

Resurrection Furniture

Report to the Parish of the Resurrection

Annual Church Meeting May 2024

Introduction

We are delighted to provide this progress report to members of the Parish of the Resurrection Alton and also to our many supporters.

Resurrection Trading Ltd known as Resurrection Furniture (RF) began in 2017 as a charity furniture shop in Alton High Street. Previously the Parish had run a Saturday furniture market each month from the Parish Centre for many years. Resurrection Furniture (RF) is an independent charity with a Board of Trustees. Members of the charity are also members of the PCC. In 2022 we moved to larger premises at 21b High Street between Oxfam and Savers.



The purpose of the charity is to raise funds though the selling of donated furniture and household goods:

For the relief of financial hardship for the public benefit
To advance the education of young people up to 25 years old, according to Christian principles
To maintain and improve the heritage buildings belonging to the Parish of the Resurrection for the public benefit
To support the repair, recycling and reuse of home and workplace items to reduce waste

Summary of Operations from September 2023 to date

The shop has enjoyed several months of good trading under our new manager Natasha Perrin supported by a team of approximately 50 volunteers. We always have a variety of furniture, home items and Bric a brac on display six days a week. Many customers call in, some just browse and others enjoy the warm welcome they receive.

In addition to selling furniture, we advertise Parish and other community events including themed window displays at Christmas and Easter. As such we can be seen as the church on the high street.

The shop could not exist without our loyal band of volunteers serving in the shop, repairing and renovating items in the workshop or out on the byways of north Hampshire collecting donated items and delivering sold ones. Several volunteers help out with all

kinds of publicity around the town and villages, on Facebook and our website and in many other activities behind the scenes. In January we combined a post- Christmas tea Party with an Awards event giving certificates to the longest serving volunteers by the Town Mayor.



Trustees

The Trustee team of Derek, John, Robin and Tim, has been strengthened by the appointment of Gemma Alman and Paul Adair who becomes Company Secretary, supported by Chris Scaven as Treasurer and Gift Aid lead. Ruth Randall retired before Christmas. Thank you to all the Trustees for their time, expertise and commitment.

Resurrection Furniture grants made or agreed since July 2023

All of the work of the team means that Trustees have made or agreed to make grants totalling **£43000** and we expect to have some further funds to allocate before the end of the year in June. In addition, we have supplied furniture and other items to families and individuals in need at no cost or a substantial discount.



During the year we invited volunteers to nominate charities to support and the successful applications are marked with an asterix.

Organisation	£ Grant
• Denotes organisations nominated by RF volunteers	
Alton Arts Festival – set up support for the inaugural Arts Festival	1000
Alton Climate Action Network – funding for a book- keeper for this environmental charity. The first of two annual grants.	1500
Alton College – support for the food bank.	500
Alton Town Council – warm winter lunch	1000
Andrews Endowed School – subsidy towards costs for children unable to pay for school trips, and computer improvements.	2500
Christians Against Poverty Debt Relief Service- funding to expand the service provision. The first of two annual instalments.	5500
Dementia Friendly start-up costs for increased social provision in the Assembly Rooms*	1000
Dogs for Autism – to support training and allocation of dogs for those with severe autism*	1000
Parish of the Resurrection for public footpath improvements	5000
Parish of the Resurrection towards the salary for the Youth leader. Our earlier commitment of £10,000 over five years increases to £14,000 for the remaining three years.	14000

The Pink Place support for adults affected by cancer*	1000
POTR Eco Church team - for environmental improvements in the Parish	2000
St Lawrence School - help with funding for school trips*	1000
St Michael's Hospice for home treatments for Alton residents*	5000
The Kings Arms - the third contribution towards rent for the Alton centre	2500
The Parish Monthly Market - sale value of items sold in the shop	1576



This is a very positive and a pleasing result for all of the RF team. We are delighted to be able to make substantial grants to our key charitable objectives supporting youth work, the Parish, those in financial need and our community.



The Future

We are well into the second year of our ten-year lease. We continue to improve our operations in the shop and behind the scenes, in particular shop fittings, layout, operating systems and publicity.

Our volunteers continue to be our lifeblood. Many enjoy their own shift each week in the shop, workshop or on the van usually with the same colleagues. Others help us when they can on an ad hoc basis. Our Manager Natasha ensures that training and support is given to all.



Understandably a few of our volunteers have stepped down for health or other reasons and so we need to add to the team. So, if you would like to join a worthwhile and happy team doing good work in Alton and the Parish why not speak to Natasha or one of our Trustees? We would love to hear from you.

John Hubbard

Chairman