer Centre and their courtesy and kindness are well known. I am very grateful to all the good people who drive for us.

We were sorry to lose our General Manager, Radha Roychowdhury who had only been with us for a year, but during that time had created herself a reputation for care and civility with all those with whom she worked. We appointed Debbie Windsor as our new General Manager and she has approached the new role with enthusiasm and vigour. Her experience as the St Ives Area Manager has meant that she is familiar with the work we do and this has been a great advantage. She has already introduced a number of new initiatives and is a huge asset to us.

We appointed Kirsty Fletcher to replace Debbie as the St Ives Area manager and she has shown great enthusiasm and commitment in her new role. We look forward to working with her.

Once again, we took the decision not to run the Christmas lunch in the Free Church in St Ives but we did cook over fifty meals there and delivered them to people's homes on Christmas Day.

It's not the same as our traditional Christmas party but with the prevailing health situation we thought it best to abandon the communal lunch. We have had a number of thank you messages and hopefully later this year we may be able to return to our normal Christmas party.

We tried out a new format for our 'Drivers Day' and our two speakers, one from Dementia Friends and one from Guide Dogs for the Blind were excellent. I was particularly taken by demonstrations of how to guide people with sight loss through busy places such as cafés and how to help them safely into cars.



I must pay tribute to our Trustees. They are an extremely motivated and hardworking group and without their good work there would be no organisation. The commitment from our Treasurer Bob Young is phenomenal, keeping up with all our payments, banking all our various funds and balancing the books keeps him extremely busy and the closure of our local bank this year has not made his life any easier. I am so grateful to him as I am to Jenny Clarke, our Secretary, who also volunteers as a Car Scheme Administrator at the St Ives office and is therefore well aware of the local situation and day to day problems. She is a very efficient Secretary and keeps us updated of local meetings and events.

Anthony Clarke has been a great help as Payroll Manager and has also made life easier for Bob Young by helping him with the accounts.

Richard Brown's knowledge of employment law is a great help to us, as is Debbie Townsend's awareness of Health and Safety matters. Steve Burdett has been doing excellent support work in Ramsey and Warboys and has been seeking out new funding opportunities for us.

Keith Woodward has undertaken a huge project on the marketing of our services and has produced a great deal of new material for us as well as planning a complete revamp of our website. He plans to raise a great deal more financial support for us as well as raising our profile in the local community. I am very grateful for all of his efforts.

Chris Myles and Gordon Thorpe complete the team and have been very supportive on a number of issues.

We are very sad to be losing Debbie Townsend as a Trustee. She has been on our committee for many years and played quite a pivotal role when we faced closure when funding from the County and District Council ceased. She negotiated a funding agreement with the St Ives Town Council which was critical to our survival. The example was then followed by other Town Councils who were encouraged to give us more significant financial support, so thank you Debbie for all your support over difficult times.

We continue to be extremely grateful to our funders. The Town Councils from St Ives, St Neots and Ramsey have given us significant financial support and indeed we could not do half the work we do without their help. Godmanchester and Huntingdon Town Council have also given us useful funds- all of which are listed in the Treasurer's Report. We have received many smaller donations from Parish Councils and individuals for which we are grateful.

We have a very strong team of employees. Debbie Windsor has led the team in a sympathetic and purposeful way. Tripti is conspicuous in her care for individuals. Kirsty always shows great enthusiasm and is getting to grips with her new role. Marie has a quiet determination and shows great initiative and Bex uses her flamboyant and cheerful energy to good effect in St Neots. Emma's smiling face in the shop is well known throughout Huntingdon and she constantly strives to try out new initiatives to raise our income. She is a most caring lady who has turned the shop into a centre of support for individuals and local charities.

Despite extensive efforts we have not yet been successful in securing larger premises for a new shop in Huntingdon. We have outgrown our existing premises and we need to expand. Tripti's office is also unsatisfactory, and we require a more attractive place for her to work. I am hopeful that a new office space will be found very soon.

And finally, a huge thank you to the most important people of all- the volunteers. The good people who drive their cars, man the offices, sort donations in the shop and work in the shop in other ways. There has been much publicity given to volunteering in the press recently which highlights the benefits of volunteering to those who give up their time to help others, both in terms of personal satisfaction and to give a sense of purpose in life. I do hope that you have that special sense of satisfaction because I know how grateful people are in the community for all the help and friendship you give them.



Treasurer's Report

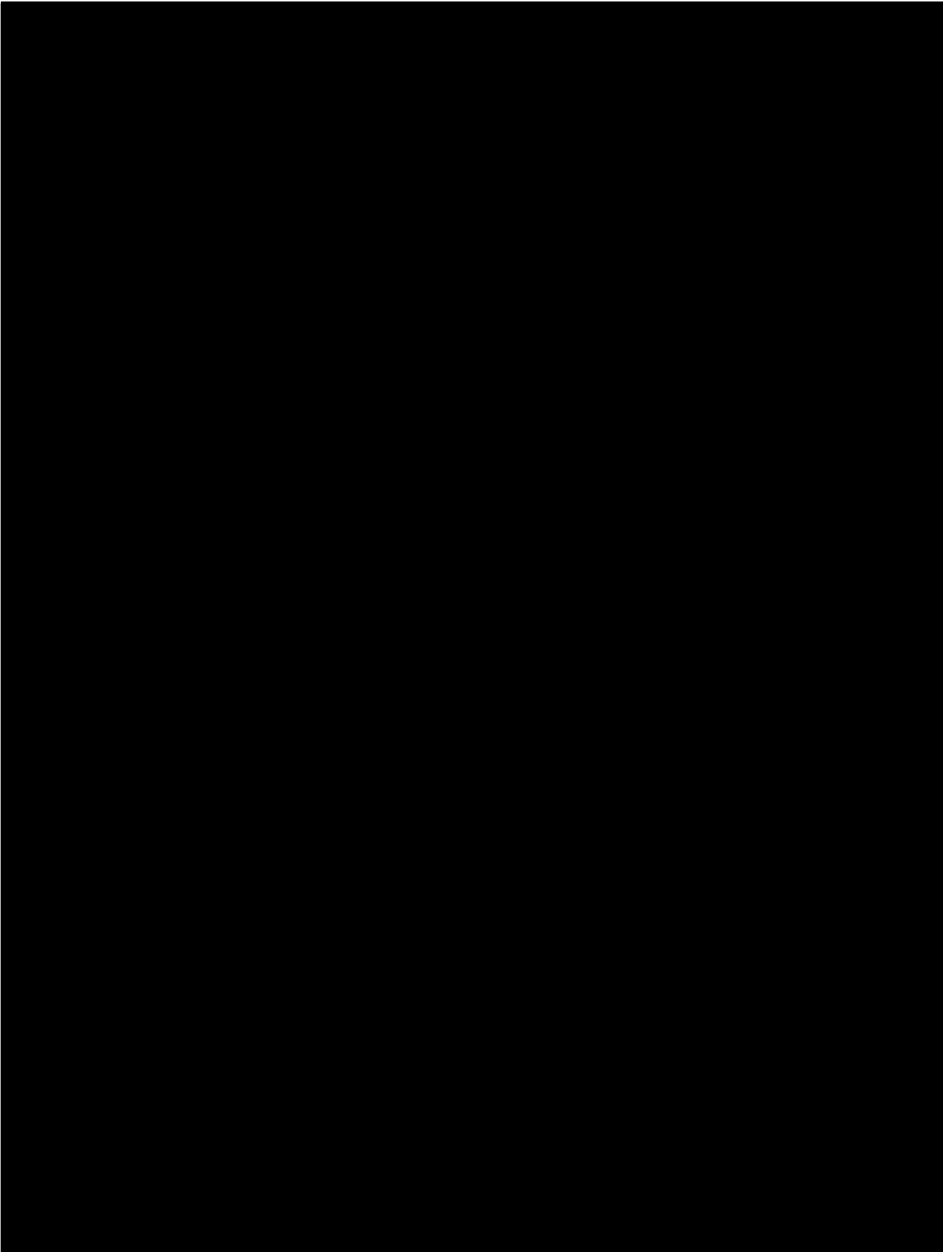
Bob Young

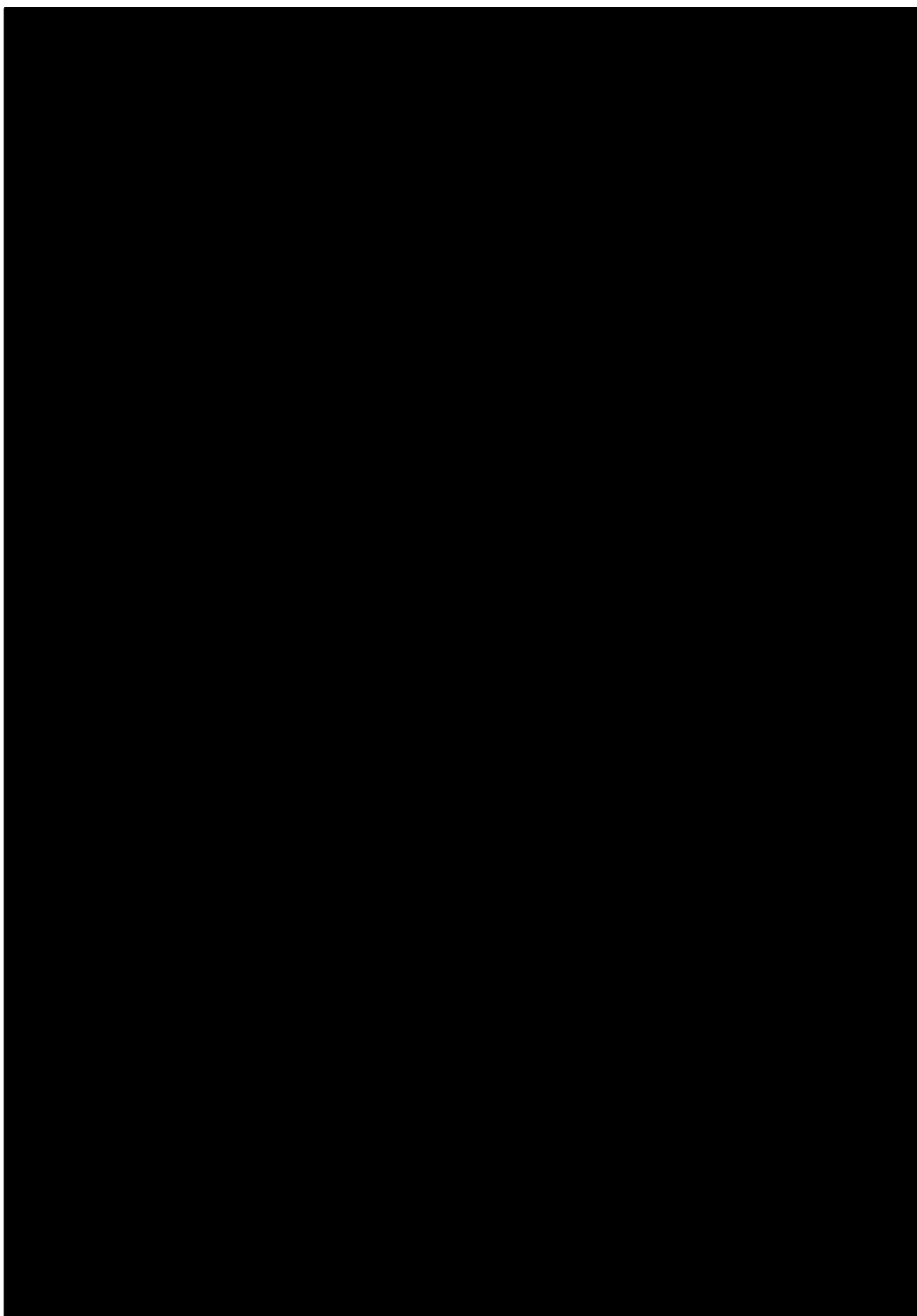
This report is for the financial year ending on 31st March 2023.

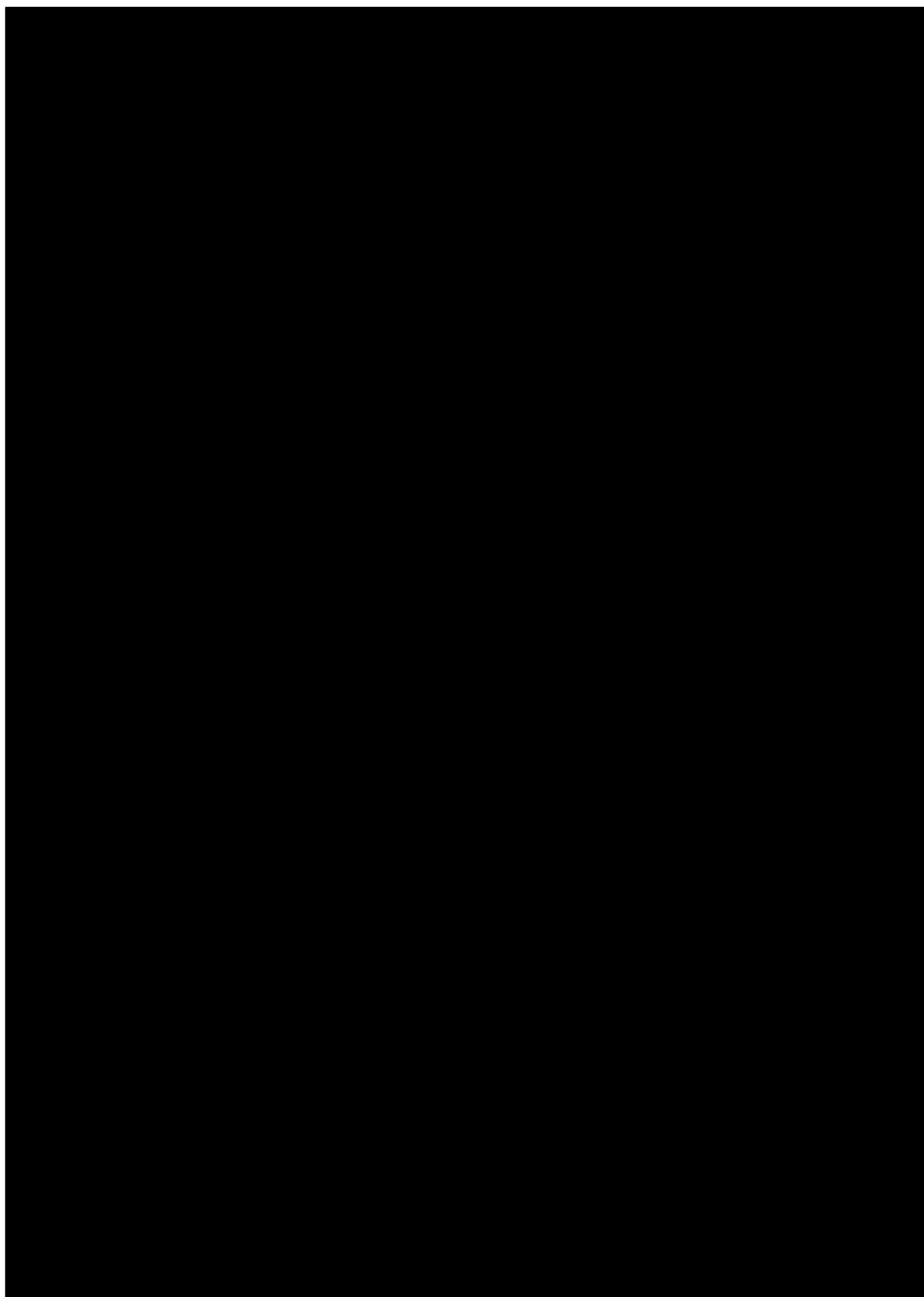


This year's financial performance has, like last years, been undertaken against a background of continued post COVID recovery. The COVID pandemic effects have not been so great. However, some of our income streams continue to perform below their pre-COVID levels although they have shown some improvement over the 2021/22 levels.

Income







Budgeting for 2023/24 is difficult given current inflationary trends. Some of our suppliers have or are planning price increases. We will need to closely monitor expenditure to mitigate inflationary pressures. The budget set for the coming year anticipates that HVC will breakeven for the coming financial year.

It is the Trustees' intention to try and increase and diversify the income from grants and donations from both local authorities and local business and business organisations. Our dependence on local authority grants is all too apparent and encouraging additional and more diverse streams of income would be very desirable.

The Reserves Policy states that the Charities' reserves should be maintained at a minimum of three months operating expenditure. I can assure you that this is currently the case.

Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre is a private limited company operating under a Memorandum of Association and registered with Companies House and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The accompanying accounts are presented in the format required by current legislation applying to charitable companies. It is a requirement that the Trustee's Report and Annual Accounts are submitted to both the Charity Commission and Companies House.

A qualified accountant has independently examined the Annual Accounts. A summary of the accounts will be provided for all those attending the Annual General Meeting. Copies of the full accounts will be posted on our website and available by request from the Manager.

Lastly, I would like to thank Anthony Clarke and Keith Woodward for their support and assistance during the year.

Marketing Update

Keith Woodward, Trustee



HVC – Marketing a Very Special Charity

There is an old saying that my dad used to quote at me.

“If you build a better mousetrap, the world will beat a path to your door”. (attr. Ralph Waldo Emerson)



Well, that may or not be true, but it certainly won't be true if nobody knows of its existence and where the door is !

This to me is a good introduction to part of the essence of what Marketing is all about.

I have always liked the well-regarded concept of AIDA, meaning:

A = Awareness I = Interest D = Desire A = Action

People need to be **Aware** of what your organisation could do for them.

You have to convey these messages in such a way that they are **Interested** in what this solution is and this then creates for them a **Desire** to find out more about it. This should then lead to the **Action** stage, where having been convinced of its value to them, then people go out and buy it. One job of Marketing is to help people through these steps so that they end up with a good solution to meet their needs.

All very simple really !!! And that's why I love it so much !!!

I've been in Marketing, Sales and Customer Service for all of my long career working for international companies, large and small, a prestigious UK University, a huge global Engineering Membership Organisation, plus some smaller UK Companies and some Charities. For over 3 years now I have been a Trustee for Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre (HVC) trying to help where I can with Communications and Business Planning.

So what does a small charity like HVC need in the way of Marketing?

Small local charities compete for attention with larger organisations (with bigger budgets?) to make people aware of their services. They need to have clear succinct messages. So for HVC, we are:

Your Local Charity, Supporting Local People, With Much-Valued, Volunteer-Delivered, Essential Local Services

Thus, we operate Locally through teams of Local Staff and Volunteers based around Local Offices, we are funded by supportive Local Councils and others, we provide Local Services for Local People and are very much appreciated by our Local Clients.

Our Core Service (product) is in providing **essential transport** for people who have **problems** accessing public and private transport. They have problems because of Geography, Disability / Mobility, Timings and Cost. 4,000 passengers every year are helped by our service, which is provided by Volunteer Drivers who give up their time using their own vehicles to provide a door-to-door service to vulnerable people, who need to attend hospital or medical appointments. Other drives, like visiting relatives or shops, are good for their well-being. This service is very much valued by both the clients and the drivers themselves.

In addition we provide community support in various ways – a community charity shop and community fridge in Huntingdon, a monthly newsletter promoting local volunteering vacancies, delivering Christmas lunches in St Ives, and other ad hoc services.

The job of Marketing in all this is many faceted.

- * To make potential clients aware of how we can help them and show them how to get the help they need.
- * To recruit the Driver and Admin. Volunteers needed to organise and provide these services.
- * To show existing Funders that their monies are well spent in providing valued services in their communities.
- * To provide a compelling rationale for Supporters and Potential Funders to provide the essential support HVC needs to continue our work.

We have many tools at our disposal to help with this. Our website is in the process of being updated to make it more interactive for all users.

We have a new presentation which sets out our case to local groups, companies, councils etc to gain support. We send out emails updating supporters on how we are doing and showing available Volunteering opportunities. Then we attend exhibitions, put up posters etc. And of course there are the social media posts.

All of these need to be constructed so that the **Right Message** is conveyed to the **Right Audience** via the **Right Media** at the **Right Time and Frequency** to gain their support.

HVC Marketing has to help make sure that we can continue to help our vulnerable clients who rely on our essential Local Services.

I want to sign off by stating that HVC is an exceptional small Local Charity providing a unique excellent service to many vulnerable Local People, who highly value the personalised service they receive.

Further, I want to tell you that I am proud to be working with such a wonderful, dedicated group of Trustees, Staff and Volunteers, who go the extra mile to help these vulnerable local people.

In my professional opinion, Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre is without question **worthy of your active support.**



Insight from a Trustee

Debbie Townsend

In 2004, I was fortunate to be elected as a St. Ives Town Cllr in the St. Ives West Ward.

As a Town Cllr, you have opportunities to be invited to be a representative on local community groups. Even before I was elected onto the Town Council, I was aware of the good work that the volunteer centre had been doing in St. Ives from their shared office in the St. Ives Methodist Church. Luckily, HVC accepted me as their Town Council representative and from that day forward this allowed me to be able to attend Trustee Meetings and have a more detailed understanding of the day to day issues facing a volunteer centre. This insight was also really useful for me to report back to the Town Council the work being carried out in St. Ives by the Volunteer Centre.

This community partnership with the Town Council became more important, when it became clear that we required more space for our busy St. Ives office and when a downstairs room became vacant in St. Ives Town Hall, it seemed a great collaborative opportunity to move and become more visually seen and used by our St. Ives community.

As my volunteer knowledge and spare time increased it felt the right time to put my name forward to be a Trustee and I was proud to be elected a HVC Trustee in 2014.

For a number of years, I had worked for my husband's Civil Engineering business, where I studied for 2-years for a BTEC Level 3 Civil Engineering Course at Peterborough College. From this course, I studied and passed the Health & Safety module and I decided that this particular skill could be greatly utilised by the volunteer centre in my role as a Trustee.

In particular, ensuring that all four of the offices and our charity shop have a safe working environment for everyone and also to be point of contact for Trustees if they had any H&S concerns.

As we all know COVID had a dramatic effect on our services, but I was impressed by the way managers were able to carry out risk assessments quickly to ensure that when we started to open up again, we had put measures in place to ensure our volunteers and clients felt safe. During my annual H&S visits, talking with managers and volunteers, I can see that Health & Safety is an important part of our daily routine.

After 19 years and with personal commitments in my own life, I have decided to hang up my Trustee hat and step down at the AGM this year. It has been a hard decision to make, as I have met such an amazing number of caring volunteers and friends, who do such a fantastic job. I'm sure when time allows, I will come back as a Volunteer.



My first day with HVC in 2004 and being show around the St. Ives office in the Methodist Church by Ann Bunting

General Manager's Report

Debbie Windsor

So it has been a busy year!

We were sad to hear the news that our General Manager Radha Roychowdhury was leaving HVC, so in October the Trustees asked if I could cover the role for three months, alongside my St Ives Area Managers position.

This was not an ideal situation long term as both roles were extremely busy and so we recruited Kirsty to take over the St Ives Area Managers job so I could concentrate fully in my new role as General Manager.

I would like to thank the Trustees for giving me the opportunity and also to the staff for supporting me through the transition, and of course to Kirsty for taking on the St Ives Office!



Our Community Car Scheme

The demand for our Community Car Scheme continues to increase and the statistics for 2022/23 are shown in the four tables below :

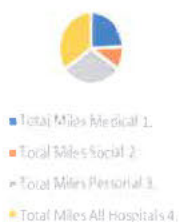
Annual Car Scheme Totals by
Category April 2022 to March
2023- Ramsey



Annual Car Scheme Totals - Ramsey

Total Miles Medical 1.	Total Miles Social 2.	Total Miles Personal 3.	Total Miles All Hospitals 4.
3636.5	2538.5	2277.5	4152.5

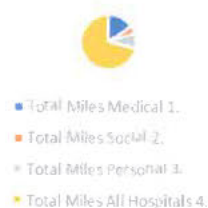
Annual Car Scheme Totals by
Category April 2022 to March
2023 - St Ives



Annual Car Scheme Totals - St Ives

Total Miles Medical 1.	Total Miles Social 2.	Total Miles Personal 3.	Total Miles All Hospitals 4.
7917.3	3245.0	10149.0	11156.0

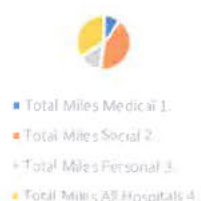
Annual Car Scheme Totals by
Category April 2022 to March
2023 - St Neots



Annual Car Scheme Totals - St Neots

Total Miles Medical 1.	Total Miles Social 2.	Total Miles Personal 3.	Total Miles All Hospitals 4.
3353.0	998.0	2135.0	15873.0

Annual Car Scheme Totals by
Category April 2022 to March 2023
Huntingdon



Annual Car Scheme Totals - Huntingdon

Total Miles Medical 1.	Total Miles Social 2.	Total Miles Personal 3.	Total Miles All Hospitals 4.
1814.4	7412.6	2474.7	6147.4

Hospital Journeys	2022-23
Hinchingbrooke	1,205
Addenbrookes & Royal Papworth	506
Peterborough	219
Other Hospitals: Cambridge Spire Lea, Bedford, Ely, Harrow, Histon, Kettering, Stamford & Rutland, Wisbech	226
Total Hospital Journeys	2,156

37,221 Miles
travelled to hospitals
44% of total mileage.

Volunteers Day

We held our annual volunteers morning on 15th March at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall.

It was an informative session for the volunteers to develop awareness in areas which they may come across within their volunteering roles at HVC.

We invited Tim from Guide Dogs for the Blind to come in and give a presentation, explaining the different varieties of visual impairment and the things that volunteers can do to support those people with visual impairment. It was a very informative session, with different practical tasks, many thanks to Tripti who volunteered to pose as a blind person so Tim could demonstrate how we could help guide someone who may need help getting through doors, narrow spaces and getting in and out of a car.



Following a short break we then had a Dementia Awareness Training session from Chantal, which was also extremely informative with conversations around each of the tables. Again this session raised awareness and gave us more of an understanding of how Dementia can affect different people and guidance on how our volunteers can support those people living with Dementia.

28 people signed in (not including staff) and we raised £55 in donations from attendees for the Dementia Friends Charity and £52 for Guide Dogs.



Highlights from St Ives

Debbie Windsor (up to Feb 2023)

The Volunteers from across HVC were all invited to come along to a get together at St Ives Free Church on 10th December. It was lovely to see our volunteers in the flesh and was a great opportunity for everyone to catch up over a mince pie and some mulled wine!

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our Town Council Representative, Cllr Brian Luter. I had personally known Brian for many years. He was a true gentleman, kind and funny- he will be greatly missed.

Christmas 2022

Instead of our usual Christmas party in the Free Church we decided to deliver Christmas dinners to those people of St Ives as we did in 2021. COVID was still around and we did not want to put any of our vulnerable clients at risk.

The requests of support was just overwhelming- many people offering their help on Christmas Day.

With preparations starting in October, the Christmas Day dinner deliveries from the Free Church were again a huge success.

62 clients who received the dinner, all showed much gratitude and even some tears of appreciation.





Massive thanks go out to all of the volunteers- the Free Church cooks and helpers who shopped and prepared the gift bags which included items like, tea, coffee, sweets, biscuits, crackers. Buckingham Foods in Histon who donated the food, Tesco in Huntingdon for their generous donation of [REDACTED], St Ives Star Crafters who knitted the most beautiful blankets which were given to our clients, St Ives Town Council for their support, St Ives Mayor Cllr Phil Pope for supporting us and lending a helping hand on the day, the 18 volunteer drivers who came to collect some dinners, blankets and gift bags to deliver to our clients and my own friends and family for helping on the day.

We even featured in the Hunts Post!

We received many cards and letters of thanks from our clients who were incredibly grateful of the kindness and the delicious dinner delivered to them, including donations of [REDACTED] to go towards our Christmas Fund.



St Ives

Kirsty Fletcher (from Feb 2023)

I started with HVC as St Ives Office Manager on 27 February 2023 and the last 8 weeks have been a steep learning curve but very enjoyable. I spent most of my working life in the 'commercial' world but from 2008 – 2013 I worked for Young Lives a VCS organisation based in St Ives and have wanted to get back to the voluntary sector ever since.



I have been very humbled by the willingness of our volunteer drivers and how grateful our clients are to be able to get to appointments, socials and meetings with such helpful and considerate drivers. The support from the Admin volunteers has been invaluable in guiding me through my first few weeks and I would have been lost without all their knowledge of drivers and clients.

The HVC Managers have been so supportive helping me find my way round the systems to find all the documents and relevant reports I need to complete, this has been a bit onerous but think I am getting to grips with this now. I am looking forward to 2023/2024 with HVC.

St Ives Community Wellbeing Fair

We attended the St Ives Community Fair at The Corn Exchange which was a great success and 10 people asked to be added to our Newsletter circulation list. Many of the other charities who attended have since registered with HVC and sent volunteering opportunities for us to help signpost volunteers to.



Highlights from Huntingdon

Tripti Woolf



Community Car Scheme

A very busy year, our volunteer drivers assisted over 1000 passengers enabling them to access dental, GP, hospital appointments as well as attending Social clubs.

Huntingdon	Total Miles	Total Miles Medical 1.	Total Miles Social 2.	Total Miles Personal 3.	Total Miles All Hospitals 4.
Total	17,788	1,814	7,413	2,475	6,147



Some comments from our car scheme users:

"AR is such a lovely person – really good at what she does. She helps you in and out of the car. EB – a regular weekly car scheme volunteer."

"You have been an absolute star. You don't know how much I appreciate your service." CC – we helped this person to visit her Mum in Addenbrookes hospital.

Thank you to our Car Scheme Volunteers Adrian and Michelle.

Comment from Michelle:

"When I retired, I was bored, I was speaking to my neighbour Joe who volunteers in the Huntingdon Together Charity Shop. I said to him that I wanted to do something but not in a shop. He suggested asking in the Volunteer Office.

I approached Tripti and she suggested training as a Community Car Scheme Administrator. I agreed to volunteer Mondays and Wednesdays.

I had worked in an office for 40 years and used an Excel spreadsheet so found it easy to adjust to use spreadsheet for booking the Community Car Scheme drives."



Networking

We attended Freshers event at Huntingdon and Cambridge Campuses of Cambridge Regional College to inform students and tutors of various volunteering opportunities and roles.



Marie and I also attended Spring Job Fair at Anglia Ruskin University to inform students and tutors of various volunteering opportunities.





Celebrating Volunteers Week

To thank all our brilliant Trustees, volunteers and car scheme drivers we had a joint celebration with Huntingdon Together Charity Shop by going for a meal at Hartford Mill and a boat trip with the Ladybird Boat Trust.



Enjoying Fish and chips on the Ladybird Boat!

Christmas 2023

A joint celebration with Huntingdon Together Charity Shop attended the Treasurer Bob Young and his wife Joan who also volunteers in the Shop, trustees Chris Myles, Anthony Clarke, Richard Brown.



I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our Volunteer Car Scheme Drivers and our Car Scheme Administrators who have also stepped in to carry out some driving for the Community Car Scheme. Also a big thank you our Car Scheme Clients and volunteers who have made extra donations to the organisations enabling us to carry on the work of the Volunteer Centre.

Highlights from St Neots

Bex Chamberlain



St Neots saw many positive growths during this period.

Volunteer Brokerage procedures were consolidated to improve continuity between the offices and ease the process of dealing with volunteers and organisations.

Community links were developed within St Neots and the surrounding area, building on relationships within the local council, Health Care Professionals, Organisations and the 3rd Sector.

Special thanks must go to St Neots Town Council and St Neots St Marys Rotary Club for their generous grants awarded as well as their continued support.

The Community Car Scheme continues to increase in popularity, and we have seen a large increase in clients over the past year.

The need for the scheme is unquestionable. As we emerged from COVID it became clear the huge impact loneliness had on individuals from all walks of society. The community car scheme is not just a transport service. To many it is an invaluable link to the outside world; It was sad to hear the number of clients who said our drivers were often the only people they saw other than healthcare professionals.



March '23 – Drivers' Day, Guide Dogs for the Blind demonstration

This year we saw the departure of both of our office volunteers to take on paid employment. Whilst it was very sad to lose them, it is always heartening to see volunteers move towards paid roles.

This left the office without admin volunteers for some time, and the patience of the volunteer drivers during this time was much appreciated.

We are pleased to welcome Jenny Parsons to the office team, with a second prospective office volunteer on the horizon.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the St Neots Volunteers for their continued support and commitment – They are all heroes in my eyes!

Testimonials:

Mr T, (Car Scheme Driver)

"I started driving for the St Neots Volunteer Centre just under a year ago, to give me something to fill my days now I have retired.

Since joining the SNVC, it has opened my eyes to the great community we have in St Neots, and how much the older generation here still have a zest for life, and rely heavily on the people who run this service and the drivers who give their up their time

I have now made friends with loads of Ladies and Gentlemen that have opened my eyes to not only living life to the fullest, but to just how important it is to stay in touch with friends and family.

It is sad to say but some of the people I drive for, tell me that sometimes I am the only person they see all week, and taking them to their church group or crafting groups makes their week and gives them something to look forward to, and puts a smile on my face.

I think I can say on behalf of the other drivers who volunteer their time to help the people of St Neots, that this service is an important welfare life-line for a lot of young at heart older people."

Mr G, (Car Scheme Client)

"I would like to recommend this community car service as since I've been laid up they have been nothing but angels. The drivers are so polite & helpful in everything they do. For the times we are living in this service is impeccable & very helpful. I salute the whole group & service and would give no less than 5 stars every time. Thank you kindly for your service."



Highlights from Ramsey

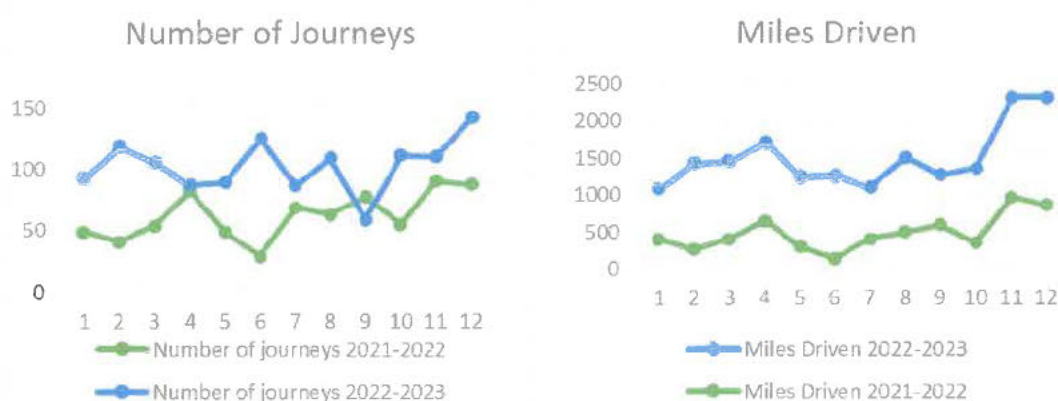
Marie Webb



The Ramsey Office has been extremely busy. The increase in the Car Scheme's popularity has been eased by the four volunteer administrators who have worked in the office during this period, as well as the addition of 5 further drivers. Two administrative volunteers have since moved on to full time employment, assisted by their time with us.

The Volunteer Car Scheme

The number of clients using the service has increased, with 48 new clients also joining the Car Scheme during the year. During this year, our 13 drivers have accommodated a total of 1224 journeys over 12,000 volunteer miles driven. The need for this service in Ramsey is clear and is continuing to grow and we expect a similar increase again in the coming year.



In an effort to increase our reach and make the Centre more accessible, we have made links with Neighbourhood Trust, Ramsey Golf Club, Ramsey Rotary Club, The Hospital Charity Shop, all local GP's, dentists and Social Prescribers, Age Concern, Pidley Golf Club and many more.

This has not only led to an increase in new clients, but also assisted in the recruitment of volunteers both internally and externally.

Client Testimonials:

Mrs C – February 2023

"Thank you so much, this service has been a real game changer for me"

Mrs B

"... I have had to attend different hospitals all through this year, using the Volunteer drivers and they have all been brilliant. So kind, thoughtful and friendly. My most regular driver has been really patient, and comes to find me when I get lost in the maze of corridors!"

Volunteer Testimonials

"I have been volunteering since March 2022 and it has been a worthwhile experience for me. Not only has it been valuable in improving my confidence and people skills but it also provides me with a sense of satisfaction from helping out the local community. The ability to be flexible with my commitments has allowed me to also engage in learning and job seeking whilst also helping out volunteering. I would recommend joining the Volunteer Car Scheme to anyone with the free time looking for something productive to do."

"I really enjoy Volunteering for the Car Scheme for the following reasons:

- Offering a service to people who would be unable to travel to appointments or have difficulty using the existing public transport.*
- The scheme provides me with satisfaction that I am helping local people."*

The Volunteer Centre

Together, as an office team, we have made efforts to begin rebuilding the volunteering opportunities we have to offer in the immediate and wider area. We now have systems in place to register and track volunteering opportunities, as well as those looking to volunteer, and interest in this area is now beginning to build. This is something that we will be looking to build upon in the coming year.



HUNTINGDON

together



Charity Shop Manager- Emma Cameron

24th March 2023. Quiz Night! Thank you to Steve Burdett for hosting and the wonderful raffle prizes donated by Warboys SPAR. Over £200 was raised!



16th March, Julia and Catherine from Cambridge Regional College-Huntingdon Campus volunteered to see what is involved for their students when they volunteer with us.

Celebrating our amazing team thanks to Emet and Monica at Ephesus Restaurant with a wellbeing grant! Feb 2023



Making our soldier
for Huntingdon in
Bloom to decorate
Huntingdon for the
Kings Coronation



21st February
Another flipping great day at
Huntingdon!
We participated at the Mayor's
annual pancake race.



Christmas 2022 and Seventh year anniversary celebrations!



Having fun and raised £277.50
for the charity at the Hunting-
don Christmas Lights Switch on!



We were chosen as part of 12 shops
to take part in BID's Halloween trail,
handing out sweets to children who
picked the treat pumpkin.

Mike Baker and James Shaw helped people whose trees & hedges were out of control.



Raising money at our stall at Sapley Park Playing Fields Summer fun day!



Work experience July 2022. Macie & Florin quickly became part of the team.



Celebrating Volunteers Week. Riverside Picnic!



BiD dinosaur day! Stephen gave fossils to local children.



Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee! We were part of the town trail.



Ladybird Trust Boat Trip



Litter Pick April 2022



Our Community Fridge and services continue to grow and support local people! Thank you to Greggs, Anglian Water, Co-op, Godmanchester Food Bank Morrisons and the general public that donate for this service! We are looking forward to serving the community in 2023-2024!



Supporting the community, whilst having fun at the Coneygear Centre!



The biggest THANK YOU goes to the amazing volunteers who work extremely hard to just keep the shop running and raise funds for HVC!



**We are grateful to all our supporters for donating their time & skills for our benefit and that of the local community. To those who have fundraised on our behalf and made individual donations —
we thank you!**

All these actions have greatly encouraged us and helped to us to continue to deliver our services locally, across Huntingdonshire.

Our focus is still to work within local communities

- To manage our car schemes
- To raise funds to support our work through our Huntingdon Together Shop & project work
- To help volunteers and promote volunteering as finances permit.

For your support during the financial year 2022/2023—Thank You!

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority,
Huntingdonshire District Council, Town Councils:
St Ives, St Neots, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Godmanchester



'Supporting volunteering across Huntingdonshire'

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Huntingdon Together Shop: 1 Princes Street, PE29 3PA

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Ramsey Office: Methodist Church, High Street, Ramsey, PE26 1AA.

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St Ives Office: Town Hall, Market Hill, St Ives, PE27 5AL.

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