

# ANNUAL REPORT

2014 – 2015



Giving hope to rebuild lives

## ROAD VICTIMS TRUST VALUES

The Road Victims Trust is a registered charity (1142336) that has operated in Bedfordshire since 1995, in Hertfordshire since 2010 and in Cambridgeshire since 2013 to provide the following services to all residents of these three counties affected by fatal road collisions:

- Regular, weekly, emotional and practical support for individuals and families in their homes or at our offices, for as long as it is useful.
- Space to express the whole range of feelings that come with the loss and horror following a fatal road collision.
- Time to discuss the repercussions of the collision that is a life changing event for all those involved.
- Information on the investigation, inquest and court hearings and preparation and support for inquests and hearings.
- Access to a list of suitably qualified lawyers who will provide a free initial consultation.

In addition, we offer telephone support to enquiries from outside these three counties.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The past 12 months have seen a period of unprecedented demand for the Road Victims Trust (RVT) as we continue to provide free, confidential, emotional and practical support to all those affected by a road death across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. For this reporting period we have supported 249 people whose lives have been devastated by a road death.

By its very nature, a road death will always be a violent and sudden death that leaves many people in a state of shock, pain, disbelief and anger. The RVT has 20 years of experience in supporting people who have experienced a road death and we are proud of the quality and depth of service that we are able to offer. Our team members are selected and trained to work with the effects of a road death and the legal and coronial procedures that follow, and they do a magnificent job in the face of growing demand.

Our unique Service Level Agreements with the Police Forces across the three counties ensure that we are notified about all fatalities that occur on the road in these areas. We are there to provide the best possible levels of victim care to people in their time of need, and the take-up for our services is high.

I am delighted to report that this reciprocal partnership working arrangement is fully supported by the Police and Crime Commissioners who serve Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, and the funding supplied has ensured that the Trust can continue to deal with the significant increase in workloads that is incumbent with working across three counties.

In June 2014 the RVT was honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of the dedication, quality and commitment of our wonderful Counselling Volunteers. This is such a fitting tribute to the work of so many people, over the course of so many years, who have made such a real difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable in society.

We face many challenges as we look forward to the next 20 years of operations – none the least the financial backdrop in which we currently operate. I am confident that the RVT has suitably robust risk management and financial policies in place to ensure that we will continue to improve and build upon the services that we offer.

I would like to thank everyone for their contribution to RVT over the past 12 months. We are continually looking at new ways to recruit, maintain and grow our Friends and Supporter base to enable us to raise awareness about our work and to achieve a position of longer-term sustainability for the future.

This would quite simply not have been possible without the support of so many and I am extremely grateful for that.

***Mark Turner***

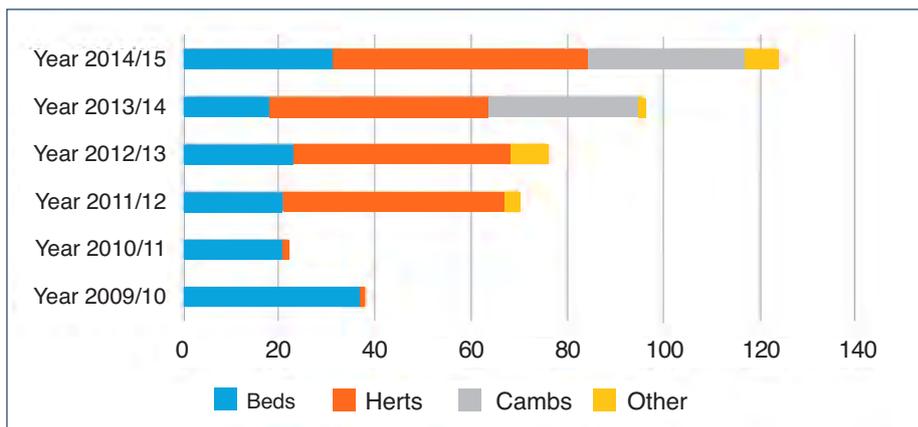
## COORDINATORS REVIEW

### Referrals

This year across the three counties there was an increase in the number of collisions referred. Of the referrals 87% were from the Road Collision Unit, 79% fatal and 8% serious injury collisions. The police referral of a collision can contain between one and thirty individuals affected by that collision. The remaining 13% of referrals were made up of self-referrals (8%) and those from other agencies (5%) from Brake, Cruse and the NHS. This 13% often arrive a while after the death or injury as there has been no immediate referral available via the police for a collision outside our area of operation.

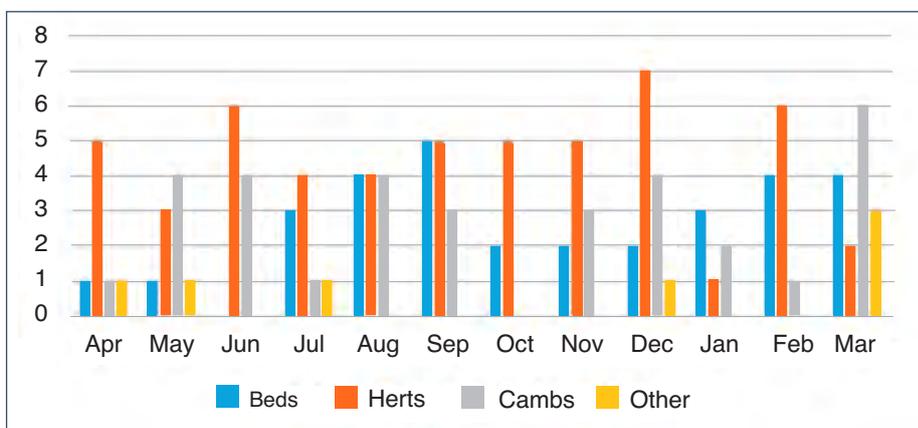
The referrals comparison chart shows the increase in referrals as the area of operation has expanded and changes in the numbers each year by county.

Referrals Comparison 2009/10 to 2014/15



The distribution of the total number of referrals throughout a year varies month by month and county by county.

Referrals by area per month 2014/15

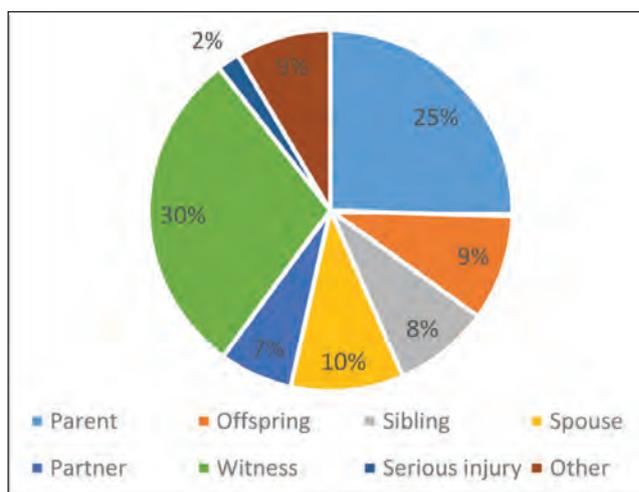


## Service Provision

From the 124 referrals 407 people were sent an introductory letter with a leaflet about the service that was then followed up by a telephone call. While a person may not take up the full service the contact we have will usually involve listening to their experience, normalising their emotional response to what happened, provision of information on the procedures that follow a collision and the offer for the service to be taken up at any time it is needed if they decline at the time of the call.

So 407 people were reassured that a service is available should they need it and that the impact of what has happened has been considered important enough for the service to be offered. Of the 407, 251 went on to receive either weekly face-to-face or telephone support.

The chart below shows the client population for the year by their relationship to the collision or deceased.



The longer term work is usually with bereaved clients and the shorter term work is mostly with witnesses. The 'other' category is made up of different family members, e.g. grandparents.

## Counselling Volunteers

We ran a training course in Huntingdon in the Autumn (the course is an intensive 40 hours over a six week period of Wednesday evening and Saturday sessions) recruiting seven of the nine trainees as Counselling Volunteers. As we ended the year the shortage of Counselling Volunteers in some areas has necessitated plans to run training courses in both Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire in 2015/16.

We have three training days a year for Coordinators and Counselling Volunteers – a time to get together for CPD and for group discussion around the challenges and rewards of the work we undertake with the Trust's clients. On one of our training days we have a guest speaker and in June David Trickey, Consultant Psychologist, provided both information and insights from the extensive work he has done with traumatised children.

## Outside the Trust

As well as in-house training the Coordinator team also provided training and workshops for other organisations. This year we took part in the Family Liaison Officer training day for the collaborated road collision units across the three counties, a day of mutual learning as well as a chance to get to put faces to well-known contacts. We also provided a workshop for Cruse volunteers and a training day for the St Albans Counselling Centre.

*Frances, Becky, Sarah and Michelle*

## TRUSTEES AND PATRONS

### Trustees

As with any charity the Road Victims Trust relies on its Trustees to ensure that the appropriate policies, procedures and resources are put in place to allow our staff and Counselling Volunteers to deliver the service to clients. In addition they hold the Chief Executive to account for the use of those resources to ensure that they are being used in the most efficient and effective manner to support clients. Our Trustees bring a wide range of skills and experience to bear as well as providing a good geographical spread of the areas we cover to ensure our service meets the needs of all the communities we serve.

**Ian Pears—Solicitor (Chair since November 2012)**

**Robert Panton—Chartered Secretary (Treasurer)**

**Professor Les Ebdon—Government Advisor**

**Lyn Hesse—Road Safety Officer**

**Clifton Ibbett—Businessman**

**Pat Whittome—Retired Technology, Training and Development Manager**

**Paul Jones—Managing Director of an Electrical Company**

**Tim Sharpe—Barrister, Temple Garden Chambers**

### Patrons and Advisors

The Trust is able to call upon the services of a number of distinguished individuals for specialist advice and support, each of whom brings in-depth knowledge of their area of expertise to inform and shape the service we offer to ensure that it continues to provide the best possible support.

**Lady Sue Acland (Former client)**

**Viscount Jan Simon (House of Lords)**

**Chief Constable Simon Parr (Cambridge Constabulary)**

**Dr Tim Dalglish (Medical Research Council)**

**H M Coroner David S. Morris (SW Cambridge)**

**Rt Revd Richard Atkinson (Bishop of Bedford)**

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2014/15

We had a satisfactory financial year with expenditure being contained at slightly lower than in the previous year enabling a surplus of £13,000 being added to our reserves.

We have now improved our reserves position to a level of approximately five months expenditure. Our aim is to get this to six months on a rolling basis.

The year going forward presents a challenge as the full integration into the three counties requires that the support to existing clients on a continuing basis, plus the addition of new clients, leads to a higher number of new clients being supported. This means a higher annual cost base which we have taken steps to cover.

We are particularly pleased that the PCCs are fully supportive of our service and they are currently providing about 33% of our income.

We have continued our association with Candis Ltd through the Big Give and the large donors who have enabled us to benefit fully from this.

Our support from local charities continues and grows and fundraising efforts by many individuals have exceeded our expectations. I would particularly mention here Henry Wellbelove and Jamie Rawstorne who on the Coast to Coast ride raised an amazing £24,000.

I would like to thank all of our supporters, whether they provide a regular amount through committed giving or give us freely of their spare time in so many ways.

We have started the New Year on a sound financial footing and will I hope conclude it in the same fashion.

***Robert Panton***

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

	£	31.3.15 £	£	31.3.14 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Donations and government agencies	189,035		238,493	
Fundraising	30,302		22,417	
Committed giving	2,978		2,465	
Gift aid tax refund	7,863		10,318	
Bank interest	222		180	
		<u>230,400</u>	<u>273,873</u>	
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Salaries	141,118		135,557	
Social security	10,704		12,132	
Support services	2,560		3,250	
Room hire	489		-	
Rent and rates	1,895		5,011	
Cleaning and household	847		592	
Electricity	1,587		2,342	
Hire of equipment	4,577		4,899	
Conferences and courses	1,849		3,966	
Travel	21,565		23,651	
Advertising and promotion	810		5,027	
Legal and professional	10,148		5,681	
Accountancy	639		600	
Repairs and maintenance	537		2,085	
Postage	1,356		1,138	
Telephone	3,566		3,750	
Computer and internet services	7,152		6,529	
Printing and stationery	3,072		2,555	
Insurance	2,437		1,914	
Sundry expenses	298		1,779	
		<u>217,206</u>	<u>222,458</u>	
		13,194	51,415	

**BALANCE SHEET  
31ST MARCH 2015**

	31.3.15 £	31.3.14 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	1,113	1,288
Cash at bank and in hand	176,529	135,908
	<u>177,642</u>	<u>137,196</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>37,328</u>	<u>10,076</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>140,314</u>	<u>127,120</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>140,314</u>	<u>127,120</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Income and expenditure account	<u>140,314</u>	<u>127,120</u>
	<u>140,314</u>	<u>127,120</u>

## FUNDRAISING AND SUPPORT



Henry Wellbelove and Jamie Rawstorne rode the Coast to Coast in August 2014 in memory of Archie Wellbelove and raised over £25,000 for the Trust.



Elms BMW held a charity golf day at Mentmore in September 2014.

Lea Valley Walkers – 50-mile challenge for the magnificent 6!



Bedfordshire Ride Safe Team raised awareness and funds for RVT throughout 2014-2015 amounting to £220.00 thank you to you all!

PROUDLY PRESENT  
in aid of Road Victims Trust

**ALBANY DOWN**

At the White Horse  
Newnham Avenue, Bedford MK41 9PX  
7.30 pm Friday 26 September 2014  
Tickets £10 including Lasagne Supper

Rotary  Contact: Janet Turley  
07715 678752  
albanydown@live.co.uk

Gill Lake President of The Rotary Club of Bedford De Parys chose RVT as their charity of the year and organised a gig by Albany Down.

RVT Christmas quiz supported by 17 teams!

ROAD VICTIMS TRUST CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2014

Let it Snow (song contest)  
Gillman's Mary's Tavern and Social Club  
Prizes: £200  
JODY WINNERS  
WE'RE NO FEARS  
&  
DI YNHO YENTAS  
See the album tonight in album on just drag it through!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help make a difference by:



**Joining our CLUB 1000** — The Club is open to companies (small and large) and individuals who pledge to raise £1,000 within a one year period. This is the cost of supporting one person.

### **COMMITTED GIVING**

We are committed to helping people affected by fatal road collisions. We really need your pledge too ... by making a small donation of only £2 a month you will make a real difference. Contact us for a **COMMITTED GIVING FORM** Tel **01234 843345** or [enquiries@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rvtrust.co.uk)

### **FRIENDS OF THE ROAD VICTIMS TRUST**

The Friends of the Road Victims Trust exists to support the work of the Trust. This can be done in a number of ways from promoting the work of the Trust to a bucket collection at a Rugby ground! Please contact the Trust to find out more.

### **TRUSTEES**

If you would like to join our team of trustees and help the continued development and on-going work of the Trust, please contact:  
Mark Turner, Chief Executive on **01234 843345**  
or [markt@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:markt@rvtrust.co.uk)

**By joining the Friends of the Road Victims Trust you will be making a valuable contribution to supporting victims**

## SPONSORS AND EVENT FUNDRAISERS

All our Committed Givers	The Harpur Trust
The Little Shop on the Green (Toddington)	Gale Family Charity Trust
Barry & Doris Sharples	Ibbett Trust
Anne & Mike McKeegan	Edith Winifred Hall
Bedfordia Limited	Co-op
Candis Ltd	Wixamtree
Henry Wellbelove and Jamie Rawstone	Bedford Rotary Clubs
Johnson Matthey	Awards For All
Geoff Comb	Rotary Club of Ramsey
Luton & District Electrical Society	Bedfordshire Police Partnership
Robinson & Hall LLP	Ministry of Justice
Old Road Securities PLC	Hertfordshire County Council
Paul & Sally Jones	Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner
Paradigm Foundation	Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner
ICCM	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner
Richard Harbon	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sandra and David Crawley	Bedfordshire Police Ride Safe Team
Geraldine Drohan	Tracey and Adam Draper
Children In Need	Louise Cusack

And the many, many other individuals and groups who have contributed whatever they can either in time or money, by attending events or simply by putting money into collection boxes to help the Road Victims Trust provide its services to all those who needed support.

**THANK YOU ALL—YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED**