Resurrection Trading Ltd

Trustees Annual Report 2026

Dear Members,

The Trustees of Resurrection Furniture are pleased to present this report, outlining our activities, progress, and impact over the past 12 months.

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1. Overview

Resurrection Furniture continues to be an attractive, friendly, and beneficial presence on the high street, serving the Alton community and surrounding areas both practically and spiritually. Demand for affordable furniture remains strong, reflecting cost-of-living pressures and increasing awareness of environmental sustainability.

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2. Operational Highlights

- **Furniture Reuse & Sales:**
  We have received and sold a steady flow of donated furniture, some of which has been refurbished by our workshop. This continues to divert significant volumes from landfill while generating income to support our charitable work.
- **Donations & Collections:**
  Donations from local residents remain consistent. Earlier this year, we experienced costly disruption due to a mechanically failing van; however, following the purchase of a replacement vehicle, our service has now returned to normal.
- **Logistics & Staffing:**
  We have recently appointed a part-time driver/loader to ease pressure on volunteers. Reliable collections and deliveries are essential to our success, and this role strengthens resilience and helps ensure a high-quality service.
- **Shop Leadership:**
  In October, our shop manager Natasha retired to France. We are pleased to have appointed Theresa Oakes as her successor. She has settled in quickly, and her calm, efficient, and cheerful leadership is already proving a blessing to the team. Theresa is bringing new ideas and is showing a flair for retailing from which we will continue to benefit.
- **Publicity:**
- Phillipa and Theresa with support from Sue H are in the process of rebranding the shop and giving a boost to publicity especially outside of the Alton catchment.
- **Shop Improvements**
- I am grateful to Trustee Mike Loxley for continuing to improve the shop appearance and fabric. Year by year we are adding value to the asset.
- **A new van:**
- After two months of hassle we took delivery of a new Renault van in April. It was an investment but is serving the shop well and is great benefit to drivers and lifters in their work.

3. Community Impact & Grant Giving

In the last 12 months we have awarded grants totalling £105,219 to 30 different organisations—an increase of £30,000 compared with 2024/25. A full list of recipients is attached to this report.

- Over 50% of these funds have supported youth work and youth organisations.
- The remainder has been directed towards local community groups and individuals facing financial hardship.

Our commitment to POTR remains strong. In the three years up to June 2025 we granted £34,000 specifically to finance our youth worker. In the current year we have reserved a £16,000 assuming a new appointment is made.

Beyond grant giving, we continue to provide low-cost or free furniture to individuals and families via agencies such as the Women's Refuge, helping to create stable and dignified living environments for those in acute need.

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4. Mission & Christian Witness

We continue to convey the Christian message through our High Street window displays especially at Christmas and Easter, signage on our van, and through our approach to grant giving—particularly in the relief of hardship. Our work remains rooted in serving others with compassion and generosity.

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5. Volunteers

Resurrection Furniture is run day-to-day by volunteers, whose dedication and cheerful service make all that we do possible. We have a stable team of over 50 volunteers many of whom also give their time to other community groups. Some of us have been unwell and taken time off but I am pleased to say that overall the team is as healthy as ever.

Volunteers cheerfully take on many roles in the shop as team leaders, facebook picture takers, pricing, cleaning, and sorting out the ever- changing stock, coffee makers and importantly giving time to customers and fellow volunteers.

We remain deeply grateful for their commitment and are continuing to explore ways to support, train, and sustain this vital team.

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6. Financial Summary

Our detailed financial report is presented alongside this report from the Trustees.

We note that total income for the year was £205,172 compared to £182258 an increase of £22,914 and weekly sales averaged £3268 compared to £3082 last year. However, the second half of the year was less buoyant perhaps reflecting the economic outlook. This may continue in the remainder of 2026. In addition:

- Grant giving has increased compared with the previous year reaching £105,219 by the year end. This means that the total grants awarded by RF since the first award in 2019 is £282,944.
- Operating costs, particularly transport and utilities, have risen, though these are being carefully managed.

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7. Challenges

During this period, key challenges have included:

- Temporary disruption caused by vehicle failure. This put a lot of extra work on to Tim Codling and the team of drivers and lifters to keep deliveries and collections going during those months
- Balancing growing offers of furniture and accessories with a slight drop in sales. This mainly falls on our manager Theresa to manage expectations and keep customers happy.

The Trustees continue to monitor and address these areas proactively.

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8. Looking Ahead

In the coming months, we aim to:

- Continue to review our marketing and publicity
- Continue strengthening partnerships with local organisations and churches.
- Prepare for the coming five- year contract renewal negotiations with our landlord due next Spring.
- Meet our charitable objectives as effectively as we can in a changing marketplace.

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9. Thanks & Appreciation

We extend our sincere thanks to all volunteers, donors, customers, and supporters. I am also grateful to the Trustees—Tim, Derek, Robin, Phillipa, Paul, Mike and Nick, and to our Treasurer Chris for their continued strong commitment and leadership.

Conclusion

Resurrection Furniture continues to play a valuable role in supporting the local community, promoting sustainability, and sharing the Christian message in practical ways. The Trustees remain committed to building on this strong foundation and ensuring the charity's long-term strength and impact.

John Hubbard
On behalf of RF Trustees September 2026

Grants made during the year 25/26 to:

POTR Youth Worker
Christians Against Poverty
Home Start Hants
Artwell
Bassy's barn
Holybourne Village Pre School
Alton Community Assoc
Alton Hard of Hearing Group
Anstey Junior School
Kings Arms youth Programme
Ropley C.E. School
St Mary's Church Lasham
Bentley School
Alton Town Twinning Ass
Andrews Endowed School

Alton District Community Relief Fund
Alton College Food bank
8th Alton Scouts
Andrews Endowed School
Chawton Park Bowls Juniors
Phoenix
St Mary Bentworth Primary
Alton Men's Shed
St Lawrence Church organ
Alton Arts Festival
Flip Theatre Workshop
Holybourne Theatre
Alton seniors Library Club
Ropley History network
Wootey School

Alton Methodist Church
Chawton Primary School
Alton Climate Action Group
Broadlands Equine Group
Putting Pen to paper
Alton 7 District Swimming Club