

ARMCHAIR CHARITY

Registered CIO - Charity no. 1164966

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

DONATIONS RECYCLED TO THE NEEDY FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS

During the year we received 834 free items of furniture, donated by the public, and delivered them free to 285 families and individuals, equivalent to 3 items to one household helped every working day of the year. Referrals came from organisations including but not limited to Worcester City Council, Citizens Advice Worcester and Herefordshire, Housing Associations, Health Visitors, Social Services Probation and Worcester Municipal Charities.

DON'T THROW IT AWAY – GIVE IT AWAY Others less fortunate need it

The furniture delivery addresses demonstrate clearly that the charity is providing a priority service to those areas in the City where families traditionally experience financial hardship:-

WR4	Warndon, Brickfields, Tolladine	73
WR1	City Centre, Barbourne, Lowesmoor, Arboretum	65
WR5	Ronkswood , Wylds Lane, Stanley Rd. etc.	39
WR2	Dines Green, St. Johns	85
WR3	Northwick , Bevere, Perdiswell, Claines	23
Total		285

VALUE FOR MONEY

The Charity offers very good value for money. Each family/person helped, received on average 3 items, at an average cost to the charity of £46 / item. A total cost of £138 (about the cost of a single bed) for 3 good pieces of 2nd hand furniture which would otherwise have been taken to a landfill site at great cost to the local community.

ALL ENQUIRIES TO:

Richard Hines, Manager

Tel: 01905 - 456080

Email: info@armchairworcester.org.uk

www.armchairworcester.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - 2022/2023

NAME OF THE CHARITY	The Armchair Trust CIO
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER:	1164966
CHARITABLE TRUST DEED:	Adopted 27/09/1989. Registered with the Charity Commission on 06/10/1989. Registered as a CIO on 22/12/2015. Not amended since.
NAMES AND EMAILS OF TRUSTEES:	Schedule attached page 7
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:	Independently Examined - attached page 8
ADDRESS:	Unit 6b, Checkett's Lane Trading Estate, Worcester. WR3 7JW Tel: 01905 - 456080.
BANKERS:	Unity Trust, 4 The Square, 111 Broad St., Birmingham B15 1AR
SOLICITORS:	Hallmark Hulme LLP, 3-5 Sansome Place, Worcester, WR1 1UQ
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:	Paul Griffith MBE

THE REGISTERED CHARITABLE OBJECTS OF ARMCHAIR

"To relieve generally, and individually, persons resident in Worcester City, who are in conditions of financial need, and hardship, by the provision of furniture and other household accessories, donated by the public, or acquired otherwise, which are calculated to reduce the need and hardship.

Armchair welcomes gifts of second-hand furniture and household items from the public, and recycles these items, free of charge, for re-use by needy individuals and families, referred to Armchair by Statutory and Voluntary Bodies.

AREA OF BENEFIT

The area of benefit is "*within 10 miles of Worcester City centre*". Occasionally, gifts are collected from just outside the City but **due to limited resources, the need to economise on fuel, and to achieve a low carbon footprint, all deliveries of household items are within the City boundary.**

<http://armchairworcester.org.uk/>

FINANCES – HISTORY OF THE FUNDING

In 1996 the National Lottery gave Armchair a very generous four-year revenue and capital grant enabling us to purchase the 50-year lease of a warehouse in 1996.

Armchair's finances between 1997 and 2008 from the main statutory referrers, i.e. the Primary Care Trust and the County Council Social Services Department were originally regular and apparently secure. However, in 2008 the County Council Adult Social Care Department ceased its funding entirely and the Primary Care Trust did the same in 2010 having already halved its grant in 2008.

In 2007/8 for the first-time limited financial assistance was received from the waste disposal authority and this continues. This was £1,625.36 in 2023/2024.

This year we are most grateful to the following organisations and charities etc. for their continued major support and place on record our thanks to them for their generous donations in 2023/2024:-

Worcester Municipal Charities, Worcester City Council, Platform Housing, Lasletts Charity, The Eveson Trust, Six Masters, The Hopmarket, Worcester City Parish Relief in Need, Mary Hill, Grimley, Chris Cox, and Worcestershire CC Waste Disposal

In general terms, Armchair's finances are secure with regular grants from new and existing funders. The cash reserves are currently **£35,785.76**.

TRANSPORT

Trustees agreed to set up a designated fund, to purchase a new van as required. This is essential to Armchair's operation and without a van could not operate. Surplus funds raised in recent years have been allocated to this fund and the total in this designated fund is £25,000 (this has been increased due to the rise in inflation). This will ensure that there are enough funds available for when the van needs replacing again. The current van is 15 years old but with low mileage so should be expected last for several more years, however it is essential to keep this fund in the event that a new van is required.

STAFF

The Trustees employ two part time staff working mornings only, 9.30 am to 1.30pm to collect and deliver items and to take and respond to referrals of people in need.

RESERVES

In accordance with the Charity Commission's S.O.R.P. the Trustees have assessed risks and arranged lifting training for staff. Insurance has been taken out for the major risks. A "reserves" policy of a minimum of 8 months' spending has been adopted as a prudent level given the general insecurity of long-term funding.

WASTE DISPOSAL SUPPORT

Armchair collects and delivers about 3 vanloads of furniture every week. This represents about **150 van loads** most of which would be tipped - **costing c. £115.00 each representing about £17,250 in waste fees**. The County Waste Disposal Section introduced a "Recycling Credit Scheme" which brought Armchair £1,625 this financial year based on the weight of the 834 recycled items.

STATUTORY ENTITLEMENT - ASSESSMENT OF CHARITABLE NEED

Armchairs referral form ensures the intended beneficiary has exhausted statutory entitlement before applying to Armchair. The Trustees ensure that the Charity supplements rather than supplants the work of the Statutory Services, especially the DWAS, and checks that all the beneficiaries are in receipt of means tested benefits or on similarly low incomes.

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - ELECTION, COMPOSITION, INDUCTION AND TRAINING

There are 7 trustees (also the members) who replace vacancies as they occur. They are the Board or Management Committee who manage the Charity and authorise expenditure. Membership was drawn from representative groups from the local community. The following are represented: -, Citizens Advice Worcester and Herefordshire, Platform Housing and Worcester Municipal Charities. The Manager and his assistant attend the Committee meetings but do not vote and withdraw if they have a pecuniary interest.

New trustees are inducted by being given the most recent Annual Report and Annual Accounts, the Charity's Constitution, a copy of the Charity Commission publication CC3 "The Essential Trustee - What You Need To Know", and by being invited to visit the furniture warehouse and talk to the staff.

The following Trustees retire by rotation at the GM - this year

Mrs Sue Osborne
Mr Alan Purchon

Nominations may be proposed from the floor providing those nominated have already been appointed as members, duly approved by the Board.

MEETINGS OF THE TRUSTEES

The Board Management Committee meets once every two months. The Trustees receive and consider a report from the Chair, and Manager who keeps the finance books. Minutes are taken and circulated. The Management Committee has the power to co-opt new Trustees and non-voting advisers. The independently examined accounts are approved by the Management Committee and then formally adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Trustees.

ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting takes place once a year, on 8th May 2024 at 12.30 p.m. The meeting receives the trustees' annual report and the independently examined accounts which are approved by the trustees.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mel Kirk reports as follows: **We made a surplus of £ 2,765.94.**

During the year a total of **834** household items was delivered to **285** families or individuals in need with, on average, 3 items. A complete breakdown of referrals and deliveries is set out from page 5.

My grateful thanks are due to **Richard Hines** (who also manages finances) **and Mark Richardson**, for another successful year's hard work. Their commitment to providing help to those in need has shone through significantly, shown through their commitment to as far as possible continue to provide furniture to those in need, and ensure that they themselves and others remain safe.

I would also like to thank **all trustees, all** of whom have carried out their roles with care and commitment. The wide-ranging backgrounds of our trustees, their broad skills & experience, and the stability of the membership of our committee as a whole, provide a strong team which has ensured our survival and effectiveness during difficult times.

I would also like to thank Paul Griffith MBE for his assessment of our accounts

FINANCE REPORT

Richard Hines reports as follows: This year there was income of £41,138.36, expenditure of £38,372.42 and a surplus of £2,765.94. At the year end the charity's assets had a book value of **£88,815.16** which includes

the warehouse at £26,400, the van at £1,629.40, designated fund for new van of £25,000.00 and accumulated cash of £35,785.76.

The Accounts have been independently examined free of charge by our independent examiner Paul Griffith to whom we are most grateful. A full copy of the accounts, including the Income and Expenditure for the year, the Balance Sheet at year end and the Examination Certificate is attached at page 8.

The Charity offers very good value for money. Each family/person helped, received on average 3 items, costing £46 each. A total cost of £138 (about the cost of a single bed) for 3 good pieces of 2nd hand furniture which would otherwise have been taken to a landfill site at great cost to the local community

ARMCHAIR MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE YEAR'S WORK - APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024

Richard Hines reports as follows: We have collected very careful statistics with the computer to help us demonstrate our **worth to the Worcester community both in terms of meeting need and avoiding unnecessary waste.** There were 285 referrals to which we have responded with 834 items delivered. All the donations have to be collected first, and we then deliver straight from the van to the waiting list.

These are our delivery figures for 2023/2024 by postcode:

This demonstrates dramatically to our funders that we help needy people, many of them living in areas where families traditionally experience financial hardship.

WR4	Warndon, Brickfields, Tolladine	73
WR1	City Centre, Barbourne, Lowesmoor, Arboretum	65
WR5	Ronkswood , Wylds Lane, Stanley Rd. etc.	39
WR2	Dines Green, St. Johns	85
WR3	Northwick , Bevere, Perdiswell, Claines	23
Total		285

REFERRALS OF PEOPLE IN NEED TO ARMCHAIR 01/04/2022 - 31/03/2023

STATUTORY AUTHORITIES		VOLUNTARY SECTOR	
Worcester City Council	81	Citizens Advice Worcester and Herefordshire	60
Social Services (inc. childrens' centres)	37	Maggs Day Centre	19
Health Visitors	30	Worcester Community Trust	7
Housing Associations (Platform, Citizen)	28	Worcester Municipal Charities	6
		Community Care Project	5
		Headway	3
		Smart Move	3
		Womens Aid	2
		Cranstoun	1
		SSAFA	1
		Stroke Association	1
		Good Soil Trust	1
Total	176	Total	109
Grand total		285	

COLLECTION & DELIVERY OF DONATIONS BY ARMCHAIR 01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024

Double Beds	66	Single Beds	70
Wardrobes	50	Chest of Drawers	143
Bedside Cabinets	85	Dressing Tables	3
Sofas	68	Armchairs	44
Sofa Beds	3	Dining Tables	32
Dining Chairs	118	Coffee Tables	42
TV Stands	28	Bookcases	5
Stools	12	Sideboards	1
Ottomans	5	Bunk Beds	2
Computer Desk	2	Other	50
		Total	834

LANDLORDS OF DELIVERY ADDRESSES

PLATFORM HOUSING	150
PRIVATE	31
CITIZEN	32
WORCESTER MUNICIPAL CHARITIES	11
CITIZENS ADVICE WORCESTER AND HEREFORDSHIRE	21
SANCTUARY HOUSING	10
ROOFTOP HOUSING	6
BROMFORD HOUSING	13
STONEWATER	7
WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL	2
WEST MOORLANDS	1
COMMUNITY CARE PROJECT	1
TOTAL	285

NAMES AND EMAIL ADDRESSES OF TRUSTEES AND STAFF – 2023/2024

TRUSTEES

Mel Kirk (Chair)
Margaret Jones (Vice Chair)
David George
Sue Osborne
Alan Purchon
Richard Boorne
Paul Edwards

E MAIL ADDRESS

Email: mel.kirk@citaworcester.org.uk
 Email: jones1res@btinternet.com
 Email: dave.george@citaworcester.org.uk
 Email: smosborne46@gmail.com
 Email: apurchon1@gmail.com
 Email: sales@bondtech.uk.com
 Email: Paul.Edwards@platformhg.com

STAFF MEMBERS:

Richard Hines*
 Manager
Mark Richardson*
 Assistant Manager

Email: info@armchairworcester.org.uk
 Email: info@armchairworcester.org.uk

* Non-voting members of the Management Committee

ARMCHAIR INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024

INCOME

WORCESTER MUNICIPAL CHARITIES	17,805.00
PLATFORM HOUSING	5,500.00
EVESON CHARITABLE TRUST	5,000.00
LASLETT'S CHARITY	3,638.00
THE HOPMARKET	3,500.00
SIX MASTERS CHARITY	1,500.00
MARY HILL TRUST	1,000.00
WORCESTER CITY PARISH RELIEF IN NEED	800.00
GRIMLEY	600.00
MR CHRIS COX	120.00
JUDITH ALDRIDGE	50.00
WORCESTERSHIRE C C RECYCLING CREDIT	1,625.36
TOTAL INCOME: £41,138.36	

EXPENDITURE

WAGES	28,680.11
NEST PENSION EMPLOYERS CONTRIBUTION	1,464.32
INLAND REVENUE	1,855.11
VAN FUEL	669.13
VAN SERVICING & REPAIRS	385.62
SEVERN TRENT	263.07
STATIONERY AND OFFICE MATERIALS	112.80
TELEPHONE	689.64
FURNITURE STORE INSURANCE	1,703.48
VAN ROAD TAX	320.00
ELECTRICITY	577.60
VAN INSURANCE	755.84
BANK CHARGES	72.00
SUNDRIES	823.70
TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £38,372.42	

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE: £2,765.94

BALANCES AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Date	Income	Expenditure	Balance
31/3/24	£41,138.36	£38,372.42	£2,765.94
Brought forward current A/C 2022/2023			£58,019.82
Surplus 2023/2024			£2,765.94
Unity Current A/C			£60,785.76
Un-banked Income			-
Un-presented cheques			-
Accumulated cash			£35,785.76

FIXED ASSETS

Warehouse (purchase price 1997) (50 year lease)	£55,000.00
Depreciation 1997 - 2024 = 26 Yrs @ £1,100	£28,600.00
Value at year end	£26,400.00
Van (purchase price Nov 2014)	16,294.00
Depreciation 9 Yrs @ 1,629.40p.a.	£14,664.60
Book value at year end	£1,629.40

ACCUMULATED FUND

Cash	£35,785.76
Designated fund for purchase of new van when required	£25,000.00
Van	£1,629.40
Warehouse	£26,400.00
Total	£88,815.16

Signed on behalf of the Board

MEL KIRK (Chair)

8th May, 2024

Independent examiner's report on the accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Armchair CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/2024

Charity no
(if any)

1164966

Set out on pages

1 - 8

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Paul Griffith

Date: 15th April 2024

Name:

Paul Griffith MBE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

N/A

Address:

'Grevis Cottage', Lower Dingle, West Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 4BQ