



Besom in Dorking

Summer 2021 newsletter, by Paul Crozier (volunteer manager)

Welcome to our first update for 2021. It has been our busiest period ever. Now, possibly just a little quieter over August which means it is a good time to report on what has been happening.

Recipients (A new record!)

Since January we have already delivered good quality furniture, white goods and other essential household items to 90 households. That is a normal year's worth of deliveries in 8 months.

The volunteers have been brilliant and without a few putting in more than the normal one day a week it would have been impossible to help so many.

Furniture and household good donations

We have been swamped with offers of furniture - some good, some not so good! We have therefore been busy assessing these items and/or pointing people to other charities as appropriate. So far this year we have collected items from 112 addresses.

Specific Financial donations for direct support to recipients

These funds were provided through Dorking Area Foodbank and Mole Valley District Council Small Grants Community Fund. These grants are for the specific purpose of buying items such as cookers and microwaves where the need is imminent, and we do not hold a donated item in stock. We are extremely grateful to both, so that recipient needs could still be met. Without this extra funding it would not have been possible to help so many.

General funds

We are very appreciative of the financial support given by our regular donors. However, these have never been enough to cover our general operating overheads and we have relied on one off donations, which have reduced significantly since the pandemic.

We still need to pay for items such as electrical and gas connections for cookers, curtain poles and tracking which have increased significantly. Our general reserves from a healthy position two years ago are now steadily diminishing. We are trusting on God for provision.



We were pleased to welcome Phil and Sarah as new timegivers during the year. Phil had been made redundant following many years employment in the building industry. He is now working as a self-employed builder but keeps Thursdays free for Besom. Sarah is a part time teacher at a primary school and we were delighted that she volunteered when she discovered her Thursdays would be free. Both have been a tremendous help to us when we have been so busy .



BEFORE - We delivered to this house one Thursday. A few days later, Tim, one of the timegivers who is a part-time gardener said he had been tapped on the shoulder by God, who prompted him to help this family of 4 with the overgrown garden they had just inherited with their property.

Here is the back garden as originally seen.

The next Thursday we arranged to revisit, and Tim and Phil (our new volunteer) spent the whole afternoon clearing front, side and back gardens.



AFTER - As you can imagine, the family were overwhelmed and were also surprised to find they had a garden path.

Also uncovered was the evidence of a former patio but all the pavers had been removed. I am pleased to say they now also have a patio but that was not through Besom.

Historically, Besom in Dorking did quite a lot of gardening and decorating projects, but these were completed by groups from churches. If you or your church group feel inspired by this and would like a project, please contact us. We are regularly asked for help.

For more information, please call us on 07765 598 854 or email dorkingbesom@live.co.uk or fill in the contact form on our website www.besomindorking.com