

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

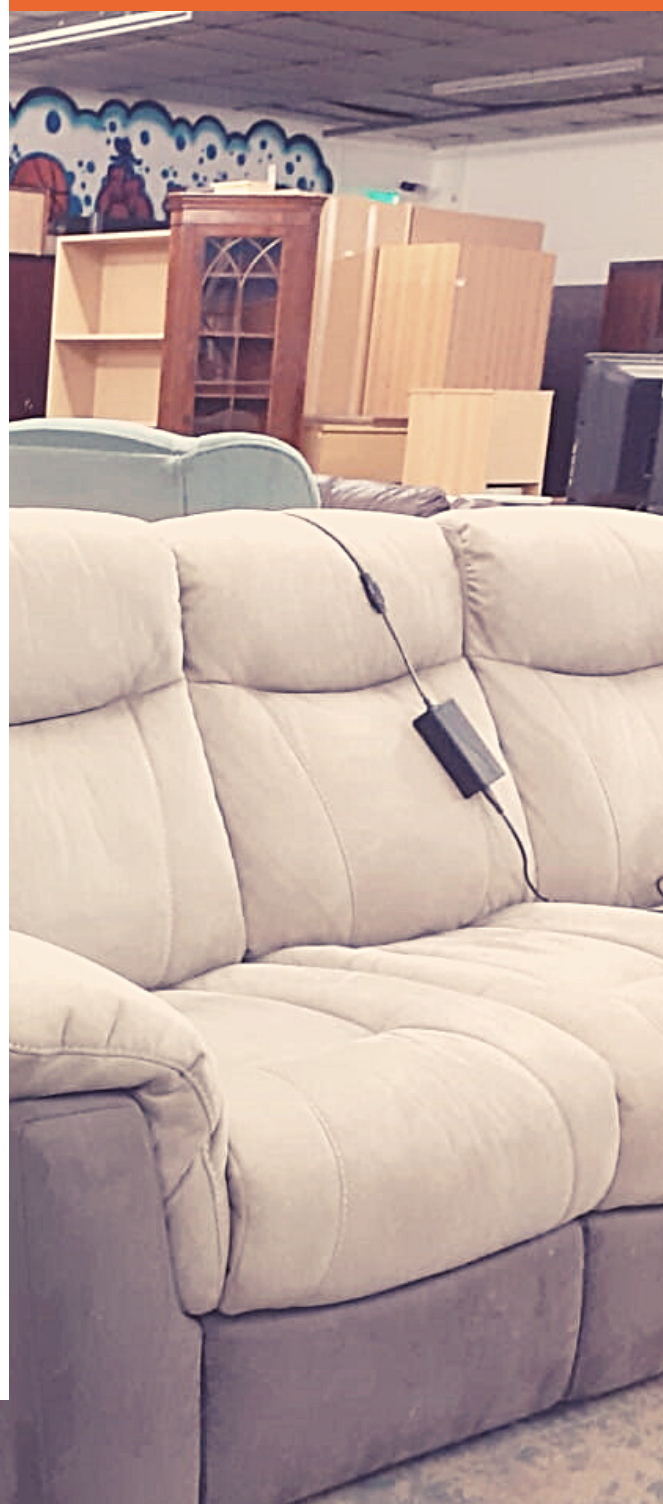
Recycling furniture,
electrical & household
goods for re-use in the
community

Helping to meet the needs of low
income families in Shropshire since
1994

Reducing the amount that ends up
in landfill every year.

Warehouse: Unit 9b Hartley Business Centre,
Monkmoor Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 5ST - Reg
Charity No: 1179323 - Tel: 01743 246668

Shop: 27/28 Castle Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BQ -
Tel: 01743 236382





OVERVIEW

The Shrewsbury Furniture Scheme is a registered charity which began in 1994. Our aim was to provide affordable, second-hand furniture to low income families in the Shrewsbury area.

Since our inception, we have come a long way. We have now grown to cover a larger portion of the Shropshire area. We now supply furniture and white goods through the local council as well as through our warehouse and shop.

We employ several volunteers who generously give up their time to support us in our objectives. A number of them have gone on to get jobs within the wider community and have gained confidence and skills to take with them. We are proud to have been a part of their journey.



THE CHARITY'S OBJECTIVES

To relieve poverty and to protect and preserve the environment, by:

- a)** Providing relief for the needy or distressed persons resident in Shrewsbury and surrounding area, by the provision to them of essential furniture, electrical and other household items.
- b)** Collecting donated items for checking, repairing, refurbishing, storage and subsequent supply.
- c)** Recycling, re-using and repairing furniture, household and electrical goods which would otherwise be disposed of in landfill.
- d)** Empowering the unemployed and others with additional needs, providing them with opportunities to acquire and practice skills, both to gain confidence and contribute to the community by establishing volunteer training schemes to undertake repair and refurbishment for recycling, thus providing essential training to facilitate re-entry to the workplace.
- e)** Educating and informing the public about sustainable lifestyles and the benefits to the community of recycling, re-use and environmentally friendly waste management.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A board of trustees, elected annually at the AGM, oversees the running of the charity, which employs three full time & four part time staff.

Mike Hall (Chair), Melanie Pilliner (Vice Chair), John Gorman (Secretary), Neil Bryant (Treasurer), Willie Strachan, Jane Jones, Graham Baker, Les Jones & Margaret Roberts.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2020/21 will always be remembered as the year of the Covid 19 pandemic with our warehouse & shop shutdown for much of the year due to Government restrictions. However with amazing support from the Government through their Job Retention Scheme & a whole range of support grants our charity managed to weather the storm & has come out the other side in a much stronger financial position than when the pandemic began.

Despite our sales receipts being reduced by some 50% during the financial year to the 31/3/21 we were able to secure Government (£78,286) & CAF (£7,500) grants, which turned a potentially disastrous trading year into one where we made a surplus of £54,332.29. This surplus has increased our cash funds to some £107k &, as such, has substantially improved our financial position whilst providing us with the resources to meet the undoubted challenges ahead.

As our accounts, as detailed elsewhere in this Annual Report, are prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis it is not possible to include provisions for Reserves in such a format. However the Trustees have agreed to set aside the following reserves as at 31/3/21:-

General Reserve:- £25,000 (approximately equivalent to 2 months expenditure)
Contingency Reserve:- £10,000 (to cover unforeseen maintenance & utility costs).

After taking the above Reserves into account our charity's unfettered cash resources at 31/3/21 are reduced from £107,735.40 to £72,735.40.

Despite lockdown for much of 2020/21 we still managed to help some 162 disadvantaged families/individuals in & around the Shrewsbury area through the provision of essential household items & in so doing saved some 29 tonnes from landfill.

That is an amazing achievement by the only truly independent charity operating a "Furniture Scheme" in Shropshire, & I believe, continues to provide a very clear endorsement that our simple philosophy of providing direct assistance to households in need within our local community, through the supply of good quality household items at very affordable prices, is wholeheartedly supported by our generous donors from within that same local community.

So once again a very big thank you to our incredible band of volunteers both at the warehouse & the shop, who contributed some 3,260 hours of their time, the residents of Shrewsbury, who donated over 32 tonnes of household goods, and our employees together with our Trustees, who all help to ensure that the Scheme continues to provide essential support to those less fortunate within our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to John Gorman, who decided to stand down as a Trustee & Secretary at the end of February 2021, for his solid support as both a Trustee & volunteer over the past years.

After 13 years as Chairman I have decided to stand down & I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all those involved with our charity for their support & hard work over those years. I will be remaining as a Trustee &, with the approval of the AGM, our Vice Chair, Mel Pilliner, will take over as Chair with Willie Strachan stepping up to Vice Chair. I'm very confident that Mel & Willie will provide excellent leadership for our charity over the coming years.

Mike Hall

MANAGER'S REPORT

As we are all aware 2020 was an unmitigated disaster as far as trading was concerned. The only bright spot was the long lay off which many of us benefitted from. As a charity , with dedicated volunteers, we were able to work throughout most of the pandemic to supply goods to those in need. There were sad times for most of us as everyone was affected by Covid 19.

Rather than looking back it was also a time to reflect on our objectives and a chance to look at how we could improve our services by improving our efficiency both in house and out on the road.

Considerable hours were spent on finding the best solutions.

As a consequence it was decided that the old database systems were now outdated along with the booking in and out for deliveries and collections. Research pushed us down the line of the modern approach to data collection in the form of an Epos (electronic point of sale) system. This would allow us to integrate all of our current , somewhat laborious, tasks into one function, accessible remotely and without having to worry about access, storage and reproduction of data for reporting.

During the pandemic our Shop worked tirelessly by using the social media tools in order to keep sales motivated and our brand awareness to the forefront. They should be congratulated on this. Our volunteers ably assisted with deliveries keeping strictly to the guidelines as laid out by the government.

Looking forward there are going to be quite a few changes of which we will be prepared for and look forward to getting back to some semblance of normality.

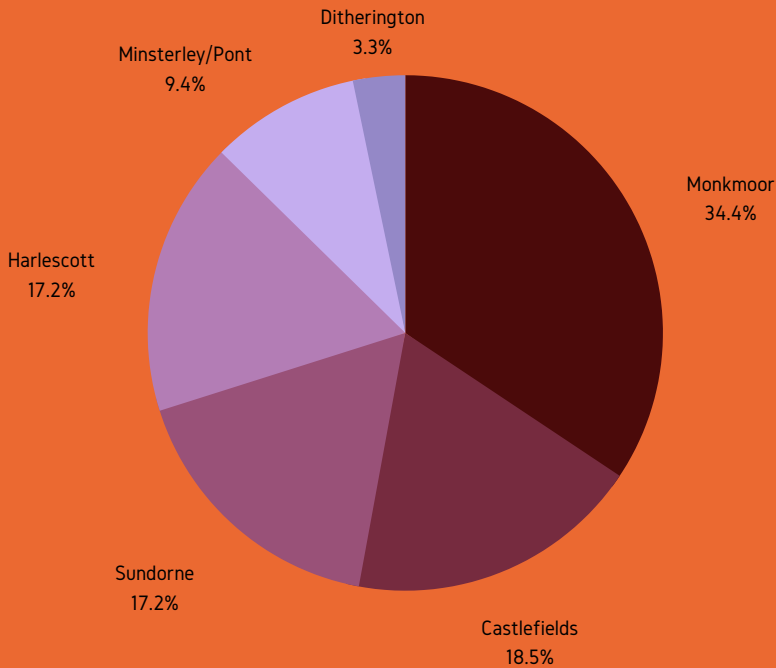
Peter Clarke
Scheme Manager.

VOLUNTEERS

Peter Edwards
Claire Challenor
Shaun Haynes
Margaret Blakeley
Barrie Love
Chris Goodman
Angela Baines

Helen Page
Dave Parsons
Kiel Davies
Harry Bates
John Pritchard
Caroline Turner

Richard Lawley
Dave Fudge
Les Jones
Lisbeth Jones
Rosi Pearson
Kerry Childs



DEMOGRAPHICS

Our customers come from all over the Shropshire area. This year we have seen an increase in the South Shropshire area,

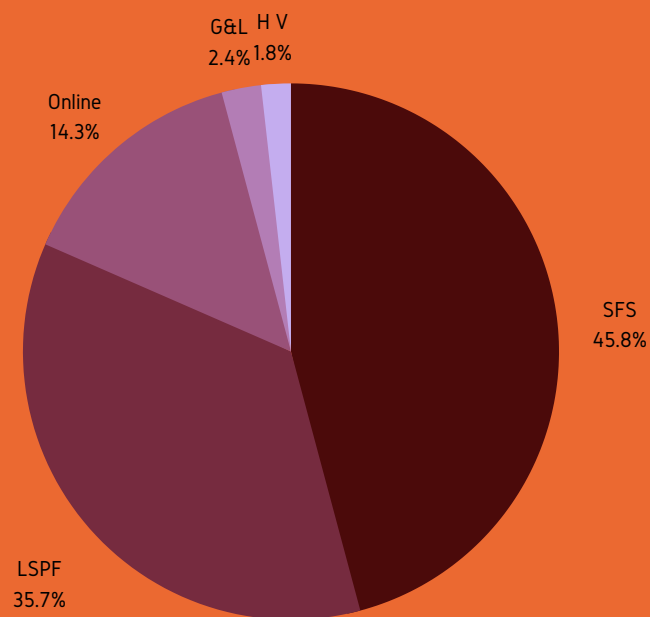
As always our Monkmoor customer base is strong and we hope to build awareness across all wards of Shropshire in the coming year.

REFERRALS BY AGENCY

This year we've seen an increase in agency referrals coming through from the LSPF, which means that our message is clear and we are reaching more families and individuals.

Our intentions are to increase the number of smaller organisations, next year and forge connections with local charities.

***G&L = Gorsuch & Langley, H.V = Health Visitor.**



- This year we have accepted **615** Donations, comprising of 1131 items which have been collected.
- We have carried out **571** Deliveries and sold 1352 items direct from our warehouse.

Shrewsbury Furniture Scheme – Home Essentials
Year ended 31 March 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Shrewsbury Furniture Scheme – Home Essentials

I report on the attached accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 next statement.

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 2011 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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



D C Blofield BSc FCA
Independent examiner
Emstrey House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

Date **25th June 2021**

SHREWSBURY FURNITURE SCHEME

Home Essentials

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	STORE	SHOP	31.03.21	31.03.20
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Sales	24,846.05	24,562.29	49,408.34	101,890.10
Bank Interest	268.52		268.52	285.87
Donations		360.00	360.00	1,398.00
Van Hire			0.00	2,544.82
Corona virus Job Retention Scheme	15,224.09	7,732.80	22,956.89	-
Delivery charges	1,664.41		1,664.41	-
Other Grants	46,643.00	39,143.00	85,786.00	7.19
Social Fund	14,999.49		14,999.49	9,014.00
Total Receipts	103,645.56	71,798.09	175,443.65	115,139.98
EXPENDITURE				
Purchases for Resale	5,318.92		5,318.92	2,261.00
Rent	15,999.97	18,834.95	34,834.92	37,370.00
Service charge		125.00	125.00	-
Elec, Gas & water	50.38	2,080.76	2,131.14	2,411.68
Telephone	708.09	607.50	1,315.59	1,188.81
Premises Maint	535.00	230.54	765.54	920.93
Staff Wages	47,615.70	19,336.21	66,951.91	71,729.23
Travel and Lunch Expenses			0.00	599.80
Van expenses	4,272.68		4,272.68	5,381.84
Insurance	1,036.51	244.00	1,280.51	1,217.53
Workshop	48.16		48.16	222.97
Stationery			0.00	179.72
Postage, printing and stationery	102.24	145.54	247.78	-
Misc	706.15	706.94	1,413.09	1,007.59
Professional Fees	1,368.00		1,368.00	838.00
Promotion/Advert			0.00	344.00
Cleaning		271.44	271.44	591.06
Bank/Card Charges	387.89	314.31	702.20	1,100.87
VAT due			64.48	(784.43)
Total Payments	78,149.69	42,897.19	121,111.36	126,580.60
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			54,332.29	(11,440.62)
Total funds at 01.04.20			53,403.11	64,843.73
Cash funds at 31.03.21			107,735.40	53,403.11

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SHREWSBURY FURNITURE SCHEME

Home Essentials

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 MARCH 2021

CASH FUNDS

£

Cash at Bank 107,522.71

Petty Cash 212.69

107,735.40

ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE

Cost

Current

Value

£

£

Vans 43,724.68

15,755.00

Equipment 35,773.21

856.00

Racking 4,752.40

9.00

Shop fittings 3,270.59

437.00

87,520.88

17,057.00



OPENING TIMES

Monday	10am - 4pm
Tuesday	10am - 4pm
Wednesday	10am - 4pm
Thursday	10am - 4pm
Friday	10am - 2pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

Email: furniturescheme@outlook.com

www.shrewsburyfurniturescheme.com

Tel: 01743 246668

Shop Opening Times

Monday - Closed
Tuesday - 9:30am - 4:30pm
Wednesday - 9:30am - 4:30pm
Thursday - 9:30am - 4:30pm
Friday - 9:30am - 4:30pm
Saturday - 9:30am - 4:30pm

01743 236382

