

# **The Besom in Esher**

Registered charity number: 1182123  
6 Park Road, Esher, KT10 8NP

## **TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2020**

### **List of Trustees during the financial year:**

Anne Emmins

Simon Rogers (Chair)

Sherry Secker

### **Governance administration:**

The Besom in Esher is a CIO constituted in the CIO foundation Constitution dated 19 Feb 2019.

### **How its trustees are appointed and trained**

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees at the Board Meetings.

### **How the charity's decision-making processes work.**

The Besom in Esher hold quarterly meetings where main decisions are discussed and agreed.

### **Objectives**

The objects of the CIO are the relief of poverty, financial and other hardship to persons in the Borough of Elmbridge through the distribution of gifts of household items, and the carrying out of decorating and gardening projects to meet their needs.

### **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

The organisation exists to provide a bridge between those who want to give time, money, skills or possessions and those in need. It is focused on doing this in the Borough of Elmbridge in Surrey. Those in need are frequently referred by social workers in Elmbridge and Surrey and these needs are then matched with those willing to give. In organising and carrying out the work of the charity the Trustees have read the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trustees are confident that the work of the Charity fulfils these requirements.

### **Main achievements through the year:**

In 2020 we experienced our most challenging, yet extremely vital and rewarding, year of ministry. With the covid-19 Pandemic starting in March, we readily responded to the task of becoming Keyworkers assisting the council in furnishing homes with essential items such as white goods, beds, tvs and sofas for those who needed urgent rehousing, in particular those living on the streets, refugees or fleeing domestic violence. As we already operated on a small-scale 'virtual' basis with no permanent office space the core team did not have to adapt many operations or processes to be able to be covid-secure and provide vital services where many other charities could not respond to the challenges so quickly.

We aided 50 individuals and families with furniture, white goods and household items during the year (almost double from the year before), and our van runs occurred every week throughout each lockdown with quarantining furniture and doorstep/contactless deliveries. We saw an increase in new younger time-givers, some students who returned home to study during lockdown and others on furlough and 'household bubble' teams who were able to share the van in a covid-safe way.

Sadly, there were only a few opportunities in the year to run outdoor projects safely, namely decluttering or garden clearances with volunteer teams from Walton and Claygate churches. In addition, with a few Covid-related adaptations our annual Christmas Hamper project went ahead. The distribution of luxury food hampers to all the recipients we worked with in the year plus those that were still on our waiting lists for help was achieved by many more individuals from local churches giving their time to deliver directly. The outpouring of generosity after such a difficult year was a huge blessing to the recipients.

Even with only 3 on the core team, we still fulfilled most of the referrals received and maintained strong trusting relationships with many Social Workers working under very challenging circumstances. Early in March and April, we received referrals from the Royal Borough of Kingston for the first time, traditionally outside our catchment area, but the plight of the recipients during this first lockdown meant we could not refuse; we decided if we had the provision we would respond to those referrals too.

The trustees began implementing a new Safeguarding Policy and the appointment of a Designated Safeguarding Officer will happen in 2021.

There was an increase in small donations from individual donors during the lockdowns which enabled us to purchase essential household goods/kitchen appliances and white goods and have them delivered directly to households when it was not possible for our time-givers to make visits.

All this activity is underpinned by a strong commitment to weekly prayer by the core team and other supporters (mainly on Zoom). Sharing testimonials of answered prayers is how our charity spreads its vision to enable Christians to put their faith into practical action. Opportunities to spread stories of God's amazing provision and timing by 'word of mouth' grew in 2020 due, in part, to the growing tide of compassion to reach out to neighbours during the pandemic, thus helping us to develop stronger links into church communities.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Besom in Esher relies on donations from individuals and churches and its activity levels are determined to a large extent by the availability of the funding and time given by volunteers.

### Financial Summary 1 Jan 2020 - 31 Dec 2020:

Receipts (Unrestricted Funds)	
Donations from churches	£9,505
Donations from individuals	£3,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£12,505</b>
Payments	
Direct Costs	£6,586
Overheads	£4,244
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£10,830</b>
Assets	
<b>Total Assets and Reserves</b>	<b>£17,052</b>

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Simon Rogers