

The Tantum Trust

Annual Report 2020-21

Chairman's Report for the year ending March 2021

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 chairperson from among its number. None of the trustees receive remuneration and in the financial year none claimed expenses. During the year the trustees met on 14 occasions and attendance was 95%. All but two of these meetings were held remotely by 'Zoom'.

At the start of the period the trustees were:

Jennie Vernon Smith, Margaret Lawden, Jeremy Bonnett, Vince Prior, Malcolm Carter and Malcolm Traviss.

After many years as a volunteer and then as a trustee, Jennie Vernon Smith stepped down and a small reception was held to express thanks for all her work for the charity. We were pleased to welcome Jean Barnard as a trustee in December 2020.

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 so many people and organisations when they have nowhere else to go.

The financial year started with the four shops closed in the first of several lockdowns caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. The shops reopened on June 15th 2020 but after four months of quiet trading, a further lockdown was imposed on November 5th and lasted for four weeks. Although the shops then re-opened for the Christmas period, strict rules about social mixing were in force and a further lockdown came into force on January 4th 2021 and continued until April 12th. Effectively the shops were shut for half the year and with customers, staff and volunteers cautious and/or prevented from mixing and

meeting people from outside their households, shop sales were understandably reduced by a half.

Fortunately, the Government's Job Retention Scheme and Coronavirus Support Grants helped to limit the damage and we were able to retain our staff and actually managed to increase our total funds to £162,256 by year end.

Grants made totalled £32,656. Over half of this amount went to pay for basic furniture, carpets and white goods for people being rehoused. 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.

We were informed by our landlord, The Ministry of Defence, that the building in Bordon in which we rented our head office was to be demolished. The MOD offered better alternative accommodation in another building in Bordon at the same rent and the move took place in September 2020. However, the lease on the new office is for four years only.

In the previous year the trustees had 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 briefed to find a new name and new image for the charity. In July 2020 the trustees agreed to change the name to The Tantum Trust, which we believed would make the charity more visible and at the same time honour our founder, Carl Tantum. They also agreed to amend the charity's objects to reflect a wider geographic coverage and to increase the maximum number of trustees to nine. These changes were incorporated into the charity's Governing Document.

Following the adoption of the new charity name, each shop received a new fascia sign and was redecorated. New stationery and new posters and flyers were produced to publicise our work and the website was redesigned to reflect the new logos and colour schemes. These changes were favourably received by our staff, volunteers and most importantly by our customers.

Jeremy Bonnett

November 10th 2021