

The Bordon, Liphook and Haslemere Charity CIO (renamed The Tantum Trust)

Annual Report 2019-20

Chairman's Report for the year ending March 2020

In September 2019 Michael Gallagher stepped down as Chairman of Trustees and I was asked to fill his very capable shoes. Our thanks go to Michael for many years as a trustee and then for six years as Chairman.

The charity raises money through the sale of donated goods in four charity shops in Bordon, Liphook, Haslemere and Grayshott. The profits are used to support needy families, individuals and organisations in South West Surrey, North East Hampshire and West Sussex.

The charity is governed by a board of trustees which elects a Chairman from among its number. None of the trustees receive remuneration and in the last financial year none have claimed expenses. During the year the trustees met on 12 occasions and attendance was 89%

At the start of the period the trustees were

Michael Gallagher, Jennie Vernon Smith, Helen Vyner, Margaret Lawden, Alan Finn, Jeremy Bonnett and Vince Prior.

During the year Michael Gallagher, Alan Finn and Helen Vyner stepped down and we were joined by Malcolm Carter and Malcolm Traviss.

The charity has ten paid employees consisting of a Charity Manager, a Bookkeeper, a Clerical Assistant, four Shop managers and three part-time Shop Assistants.

The shops are heavily reliant on some fifty volunteers who assist the shop managers in the day to day running of the shops and without whom the charity could not function.

To both our paid staff and our volunteers we say 'Thank you' for all their hard work and dedication to our goal of assisting as many people and organisations as we can when there is nowhere else for them to go.

The difficult trading conditions felt in previous years continued and with more competition from other charities, our shop income and profits were down. In Haslemere, Bordon and Liphook several adjacent retailers closed resulting in reduced footfall in the area. In Haslemere, Lower Street was closed for six weeks and traffic was disrupted and this caused even less footfall.

The already difficult situation was exacerbated in March 2020 when the shops were closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. In reality therefore the

annual figures are for eleven months and, taking into account all the other external problems, the results given below are in fact quite an achievement for our staff and volunteers.

Total shop sales were £210,431 which include £10,241 of Gift Aid. In addition we received grants and donations of £14,531 and overall we generated a surplus of £28,329.

Grants made totalled £33,553. Over half of this amount went to pay for basic furniture, carpets and white goods for people being re-housed. The rest of the grants went on items such as paying off rent arrears (so people could move into new accommodation), debt relief orders, school trips for students whose parents could not pay and importantly, Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers for families at Christmas time.

During the year the trustees decided to examine the possibility of changing the name and 'branding' of the charity to make it more memorable and less restrictive in terms of its geographical coverage. To that end, a creative agency was given the brief of finding a new name and image for the charity. This exercise was continuing at year end.

A review of the contracts under which paid staff were employed found that in some cases the contracts were not compliant with current legislation. As a result all staff were issued with new contracts and at the same time pay and conditions were reviewed.

Some minor renovations and additions were made in each shop. In particular new LED lighting was installed in Bordon which made the shop much brighter and will save maintenance and running costs in future.

During the year a new on-line application form for our grants was designed and tested. It aimed to provide the trustees with more complete and consistent information on an applicant's circumstances when considering possible grants. To protect an applicant's anonymity and to ensure neutrality, the trustees are not made aware of an applicant's name or address.

Shop Performance during 2019/20.

Bordon

The Bordon shop made a net surplus of £21,580 on income including Gift Aid of £70,625. This made it the largest contributor to our overall surplus; Bordon's profits formed 46% of the combined shop net income. The Forest Centre continued to see reduced footfall due to shop closures and several of the retail units remained empty. Once again Jackie and her volunteers have done a tremendous job in supporting the whole charity.

Liphook

The Liphook shop made a net surplus of £15,080 on total income of £45,985. This represented 32% of our overall shop profits. The closure of several shops in Liphook and limited banking facilities once again presented special challenges for Tanya and her team of volunteers. Our thanks go to them for their hard work and dedication.

Haslemere

Our Haslemere shop continued to struggle and despite Christine's efforts the net result was very disappointing. Total income was £48,017 which produced a net surplus of £1,060, just 2% of overall shop profits. The relatively isolated location, closure of neighbouring retail units and the prolonged closure of Lower Street in Haslemere all contributed to the problems experienced. Despite this we know that Christine and her team were doing their best to keep the show on the road.

Grayshott

The Grayshott shop continued to grow in importance for the charity. Total income was £46,043 resulting in a net profit of £9,255, 20% of overall shop profits. Carol and her team have done a tremendous job in making the shop part of the community and have developed a loyal and regular clientele in Grayshott.

Head Office

Our head office in Bordon is run by our Charity Manager Sue Nicholson and by our Bookkeeper and Financial Assistant Karen McMullen. Both have been with the charity for many years and continue to work with enthusiasm and ready to take on new challenges as they arise. I am particularly grateful to Sue and Karen who have been of enormous help and have shown great patience in guiding me through my first months as Chairman.

The head office rent is very low by most commercial standards and other overheads are kept as low as possible. In 2019/20 the cost of providing the office was just over £31,000 which has to be set against the shop revenues to provide our overall surplus of £28,329.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is an important part of our income and we strive to get our donors to sign up for Gift Aid on the proceeds of the clothes and other

goods which are donated. In the year to March 2020 receipts from Gift Aid totalled £10,241.

The Year Ahead

The year ahead promised to be even more problematic as the effects of the Coronavirus were felt right across the economy. At the end of the year, in March 2020, the shops were closed and staff were on 'furlough'. However, with our relatively low overheads and dedicated and experienced staff we were in as good a place as any to weather the storm.

The Bordon and Liphook Charity (Boltini) Grassroots and Community First Capital Funds

The Boltini Fund was set up with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation in 2012 when the charity invested surplus monies which were then match funded. The dividends received allow us to expand our grant giving in the form of Christmas vouchers to needy families in Hampshire. We also make an annual grant to Lord Wandsworth College to help pay for uniforms for disadvantaged pupils. The funds for this come from a legacy left specifically for educational needs.

At the end of the financial year the monies held in the Boltini Fund totalled £168,497 and from this we received dividends of £6,590 of which £2000 was granted to Lord Wandsworth College.

Haslemere Challice Fund

For several years the charity has received generous donations from the Haslemere Challice Community Fund. In this year we received £4,500 which we used to fund Sainsbury's and Tesco vouchers distributed to families and individuals in the Haslemere area at Christmas time. The recommendations as to who should receive vouchers come to us from schools, churches and other organisations operating at the 'grassroots'.

Jeremy Bonnett

19th October 2020