

Besom newsletter January 2025

Paul retiring as coordinator!



These lovely people need someone to coordinate them.

Well, this is not strictly true as God oversees Besom.

Paul completed 6 years of volunteering as coordinator at the end of December 2024 and it now time for a change.

The question is what happens next for Besom?

Paul will finish in this role by the end of June 2025 and really needs someone to handover to by April 2025.

Volunteer for new coordinator required

The role of coordinator is what you make it.

Paul was working 3 days a week when he started as coordinator and fully retired from paid employment in April 2021. This allowed additional time for Besom.

It is amazing what has been achieved considering we are still in the same small unit and that the number of Time givers has not changed in 6 years although there are several fresh faces!

We have always said "we can only do what we are able to do" but more clearly it is what God enables us to do in the time we give to him.

The main specifics of the role currently are:

- 1) Core team prayer meeting (currently Monday morning for an hour at 9.30am)
- 2) Managing the phone including calls, texts, WhatsApp, and emails (currently Monday to Thursday)
- 3) Arranging assessments for both recipients and donors
- 4) Completing assessments
- 5) Putting a plan together for the Time givers for a Thursday

The new coordinator would be able to develop the role in their own way. The important thing is to pray and listen for Gods guidance.

Statistics for year ending 31 December 2024

Number of households helped	134
Number of deliveries	236
Number of donor collections	202
Large white goods purchased	67

Where have we helped?

Dorking town	39
Goodwyns and Chartdowns	29
Sheltered Housing Schemes	21
Bookham	10
Beare Green	10
Westcott	7
Other areas Mole Valley	18

What developments have we noticed?

The most notable change is the number of people being referred who have had to leave private rented accommodation.

This was first noticed when the sheltered housing schemes reduced the age for occupancy down to 55.

Most of these people are still working and had been in long term private rented accommodation that they can no longer afford.

Housing benefit limits would not cover the rent and in several cases the Landlord has sold the property.

Household Support Fund ceasing

We have received a share of this Government funding via MVDC for the last few years.

It first came in because of the pandemic.

It was reduced by 50% for the last 6 months ending 31 January 2025 and will then cease entirely.

This fund has enabled us to buy a lot of new white goods to meet the increased demand.

New white goods will now need to be financed through our general fund and so will be much reduced in number and most recipients will now receive second hand white goods or **none!**

Storage space and lady time givers

The Besom in Dorking has been working at maximum capacity with resources, time givers and space for storage available.

We turn down a considerable number of donations particularly larger items such as sofas and wardrobes as there is simply no room for storage.

These items are normally collected direct from donor and delivered to the recipient. Often this is simply not practical for the donor.

We have survived so far by the generous support of 3 garages and 1 spare room, but this is very inefficient.

We pray for larger accommodation where we can consolidate all the activities and for more lady time givers.



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