



SWAY WELFARE AID GROUP

**Annual Report and Accounts
For the Year Ending
30th September 2025**

Registered Charity Number 261220

SWAY WELFARE AID GROUP

Reference and Administrative Details

Name of Charity: Sway Welfare Aid Group

Alternative Name: SWAG

Charity Registration Number: 261220

Contact Address: Mrs S M Millett
Trecarnwenn
Mead End Road
Sway
Lymington
Hampshire
SO41 6EH

Trustees: Dr Sally Smith (Chairman)
Sharon Millett (Treasurer)
Jonathan Hartley
Sue Cornwell
Janet Kirk
Angela Willows
Paul Loveridge
Mark Parker

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Mike Butler ACMA
Mallard House
Brighton Road
Sway
Lymington
Hampshire
SO41 6EB

SWAY WELFARE AID GROUP

Structure, Governance and Management

The Sway Welfare Aid Group (SWAG) was established by constitution dated 28th October 1970, to serve the needs of the civil parish of Sway.

SWAG is managed by the trustees on behalf of all residents of Sway to whom they report at the Annual General Meeting, currently held in February. Trustees and other officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting and serve for one year, renewable annually. New trustees may be co-opted during the year and stand for election at the AGM. All trustees are made aware of their responsibilities under the Charities Act.

During the year the trustees take all executive decisions.

Trustees serve voluntarily and receive no remuneration.

The trustees serving during the year under review were Sally Smith (Chair), Sharon Millett (Treasurer), Jonathan Hartley, Sue Cornwell, Janet Kirk, Paul Loveridge, Mark Parker and Angela Willows.

At the AGM, residents of Sway are entitled to propose possible areas of benefit for the trustees to consider.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and consider that the activities of the Sway Welfare Aid Group during the year are fully in accordance with these objectives.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objectives are to relieve need, financial hardship and social isolation among residents of Sway.

SWAG makes grants to both individuals and local organisations, endeavouring to reach residents who might benefit.

In addition, we provide the following:

A medical transport service, manned by volunteer drivers, to take sick, elderly or infirm people to attend hospital and other medical appointments where they cannot provide, or are not capable of using their own transport. Mileage expenses of the drivers are met by the charity. The service is free but donations are accepted.

A Lunch Club, meeting twice per month, for retired people living alone. Volunteers cook and serve the meal, and the participants pay only a nominal charge for the food; all other expenses are met by the charity. In December, members enjoy a full Christmas Lunch which is always well-attended!

A weekly Community Café held in the Church rooms which provides a focal point for social interaction among people in the village. The café runs on a "donations only" basis.

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Sway Welfare Aid Group is affiliated to the Good Neighbours Network (GNN), an umbrella group of about 120 small charities in Hampshire which is currently supported by the Council for Social Responsibility (CSR), an independent social action charity under the auspices of the Diocese of Portsmouth and through which SWAG currently benefits from centrally funded public and employer's liability and personal accident insurance.

The trustees are grateful to all our volunteers who organise much of the charity's work and without whom we would be unable to provide these services.

Achievements and Performance

During 2024-25, SWAG continued to support the residents of Sway, especially those in our community who are vulnerable. Despite an economic environment which remains challenging and thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the work of our volunteers and activity coordinators, SWAG was able to respond quickly with financial support to those in need, has delivered efficient and reliable help with medical transport for elderly residents, and provided valued social interaction opportunities for Sway residents.

Financial status

The trustees have continued to invest the funds of the charity cautiously - this is reviewed annually. Thanks also to the generosity of the people of Sway, the charity has concluded another twelve months in a secure financial position for the coming year and beyond. Please see our financial report for further details.

Grants

As previously, SWAG has concentrated its grant resources on individuals and families. We have responded to all requests for financial assistance received which were commensurate with our charitable objectives.

The amount of the annual heating grants was reviewed and remains at £800 per year. Seven households in the village benefitted from these grants, paid in 2 instalments in December 24 and March 25.

Through a financial grant to the local primary school (St Luke's), we were able to provide indirect support to a number of low-income Sway families whose children attend the school.

The relevant details of grant sums disbursed can be viewed in the Financial Review section of this report.

Community Café

The Community Café had another extremely successful year thanks to the leadership of the two coordinators, Sue Cornwell and Grete Steen, supported by a committed team of helpers. Meeting some 50 times, welcoming an average of 25 (including the helpers) per session and operating on a donation's basis, the Café continues to provide a highly valued opportunity for social engagement for a loyal group of local clients, many of whom live alone. The Café also extends a welcome to a small number of residents of Sway Place residential home. The organisers have continued to provide "Soup and Sandwich" in addition to the regular coffee and tea once a month during the winter and this has proved very popular with people enjoying home-made soup and freshly prepared sandwiches.

The Café has been fortunate to receive a recent grant of £200 from the Sway Carnival Committee.

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Lunch Club

Due to the dedication and enthusiasm of the coordinators and a team of volunteer cooks and helpers, the Lunch Club met on 23 occasions with an average attendance of 27, providing members with a two-course hot meal for a small nominal sum and is an opportunity for social interaction which is much appreciated by our members who live alone.

Transport is provided to those members who require it by SWAG volunteer drivers.

Both the Community Café and the Lunch Club have raised, through voluntary donations and subscriptions respectively, sums which contribute towards the cost of food and refreshments and to room hire costs for both activities which are otherwise funded from SWAG charitable funds.

Medical Transport Service

Our medical transport service provided an impressive 507 journeys to various hospitals, local surgeries and other medically-related facilities providing a service to 96 clients, some requiring support on a regular basis for limited periods of time and driving in total 9381 miles!

The trustees' thanks are due to the volunteer team of coordinators led by Hugh Marchant who give up their free time to run the service, in addition to themselves acting as volunteer drivers. There are currently 62 volunteer drivers. We have been fortunate to attract several new volunteer drivers this year, which has enabled us to maintain our driver strength at approximately the same level as the year before.

Thanks goes to all our volunteer drivers, whose efforts are so appreciated by the residents who rely on this service to be able to get to their medical appointments.

Support for Sway community activities

In 2024-25 SWAG again granted to the Sway Thursday Afternoon Club a sum sufficient to cover the group's venue hire costs.

Referral activities

Over the period of this report, SWAG, acting as a local agent, made a number of referrals to the New Forest Basics Bank. We also inform clients of the local Fareshare scheme and are aware that some have taken advantage of this.

Future Outlook

Thanks to donations from Sway residents over the years, and the prudent management of our invested reserves, SWAG has during our last financial year been able to continue to support our local community in the various ways described and we anticipate being able to continue to do so in the current year.

Finally, the trustees wish to reiterate their thanks to all our volunteers who willingly give their time to help with all our activities and without whose help we would be unable to continue to provide assistance to the residents of our village.

SWAY WELFARE AID GROUP

Financial Review

Funds

SWAG has three funds, an Unrestricted Fund that provides for all the charity's activities, an expendable Endowment Fund that is invested to provide interest and dividend income for the Unrestricted Fund and a Restricted Lunch Club Fund, the income for which comes from the subscriptions paid by lunch club members for their meals. The trustees agreed to close the Blackrock General Fund and transfer the funds to the Blackrock Equity Fund to consolidate and increase the yield.

Donations and Fundraising

Overall donations are down on last year by £3,900 after Gift Aid was added. The appeal raised donations of £4,298 including Gift Aid recovered but was down by £1,500 on the previous year. This included a single generous donation £2,500 including Gift Aid.

Donations from our medical transport clients was down by £641 to £5,998 including Gift Aid recovered. Community Café donations amounted to £1,019 including Gift Aid which was up by £276. In memory of two Sway residents, donations were up by £2,024 to £2,841 including Gift Aid. There was also a donation of £304 in memory of another Sway resident left specifically for the Lunch Club.

The charity did not run any fundraising events this year.

Charitable Activities

Three Small Fuel Grants were requested and £600 was granted.

The trustees maintained the same amount as last year, of £800, for the charity's regular heating grants paid to needy beneficiaries in the village, paid in two £400 instalments in December and March. Seven families benefitted from this scheme.

Requests for help under the normal hardship scheme increased by almost £10,000 to £12,169, benefitting seven families.

Organisations to benefit from SWAG grants in the year under review were:

- £3,000 to St. Luke's Primary School – support to vulnerable families
- £100 to Spudworks towards planting in their dementia garden
- £494 to Sway Thursday Afternoon Club for room hire for their meetings
- £144 for the replacement of infant defibrillator pads at the Village Hall

The cost of the medical transport service was up by £795 to £5,771. The costs of this service largely represent the money paid to SWAG volunteer drivers for their fuel and are directly related to the miles driven on the charity's behalf. The donations received from clients, using this service, together with the recovered Gift Aid were sufficient to cover the transport service and support costs providing a small surplus of £227.

Lunch Club members pay a nominal £5 per session for their food. SWAG continues to meet the room hire and other support costs from Unrestricted Funds and a transfer of £782 from the Unrestricted Fund to the Lunch Club has been made for this.

The cost to operate the Community Café was £1,309 and it generated £1,019 in donations including Gift Aid recovery, therefore a deficit of £290 for the year.

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No trustee has claimed expenses for their work for the charity in the period under review.

There were no related party transactions in the year.

Investment Performance

In December the trustees agreed to transfer the General Fund holding in the BlackRock bond fund to the BlackRock equity fund as it was considered the portfolio was becoming overweight in bonds, bearing in mind falling bond valuations under the prevailing market conditions of rising yields. The overall valuation this year has grown to £484,603, an increase of 1%.

The total income from investments was £18,689, a yield of 3.9%.

Overall Position

Expenditure of charitable activities increased by 52% on the previous year to £32,838 and we're pleased to report that income still exceeded expenditure, creating a surplus of £6,493.

Total reserves in the unrestricted fund were £47,646.

The charity remains in a strong financial position.

Approval

This report and the associated accounts were approved by the members on 24th February, 2026 and signed on their behalf.

Signed

Dr Sally Smith
Chair

Signed

Sharon Millett
Treasurer

SWAY WELFARE AID GROUP

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the accounts of the Sway Welfare Aid Group for the year ended 30th September 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed under the Act.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Mike Butler ACMA
Independent Examiner

Date: 23rd December, 2025

Signed

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 30th September

2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Lunch Club Fund £	Expendable Endowment Fund £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds Last Year £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	17,468	304		17,772	21,673
Charitable activities			2,985		2,985	2,665
Investments		18,689			18,689	18,250
Fund raising activities		0			0	80
Total		36,158	3,289	0	39,446	42,668
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	3	115			115	119
Charitable activities	4	28,993	3,845		32,838	21,600
Total		29,108	3,845	0	32,953	21,719
Net Gains/(losses) on investments		(444)	0	5,382	4,938	31,517
Net income/(expenditure)		6,606	(556)	5,382	11,431	52,466
Transfers between funds		(35,714)	782	34,933	0	0
Net movement in funds		(29,108)	226	40,314	11,431	52,466
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		76,754	609	444,289	521,652	469,186
Total funds carried forward		47,646	835	484,603	533,083	521,652

SWAY WELFARE AID GROUP

BALANCE SHEET at 30th September 2025

		2025		2024
		£		£
	Note			
Fixed assets:				
Investments - Endowment	5	484,603		444,289
Investments - Unrestricted funds	6	0		35,376
Current assets:				
Debtors	7	1,194		906
Deposit account		47,480		40,417
Cash at bank and in hand		822		1,604
Liabilities:				
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,016)		(940)
Net assets or liabilities		533,083		521,652
		533,083		521,652
The funds of the charity:				
Endowment fund		484,603		444,289
Unrestricted fund		47,646		76,754
Lunch Club fund		835		609
Total charity funds		533,083		521,652
		533,083		521,652

The notes on pages 11 and 12 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 24th February, 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed

Dr Sally Smith – Chair of Trustees

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30th September 2025

1. Accounting policies:

- a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SORP2016, the Financial Reporting Standards FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2016.
- b) Donations are credited to income when received.
- c) Income from investments is credited to income when received.
- d) Investments are stated at their market (bid) value at the balance sheet date.

2. Donations:

						2025	2024
	Appeal	Transport	Lunch Club	Café	Other	Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations received	3,548	4,930	304	855	2,782	12,420	17,688
In memoriam					2,841	2,841	817
GiftAid recovery	750	1,068		164	530	2,511	3,167
	<u>4,298</u>	<u>5,998</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>1,019</u>	<u>6,153</u>	<u>17,772</u>	<u>21,673</u>
Donations in the Previous Year:							
Donations received	4,795	5,503		595	6,796		
In memoriam					817		
GiftAid recovery	1,004	1,136		149	879		
	<u>5,799</u>	<u>6,639</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>743</u>	<u>8,492</u>		

3. Costs of fundraising:

			2025	2024
			£	£
Appeal			0	59
Publicity and Draw			115	60
			<u>115</u>	<u>119</u>

4. Charitable activities:

			2025	2024
	Direct	Support	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Hardship grants to individuals	12,169	233	12,402	2,304
Heating grants to individuals	5,600		5,600	5,600
Grants made to organisations	3,911		3,911	4,025
Transport service	4,688	1,083	5,771	4,976
Lunch Club	3,490	355	3,845	3,595
Community Café	1,079	230	1,309	1,101
Total costs of charitable activities	<u>30,937</u>	<u>1,901</u>	<u>32,838</u>	<u>21,600</u>

General support costs are divided among the various activities in proportion to the share of the total direct costs made by each activity (see below).

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

Allocation of Support Costs:	2025		2024	
	Related	Allocated	Related	Allocated
	£	£	£	£
Grant making		233		104
Transport service	868	214	347	95
Lunch Club	147	208	11	81
Community Café	22	208		81

5. Investments - Endowment:	2025	2024
	£	£
Carrying value at start of period	444,289	414,189
Additions at cost	34,933	
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	5,382	30,099
Carrying value at end of period	484,603	444,289

6. Investments - General Funds:	2025	2024
	£	£
Carrying value at start of period	35,376	33,959
Disposals at cost	(34,933)	
Realised gain/(loss) on investments	(444)	1,417
Carrying value at end of period	0	35,376

7. Debtors:	2025	2024
	£	£
GiftAid refund due	1,129	897
Uncredited cheques	60	
Pre-payments:		
Postage in hand	5	9
	1,194	906

8. Creditors:	2025	2024
	£	£
Accrued mileage costs	1,016	940
	1,016	940