



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

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:



Providing assistance for those in genuine need or distressed persons resident in Shrewsbury and surrounding area, by the provision to them of essential furniture, electrical and other household items.



Collecting donated items for checking, repairing, refurbishing, storage and subsequent supply.



Recycling, re-using and repairing / upcycling furniture, household and electrical goods which would otherwise be disposed of in landfill.



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.



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.

Willie Strachan (Chair), Neil Bryant (Treasurer), Mike Hall, Graham Baker, Rosi Pearson, Margaret Roberts

ACTING CHAIR'S REPORT

The year 2022/23 was one of consolidation following the pandemic conditions of 2020 and 2021. We now have a good base from which to push forward and help those experiencing 'cost of living' problems in our current economic situation.

The financial position showed an increase in sales across the warehouse and shop and with the support of a grant we recorded a deficit of £12,522. We are grateful to the Garfield Weston Foundation for their grant of £10,000.

Despite the deficit, the charity has £94,361 in cash reserves, which provides a healthy buffer to allow us to plan ahead with confidence.

We are further developing and benefiting from our electronic systems introduced in 2021. Deliveries and collections are managed and planned online improving our logistical operations. Sales and customer databases are recorded, whilst an array of administrative tasks are maintained, including, pricing, staff holidays and accounting records.

The shop continues to perform well and contribute to the charity financially. We have continued our upcycling project whereby items of furniture that may be considered 'difficult to sell' but with potential for renewal have been revived and refreshed to provide goods that are attractive and extremely popular. These items which may have been destroyed now have a second life.

We have negotiated a new lease at our existing town centre shop in Shrewsbury showing commitment to the scheme and Shrewsbury.

We are further developing our social media presence and also show some of the goods which are on offer. This is proving successful and is our further shop window into the charity and its aims.

Thanks must go to our wonderful volunteers at both the warehouse and the shop who have generously given in excess of 8,000 hours of their time to support the charity, and to the employees and trustees who all help to ensure that the Scheme provides essential support to those less fortunate within our community.

We must also thank the residents of Shrewsbury, Shropshire and beyond who have donated household goods. We have made over 800 deliveries and over 900 collections.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Mel Pilliner, who stood down as Chairperson and Trustee in December. Mel has been involved for many years as Trustee, Secretary and Chair and has given great support to the charity. We will miss her enthusiasm, perception and wisdom.



VOLUNTEERS

**Shaun Haynes
John Pritchard
Caroline Turner
Lisbeth Jones**

**Pete Edwards
Dave Parsons
Les Jones
Richard Lawley**

**Barrie Love
Rob Parker
Lyn Bowley
Alan Sayce**

SHREWSBURY FURNITURE SCHEME
Home Essentials

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	STORE	SHOP	31.03.23	31.03.22
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Sales	52,995.26	70,720.96	123,716.22	106,628.27
Bank Interest	365.75		365.75	209.03
Donations		2.00	2.00	900.00
Corona virus Job Retention Scheme			0.00	6,208.90
Delivery charges	3,393.82		3,393.82	3,214.43
Other Grants	10,000.00		10,000.00	8,000.00
Social Fund	11,429.00		11,429.00	7,391.00
Total Receipts	78,183.83	70,722.96	148,906.79	132,551.63
EXPENDITURE				
Purchases for Resale			0.00	1,102.62
Epos system	1,079.98		1,079.98	1,750.48
Rent	20,071.74	19,326.10	39,397.84	33,106.04
Service charge		2,710.65	2,710.65	1,832.88
Elec,Gas & water	75.23	7,367.46	7,442.69	3,862.63
Telephone	643.42	608.78	1,252.20	1,252.51
Premises Maint	924.80	713.71	1,638.51	847.40
Staff Wages	57,014.90	31,936.08	88,950.98	77,581.95
Volunteer expenses	172.47	69.30	241.77	0.00
Van expenses	7,400.39		7,400.39	5,908.20
Insurance	1,114.24	254.00	1,368.24	1,331.98
Workshop		1,160.29	1,160.29	398.46
Postage, printing and stationery	158.17	157.21	315.38	229.60
Misc	1,225.36	368.54	1,593.90	1,407.27
Professional Fees	2,426.79		2,426.79	912.00
Cleaning		707.26	707.26	505.27
Repairs	533.32	205.97	739.29	0.00
Bank/Card Charges	492.29	751.52	1,243.81	1,260.93
VAT due			1,759.81	112.79
Total Payments	93,333.10	66,336.87	161,429.78	133,403.01
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			(12,522.99)	(851.38)
Total funds at 01.04.22			106,884.02	107,735.40
Cash funds at 31.03.23			94,361.03	106,884.02

SHREWSBURY FURNITURE SCHEME
Home Essentials

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 MARCH 2023

CASH FUNDS

£

Cash at Bank	94,284.55
Petty Cash	76.48
	<u>94,361.03</u>

ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE

	Cost	Current Value
	£	£
Vans	43,724.68	8,862.00
Equipment	35,773.21	481.00
Racking	4,752.40	5.35
Shop fittings	3,270.59	246.25
	<u>87,520.88</u>	<u>9,594.60</u>

Shrewsbury Furniture Scheme – Home Essentials

Year ended 31 March 2023

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 2023.

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 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

D C Blofield BSc FCA Independent examiner

Emstrey House

Shrewsbury Business Park, Shrewsbury

Shropshire SY2 6LG

30 May 2023

OPENING TIMES

Monday-Friday

10am-4pm

[www.shrewsbury
furniturescheme.com](http://www.shrewsburyfurniturescheme.com)

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