

Resurrection Furniture Report to the POTR Annual Church Meeting April 2025

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 June we will have completed three years of a ten-year contract (break clause at the end of year 5)

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
For the relief of unemployment by employment or providing training or work experience for young adults or students
For other purposes within the community as the Trustees see fit

Summary of Operations from June 2024 to date

The shop continues to trade well under our 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

renovation 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.



This year we held a pre - Christmas quiz organised by Natasha and Derek for all the volunteers in the shop with nibbles, drinks and pizza. We look forward to our annual garden party later this summer.

I know that part of our success is the pleasure that our

volunteers get from being in the shop each week, meeting their friends in the team and gently competing to see which team can make the most sales in a shift.



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. Gemma has had to step back whilst she is undergoing treatment and Chris is now back in his role after an operation earlier this year. Thank you to all the Trustees for their time, expertise and commitment.

Buildings report

In 2024 we experienced leaks at the front of the shop in heavy rain. This appeared to be due to faulty flashing above the front elevation. The landlord organised some repairs and this seems to have resolved the problem.

A fault developed in the last couple of years to the side wall of 21 High Street due to rusted ties and temporary repairs were needed to support the brickwork. Again, the landlord is about to carry out repairs in conjunction with the other owners of the block.

Internally we created a raised platform in front of the larger of the two windows so that we could display whole room scenes. This has been very effective. Often items are sold within minutes of being put in the window such is the effect of the improved displays.

Recently Mike Loxley has refurbished the kitchen area and we have planned other improvements to the store area and workshop later this summer.



The Van Team

All our volunteers are important but without our van team we could not function. Led by Tim Codling they bring in and delivery furniture four days each week rain or shine, get bulky wardrobes upstairs, smile when an item bought from the shop does not fit into a house. This year we spent £6000 on a new engine that so far is running well.



Resurrection Furniture grants since July 2024

Our excellent trading performance and of course the efforts of everyone means that Trustees have made or agreed to make grants totalling **£62182** 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.

This year Trustees have given a greater focus on grant giving.

We have agreed our policy and procedures, updated the grant application forms on the website and designed a yellow poster that invites organisations to apply. We are pleased that our volunteers continue to nominate good causes in the community.

Grants made or allocated since July 2024

Alton Concert Band	1000	POTR Youth Worker	14000
Putting pen to paper	700	POTR Fabric	5000
St Lawrence Primary School	500	Eco Church	2000
Vokes Lunch Club	500	CAP	6250
Domestic Refuge	500	Kings Arms - Furniture	400
8th Alton Scouts	1000	Alton College - Foodbank	1000
Riding for Disabled	1000	Kings Arms - Course Funding	11782
Cardiac Rehab	1000	St. Peter's Painting	1500
Four Marks School Chicken Club	600	Alton Senior Library Club	450
Alton Stitchers	1000	Alton Community Cupboard	2000
Chawton House Rose Garden	1000	Alton men's Shed	1000
Treloar's School	2000	Anna Chaplaincy	1000
St Michaels Hospice	5000		

This is a very positive and a pleasing result for all of the RF team. The shop provides a much-needed outlet for recycled home goods at very affordable prices that is a real community asset. By reducing waste, we are able to make substantial grants to our key charitable objectives supporting youth work, the Parish, those in financial need and our community. So, a big thank you to all involved in RF.



The Future

We aim to make some more internal improvements during the summer to smarten up the shop and improve conditions for volunteers. Assuming that trading continues to go well we will award more grants before the end of our financial year in May.

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

On behalf of the RF Trustees

