

ALREWAS UNITED CHARITIES
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2015

Overview

Alrewas United Charities (the "Charities") is the name of the umbrella organisation established in 1934 to administer the following charities;

Great Tithe Charity
Charity of Francis Cobb
The Busall Charity
Charity of Thomas Shemmonds
Charity of William Wright
Charity of William Turton
Charity of John Yeld
Charity of John Kirkland
Charity of James Riley

The Charities' governing document is a reproduction of the original Scheme established for the regulation of the Charities sealed on 21st December 1934 as amended by the Trustees Resolution of 10th March 2014 and the Trustees Resolution of 25th February 2015.

Charitable Purposes

The Charities have the following charitable purposes;

1. the relief of sickness and the preservation of health among people resident in the area of benefit by providing grants, items or services to individuals in need;
2. the relief of financial hardship among people resident in the area of benefit by providing grants, items or services to individuals in need;
3. the promotion of any charitable purpose for the benefit of people resident in the area of benefit as the trustees think fit;

The trustees must apply the income and, at their discretion, all or part of the capital of the Charities in furthering these purposes.

The Charities' area of benefit is the area of the civil parishes of Alrewas and Fradley in Staffordshire though, in exceptional circumstances, the trustees may treat as within these purposes persons otherwise eligible who are resident outside the area of benefit but in the opinion of the trustees ought to be treated, with sufficient reason, as resident therein.

Review of Activities

At an ordinary meeting held on 21st November 2013 the trustees reviewed the past performance of the Charity and determined they wished to make a more positive contribution to improving the welfare and quality of life of those people resident in its area of benefit.

In order to be more effective the trustees agreed they needed to update and expand the Charity's objects to make them more relevant to people's needs in the 21st century. The trustees also agreed they needed to attract more energetic and enthusiastic trustees to promote the work of the Charity within the area of benefit and to explore additional sources of income.

The trustees acknowledged that the Charity's governing document, sealed nearly 80 years ago, was archaic and not helpful in attracting potential trustees and beneficiaries. It was devised long before the advent of the National Health Service and the Welfare State, contained complex and ancient descriptions of the area of benefit, made reference to legislation long out of date and was written in language difficult to comprehend by today's generation. It was agreed that a thorough revision and modernisation of the governing document was an essential first step in raising the Charity's profile.

In drafting the new governing document the trustees have endeavoured to retain much of the spirit and intent of the Charity's original benefactors. The Charity's area of benefit has been retained in essence, though consolidated and redefined in terms of current geography.

The nominating bodies have been amended to reflect shifts in local demographics. The original scheme determined that all trustees were nominated by Alrewas Parish Council but this has now been amended to recognise the relative growth of Fradley and the recent split of the parish councils of Alrewas and Fradley & Streethay.

The trustees have also chosen to change the process of appointing trustees. The trustees consider it is no longer relevant to expect the nominating bodies to perform this function and that the body of trustees should properly assume this responsibility. The trustees have however chosen to retain some input from the nominating bodies as they consider it would enhance the legitimacy of the Charity by ensuring the conduct of its business is transparent and open to public scrutiny.

The trustees have broadened the Charity's objects by including a clause permitting the promotion of any charitable purpose of benefit to the residents in the area of benefit.

The new Constitution came into effect during the year and at the AGM on July 15th 2015, the following Trustees were elected/re-elected*:

Dr Robert Horton - Chairman *
The Rev John Allan - Deputy Chairman*
Mr Richard Voice - Secretary/ Treasurer
Mr Tim Aston
Mrs Gaynor Deakin*
Dr Elaine Dolman
Mrs Paula Dumolo*
Mrs Angela Noble*
Mrs Jo Spence
Mrs Becky Walker*
Mrs Wendy Walker

Following consultation with the Parish Councils the following Trustees were co-opted:

Alrewas Parish Council - Mrs Jane Reilly
Fradley and Streethay Parish Council - Mrs Lyn Beaumont.

The Trustees accepted the resignation of Mrs Val Cowley, a longstanding Trustee whose local

knowledge and contribution to the Committee, over many years, had been invaluable and much appreciated.

Management

The Trustees met on a further 3 occasions during the year, and made donations to the following organisations at a "Relaunch" of the Charity at Alrewas Cricket Club on November 13th 2015:

Alrewas Defibrillator Fund - £1547

Stepping Stones - £200

Alrewas Tennis Club - £200

The relaunch was attended by over 80 people, and Mr Michael Fabricant MP commending the Charity on it's work, presented the cheques and drew a Raffle.

Public Benefit

In exercising their powers and duties the Trustees have at all times complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees consider an appropriate level of Reserves should be held to ensure the Charity has sufficient resources to meet its ongoing expenditure and to allow time for re-organisation in the event of an unforeseen increase in expenditure or liabilities or an unexpected downturn in income or asset values.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the risks and other issues facing the Charity and have considered it prudent to set a target level of Reserves at an amount equivalent to one year's estimated ordinary annual expenditure of the Charity.

The Reserves Policy is reviewed periodically by the Trustees. The amount held as Reserves at 31st December 2015 was £8,753, considerably in excess of the target level. The Trustees are actively considering appropriate means of applying these excess funds in accordance with the charitable purposes of the Charities.

Investment Policy

The Trustees noted the small decrease in capital value of the holdings in the Charinco and Charishare investments.

During the period the Trustees reviewed the performance of the investments and they are satisfied with the overall balance of the investment portfolio.

Risk Management

The Trustees manage and govern the Charity in such a way as to minimise exposure to any risks, be they governance, operational, financial, compliance or other risks, but so long as the objectives and operation of the Charity are not compromised.

Appreciation

Our thanks go to all Trustees for their hard work and support, and to the many individuals who have donated funds to the Charity.

Legal & Administrative Information

Alrewas United Charities
Registered Charity No 220600

Prospect House, 156 Main Street, Alrewas, Burton upon Trent DE13 7ED
alrewasdoc@aol.com

Trustees

Dr Robert Horton - Chairman
The Rev John Allan - Deputy Chairman
Mr Richard Voice - Secretary/ Treasurer
Mr Tim Aston
Mrs Lyn Baumont
Mrs Gaynor Deakin
Dr Elaine Dolman
Mrs Paula Dumolo
Mrs Angela Noble
Mrs Jane Reilly
Mrs Jo Spence
Mrs Becky Walker
Mrs Wendy Walker

Clerk to the Trustees

Mr R Voice

Solicitors

Ansons LLP
Lichfield

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Lichfield

Signed
Dr R M Horton (Chairman)

Date