

Furniture Scheme News and Review of the Year



The Furniture Scheme is part of The Wrekin Housing Group.

Below is a snap shot of what happens on our sites...

WAREHOUSE, Weeping Cross Lane, Ludlow SY8 1JH Mon—Thur 9am—1pm, Fri 9am—4pm and Sat 10am—2pm **Phone: 01585 877788 for furniture donations**

- ⇒ Trading site
- ⇒ Computer recycling workshop
- ⇒ Wood and Metal recycling facility
- ⇒ Bulky waste base
- ⇒ Removal of handles, knobs, hinges and screws for re-use
- ⇒ Volunteering and placement opportunities
- ⇒ Donation point
- ⇒ Two vans based here
- ⇒ Recycling Banks for textiles, wood and metal
- ⇒ Tools for Africa collection point



RENAISSANCE, 7-8 Tower Street, Ludlow SY8 1RL Mon—Sat 9.30am—5pm.
Phone: 01584 877751

- ⇒ Trading site
- ⇒ Bookshop and vinyl records
- ⇒ Flea Market
- ⇒ Information Board
- ⇒ Volunteering and placement opportunities
- ⇒ Household battery recycling point
- ⇒ Donation point



ROCKSPRING COMMUNITY CENTRE, Sandford Road, Ludlow SY8 1SX Mon—Fri 9am—5pm. Phone: 01584 874922

- ⇒ **Head office**
- ⇒ Volunteering and placement opportunities
- ⇒ Rooms for hire
- ⇒ Events and activities
- ⇒ Donation point for clothing, textiles, books etc



FRIARS WALK, Ludlow Mascall Centre, Ludlow SY8 1RZ

- ⇒ Carpentry workshop
- ⇒ Furniture restoration
- ⇒ Training facility
- ⇒ Training, volunteer and placement opportunities available
- ⇒ One van based here



CasCA, Newington Way, Craven Arms SY7 9PS
Mon—Thur 9am—10pm, Fri 9am—8pm, Sat 9am—12 noon -
by arrangement at other times. Phone: 01588 672847

- ⇒ Volunteering and placement opportunities
- ⇒ Rooms for hire
- ⇒ Events and activities
- ⇒ Donation point for clothing, textiles, books etc



THE CHARITY BOOKSHOP, Unit 2 Drover's House, Auction Yard, Craven Arms SY7 9BZ Open: Mon—Fri 9.30am – 4.30pm and Sat 9.30am – 1pm. Phone: 01588 673902

- ⇒ Trading site
- ⇒ Donation of books, jigsaw puzzles, CD's and DVD's





Jean Jarvis MBE—Chief Executive

Before I go onto my main report, I'd like to thank our amazing staff and volunteer team who work so hard to provide the range of services that we deliver to the local community, you make a huge difference to so many lives. My thanks also from myself and the team to the Wrekin Housing Trust for the range of support they provide which makes a huge difference to us.

In March this year we received the exciting news that we'd been successful in our bid to the Cabinet Office Local Sustainability Fund (LSF).

The funding has allowed us to 'carry out a business review and change plan that will lead to greater organisational sustainability'.

For years we have been on a journey to become financially sustainable. Just as we think we are nearly there something changes. Over the 22 years we've been operating we've had reasonable years and poor years but we've never quite reached our goal.

Over the past few months we have invested some of our LSF grant in marketing to help us to raise our profile. We've improved our signage, PR and promotional material and we've been developing new income streams including an on line shop, which will be launched on the 1st of December 2016. We hope these improvements will take us closer to our sustainability goal, so look out for a higher profile, more visible Furniture Scheme in the coming months.

As part of this work we are reviewing our business model to check that it is future proof. Our aim is to ensure, as best we can, that we will be providing our services to the community for many years to come.



James Cooper—General Manager

How will I remember 2016? I'll remember it as a year of the underdog – victories for Brexit, Trump and Leicester City. I can't say that I am a fan of all of the afore mentioned underdogs but it has certainly shown us that with the right strategy and a bit of belief anything is possible.

The Furniture Scheme faces challenges both big and small on a daily basis but we keep going, ensuring we can deliver our services to as many people as possible. The team always wants to help people overcome barriers and improve their prospects. They want to see families getting the furniture they need to make their house a home. They want to make a difference. One thing is certain – we couldn't keep making a difference without the support of our partners, funders, customers and above all else our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who continues to support us.

WE NEED YOUR HELP



Would you like to become a Friend of The Furniture Scheme?

Your annual donation will directly contribute towards to the charitable work of The Furniture Scheme, helping people facing disadvantage or hardship in South Shropshire.

Friends Membership is £30 per year.

You could opt to donate more and if you can Gift Aid your donation that helps too.

In the past 12 months The Furniture Scheme has supported 40 households in crisis with emergency furniture packages. This can be for a number of reasons including victims of domestic violence.

We offer low cost furniture and household equipment to everyone, re-using, recycling and minimising waste.

We have provided 108 work experience placements with 25 participants securing employment as a direct result of their time with us.

By becoming a Friend you will be directly supporting this important work and making a difference to local people's lives.

We are facing considerable challenges in this difficult financial climate and as a Friend you can help us to secure the future of the Furniture Scheme.

There are a number of ways you can help, including hosting or helping to organise fundraising events, sponsorship opportunities or activities.

To become a Friend of The Furniture Scheme download a registration form from our website www.furniturescheme.co.uk or call us on 01584 874922

Registered charity number 1082068 | Registered Company 4041051



OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

Di Hyde—Volunteer Co-ordinator 01584 877751
diane@furnitureshcme.co.uk

This past year at The Furniture Scheme we have once again received invaluable support from our excellent Volunteers.

We have people from all age groups and backgrounds coming forward to Volunteer.

We are always on hand to give support should any of our Volunteers need help with C.Vs, job applications or interview techniques and so far this year thirteen of our Volunteers have moved on to take up employment.

Some of our Volunteers are retired and with time on their hands find satisfaction in supporting the local community. There is also the social aspect of Volunteering with a great opportunity for making new friends.

This year we have, in partnership with BUPA, introduced our ten week Carpentry course aimed specifically at people struggling with stress related issues. Working with wood in a relaxed workshop setting can be a very positive form of therapy.

Although take up of this course has been somewhat slow, feedback from those who've taken part is extremely positive. One participant has progressed to full time employment and others have reported increased confidence and more positive thoughts about their future.

Diane Hyde, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Gill Pitt—HR, Learning and Development

A whole year has flown by! I don't often write for the newsletter although I do sometimes ghost-write, which is probably a little known fact!

'There are so many fantastic volunteers it would be nigh on impossible to list all those who have been part of The Furniture Scheme over this last year. Here is an update on Ben who many of you will recognise as having being featured earlier this year. Here is what Ben had to say.'



Ben Jenkins – volunteer at Rockspring Community Centre.

In January 2015 I started my volunteer work at Rockspring Community Centre in Ludlow.

On my first day I met the staff who work here. I was shown around the building and I was amazed how polite everyone was. I was shown how to work on the computer in reception and answer phone calls in the correct manner.

My volunteer work was set up by the job centre which I am very grateful for. On my introduction day I met Diane and she went through with me what I need to do when I'm here. She was very polite and gave me a good understanding of what I will be doing.

Before I started here I was a very shy and a nervous person because I had not before been doing anything like this. I have now gained more confidence in meeting new people.

Since the day I started my volunteer work here I have really enjoyed it. I have been here for a few months now and my time here has been increased which I'm very happy and grateful for. Everyone here is amazing. They are all kind and very polite. I am keen to work when I come here and I like to be busy and get on with things. All the staff here are very helpful and fair. I enjoy volunteer work at Ludlow Rockspring Community Centre very much. I think they help the community a lot.

Ben's story was picked up by the local paper and a press release quickly followed earlier this year. We reproduce it here for those who missed it!

"A local charity that helps people gain skills and employment opportunities has helped one volunteer become an apprentice and learn valuable skills for employment.

Ben Jenkins, 19, started working as a volunteer for The Furniture Scheme in March last year, where he helped out in reception. After showing his skills and enthusiasm, he was taken on as a Business Admin apprentice in June and has since gone from strength to strength with the help of the social enterprise company, based in Ludlow.

Ben works at the Rockspring Centre and is learning all about administration, finance and customer care as part of his apprenticeship, as well as becoming a trained fire marshall and helping people coming into the centre for assistance with housing or from the food bank.

He says: "I love The Furniture Scheme and what it stands for. I like working in an environment where everyone respects each other and I really enjoy working closely with the community."

"I have also gained a lot of confidence while working at the Rockspring Centre. Since I have been here I've learnt a lot of new skills including IT and organisation skills. I really enjoy working here because they help the community and give a lot of support to the public."

Gill Pitt, HR Learning and Development Manager, said: "It's been great to see Ben develop and gain confidence in his role. At The Furniture Scheme we offer help to the community and to those seeking to work and learn new skills in an encouraging environment, and it's been really rewarding to be able to offer this opportunity to Ben."

And over to Ben now to give you an update!

"Wow! It's been over a year now from when I started volunteering at the Rockspring Community Centre, doesn't time fly when you're having fun! I have learnt a heck of a lot of skills since I started back in 2015 when I was a volunteer. Over the last 12 months or so I have moved on to an apprenticeship and now full time employment. I still enjoy working here just the same as the day I started. I have met so many new people and improved my skills massively. I have now passed my ICT and maths and I'm just finishing off the last bit of paper work for my apprenticeship. Every day there is something different to do, some new groups coming into the centre and new challenges to achieve and I love it. I have also taken part in a film we made about the work The Furniture Scheme does to support people in the community. I really can't thank the Furniture Scheme enough for all their support they are giving me, and how Elaine is still patient when I'm asking her a question over and over again is a mystery. Thank you!"

I think that says it all really other than to thank all our volunteer and staff team who have made this a year to remember!



Warehouse

When we asked Simon, our Warehouse Manager, to sum up the year he replied 'turbulent'! Synonyms for turbulent include 'choppy', 'blustery' and much more interestingly 'windy' and 'wild'. One can only assume that Simon is referring to the work rather than the staff parties.

One of the Furniture Scheme vans was stolen in June and Simon and James spent the following day dealing with ransom requests and a potential police sting. We never got our van back, and being a van down caused considerable disruption. The transport issues, coupled with a shrinking volunteer team, made life tricky. This, at times, has had a negative impact on our sales and organisational skills. But things are looking up...

We have appointed Dan Price as a new part time driver. Dan had been volunteering for us for more than 4 years and is a welcome addition to the team.

We have a new stock management system, designed by our partners Wrekin Housing Trust, that is helping us to be much more organised and makes Gift Aid easier to claim.

From 1st December the Warehouse shop opening hours will be changing: Monday to Thursday 9am – 1pm, Friday 9am – 4pm and Saturday 10am – 2pm. These changes will allow us to provide a much better level of customer service with more staff and volunteers around to help shoppers. When the shop is closed the focus will shift to restocking and dealing swiftly with urgent issues and requests.

2016 was a tough year but despite the challenges the team continues to divert between 3 and 4 tonnes of unwanted items from landfill a week while providing furniture packs to 40 households a year and discounted items to hundreds of customers in receipt of benefits.

With the recent changes we have made we are sure 2017 will be a positive year at our Warehouse. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard this year.

James Cooper, General Manager



Renaissance

'Renaissance' has changed many things this past year, evolving with the times to push onwards bringing in a greater range of customers throughout every season.

This year we are all very happy to have been joined by Julie Nash, our brand new retail manager. Julie has fit into the team with the greatest of ease helping us to push along projects at a much greater pace than before. Through constructive discussions during team meetings we have managed to lay out several plans which have been effectively carried out. Whilst everyone has a wide range of skills, we have found that Julie is particularly adept in making sure jobs are being done on time, especially jobs which need to be done by General Manager James Cooper!

Julie isn't the only one who's been working hard this year, Paul Francis has taken an increasingly involved role in the running and development of Renaissance. Paul has been providing support in many issues across the board from finance to volunteer enquiries, and he has been a key player when it comes to planning new ventures.

Sales wise, after a shaky beginning, things have begun to rise. We faced serious disruption to the shop front during a portion of this year when roadworks blocked off a large majority of Tower Street for several weeks. We are now back on track, however, due to many factors. As a team we had a serious look at our prices, both low and high, and brought in line to a much more realistic and competitive standard. We have also had a complete facelift of the shop front bringing in customers who might have not noticed us before.

Walking by the shop you might realise the long-standing red and cream sign, bearing the name 'The Renaissance Centre', is gone. In its place is restored woodwork, freshly painted in green with 'Renaissance' standing out against the background. From a distance you will notice a sign bearing the logo of the Furniture Scheme hangs from the building and nearby another which lists many of the interesting things that you will find inside.

If you look through the main window you might notice a stunning range of upcycled furniture with quirky and unique bric-a-brac scattered amongst polka-dot stools or nestled inside a shabby-chic bookshelf. Peeking through the smaller window you may find yourself fascinated by a stunning range of books, carefully displayed for maximum effect.

Speaking of books, this year they are more popular than ever before with sales figures rocketing up higher than we have ever seen. Through the hard work of our volunteer team and our dedicated book specialist Helen we have supplied a vast amount of entertainment to visitors and locals alike.

The Flea Market has also been subject to our scrutiny this year, undergoing a significant reorganisation of pitches and layout. During this time, we were also very pleased to welcome some new sellers who have brought with them a breath of fresh air. A set of firm but fair rules now helps to guide the Flea Market and the result is a much tidier, customer friendly environment which benefits both the Scheme and the sellers alike.

With the addition of new staff, volunteers, procedures and a much-needed paint job, Renaissance has flourished. We hope to carry this success on into the end of the year and push it even further throughout the next one. Finally, a massive thank you to all volunteers who have contributed to Renaissance over the last year and to the Scheme as a whole, we couldn't do it without you!

Richard Carpenter, Renaissance Co-ordinator



Hele Muir

Renaissance Bookshop

"Do you remember when Ludlow had 5 second-hand and antiquarian bookshops? It's not so long ago. All gone, driven on to the internet by increasing rent and rates and, yes, internet competition. They used also to blame the charity shops, but now it's the charity shops that are keeping the high street bookshop alive.

Here at Renaissance and in our sister shop in Craven Arms we are trying to create that same loved experience of browsing along the shelves, hoping to find that long-sought volume, an unexpected treasure, or just something to read on the train. There are chairs to sit in, unobtrusive staff to help and no need to hurry. We don't have the same selling space as the old-time shops, but we try to offer as wide a selection as possible, and keep putting new stuff on the shelves.

This has been an exciting year for the book department of SSFS with the reopening of the Craven Arms Bookshop under our umbrella. It was greatly missed when it closed down and now the locals come from all round South Shropshire to donate and to buy. run entirely by a team of volunteers, it provides a valued 'library' service now that the County Library has shrunk, and there are customers who come regularly to 'change their book' returning the paperback they bought last week for someone else to read.

Our Ludlow shop too has many 'regulars' but also many visitors to the town are happy to find us out, and it is in our Serendipity corner that you are most likely to find something old and maybe a bit battered, but unusual.

Of course, we are totally dependant on donations, and this year they have continued to flood in, giving our book sorter many exciting moments as she unearths a rare treasure from a mixed box. We value all the books we get, we have a varied customer base to please, and even unsaleable books are sent for recycling and a small but useful income. Nothing goes to landfill.

There have been high points, as described in the last issue of our magazine, but the most exciting was the rare Rambles by Yorkshire Rivers which made the front page of the South Shropshire Journal (see page 17).

Please keep sending us your books, whatever their condition. Too many priceless volumes have been consigned to the dump because they looked old and damaged. Too many that someone else might treasure.

Helen Muir—Volunteer Book Expert



The Charity Bookshop Review – the First Year

The Charity Bookshop was formed following a groundswell of support from the volunteers and the people of Craven Arms, when the Hospice decided that it was no longer viable to keep a specialised bookshop open. The Furniture Scheme was approached to take us on, and were wonderfully supportive from the word 'go'.

With a mere 3 months closed for negotiations and organisational concerns to be sorted, we re-opened the doors on Saturday March 19th. This time, all the day-to-day running of the bookshop would be in the hands of the volunteers, supported by the expertise from the Furniture Scheme.

During the period of closure, and as soon as word got about that the Furniture Scheme was taking us on, donations started to pour in, initially being stored at CasCA. In the days before opening all the volunteers were involved in the sorting and pricing of every book back on the shelves – a mammoth task!

In the months since then, donations have continued to roll in, and sales have been steady. All the regular customers have been thrilled to see us open again, and we continue to provide a huge variety of good-quality books. We have even had a few rather rare books, which have been spotted and sold separately, keeping our takings well within expectations.

We have a core of 24 volunteers, with 4 extras who help out for holiday-cover, and an excellent pair of window-dressers, who keep the shop looking contemporary with their wonderful displays. Most volunteers work one morning or afternoon shift, but all are involved in the running of the shop. A small committee leads on decisions, and are supported by the Furniture Scheme management in the organisational matters.

A recent Big Book Sale identified just how many books we have had donated – the people of Craven Arms and the surrounding area have been incredibly generous, and we are so proud to be able to continue to provide the service that the community has fought hard to keep.



The Charity Bookshop Team



The Carpentry Workshop

Restoration, rejuvenation and renewal – processes that hundreds of items of furniture, and people, go through a year at our Ludlow based carpentry workshop!

The workshop is as much about social gains as it is about the upcycling of donated household goods. This year, thanks to the Bupa funded 'Working with Wood' project, we have been able to offer training and volunteering opportunities to even more people. Our project offers a safe and therapeutic environment where people learn new skills, build confidence, achieve a sense of purpose, raise self-esteem and improve mental wellbeing. Closer working with the Community Mental Health Team, Job Centre Plus and the local GP surgeries has helped us reach more people who can benefit from the positive experience of the workshop. The project also includes a series of sessions called 'Women in the Workshop'. This is delivered by Jessica Jackson of Jessica Found It CIC a social enterprise design company producing elegant and unusual lighting and candlesticks from found, discarded, salvaged, reclaimed, unwanted and unused objects.

Meanwhile the carpentry team have been busy keeping Renaissance stocked with interesting and unique furniture. The staff and volunteers continue to help the Furniture Scheme raise money to support its charitable aims and are always happy to take on new challenges. Station Drive GP Surgery commissioned the team, including the participants of the 'Working with Wood' project, to make 2 (rather large!) planters – they are almost finished and will shortly be on display outside the surgery.

For the last few months of the year the team have been joined by Helen Cooper, Creative Designer Maker, who has been working on a range of upcycled items that are being sold at Renaissance. We're really pleased with the results of Helen's work and hope new customers will be attracted to Renaissance by the new and exciting pieces.

The workshop continues to be an important part of the Furniture Scheme and a force for good. One past volunteer who described himself as 'recovering from stress related mental illness' explained how "A mug of tea, a chat with lots of banter, a purposeful working environment, and like minded people became instrumental in facilitating a significant part of my recovery process'. That sums it up really.

James Cooper, General Manager



Review of the Year 2016

Rockspring Community Centre

Chris Perkins—Community Engagement Worker

As another year comes to an end, it gives me a chance to reflect on what has taken place over the past 12 months as well as what plans for the future.

I have been looking at our attendance figures and have seen that during the past 12 months over 2,000 people have attended activities we have put on at the centre or are part of a group that meet here. Social enterprises and businesses as well as other agencies have held their meetings here. The centre has had wedding receptions as well as birthday parties, children's disco's and film nights (by the way this figure does not include the weekly attendance to the community lunch).

We have seen new additions to the regular groups using the centre over the 12 months. We are now running regular monthly craft sessions as well as the established cookery session. With health in mind we were delighted to welcome Singing for Lung Health as well as a NHS support group to improve balance and help prevent falls, and also a counselling service helping couples with relationship problems.

We have also attracted a local rock band to use the centre to practice and in return they have entertained the masses at the fireworks community event in October.

The Furniture Scheme also played host to the small gardens festival. Bigger and better things are planned for next year's event with the help of very dedicated volunteers.

In a small way we played a part in rebuilding someone's life through the BBC's DIY SOS programme.

We continue to put on holiday scheme activities for young people throughout the school holidays at either no or very low cost.

So what about the Centre's future in 2017?

Funding permitting, great plans are in progress concerning the possibility of a community shop at the Community Centre. Completed questionnaires have provided us with very positive feedback that the shop would be supported by local residents. If anyone is interested in helping in anyway concerning this project, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The community garden volunteers have had an amazing productive year. More produce than ever grown in the garden has either been sold, used in the community lunches or given away in food parcels than in previous years. The volunteers are not going to sit on their laurels! They are aiming to increase production of organic vegetables for sale next year, and to help with this aim a greenhouse will be a welcome addition to the garden in early 2017.

So to sum up this review, I think that Rockspring Community Centre can be thought of as more than just a building situated in a housing estate. It is somewhere where people's lives can be enriched, and bring together diversities of people from within the community. It is an amazing concept where people can meet new friends, gain confidence, reduce their isolation, as well as learning about hidden talents and passions they may not have known they had!

So, if you haven't visited us yet – What are you waiting for? A great Rockspring Community Centre welcome awaits you.





CasCA

Over the last 12 months CasCA has continued to build on its community engagement work and local people taken part in a wide range of activities and services.

Through the focus of Walk in Wednesdays at CasCA we have not only been able to strengthen our links with the local community and partners, but really bring to life the vision of a lively hub at the heart of Craven Arms.

This year our grant from Craven Arms Town Council has allowed us to carry out much needed improvements to the lighting in the sports hall. We now have LED lighting and have had some great feedback from grateful users, especially the Netball Group. Next we need to find the funds to update the heating!

Regrettably, we have lost regular bookings from Shropshire Council as the government cuts bite still harder. This income makes a big difference to us and is difficult to replace to the same level through community use. We are in the final year of our library funding and in negotiations with Shropshire Council as to what comes next, so watch this space.

The centre remains busy and a diverse range of events have taken place including a caged bird show, several days of Hereford Diocesan workshops and many play days and family events, attended by hundreds of local people

We've had football groups from all over the country on our football pitch, a range of well supported holiday schemes, - including Go Karting, which was very popular. Bowling is back, we've had a book sale and a great Halloween disco featuring a 'glow run'!

The Nursery now has a waiting list and the Knit and Natter group has grown to 15 participants. We're improving our food offer and working with Slimming World to produce a syn free range of ready meals to take away

Sadly for us our Manager, Maria Darcy, moved on in August this year, we wished her well of course. Before we replace her we are reviewing CasCA staffing and you'll see much more of Chris Perkins and Gill Pitt on site.

It's been a busy if challenging year and I'd like to thank the staff and volunteers for the energy and positivity they put into their roles. You are all amazing!

Jean Jarvis MBE, CEO



Boyd Scaffolding Ltd
presenting the cheque to
Ali, CasCA Supervisor

BIG Thank you Boyd Scaffolding Ltd!!

CasCA were in need of a Christmas Tree for the Christmas Fayre and Lights Turn on, so at Rob our Caretakers suggestion, Ali put out a shout on the CasCA Centre Facebook page: "Good Morning Facebook, is there any kind soul out there, that could donate a real Christmas tree to our Charity please. The tree will be used as part of our Christmas Fayre and Lights Turn on. We would be very grateful. Thank you". Within a very short space of time Boyd Scaffolding Ltd from Craven Arms had contacted the centre offering £100 to buy one! This has now been purchased and will be delivered in time for the Christmas Fayre on 26th November.

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Message sent via the Furniture Scheme Facebook page:

"I have just come away from your depot in Ludlow with 2 IKEA dining chairs, a rattan chair, a double sheet, 8 side plates and 6 soup dishes and all for £13.00. You are such a great asset. Thank you!"

Just want to say a BIG THANK YOU for loan of litter bins for the Cycling Festival on 18th September. We managed to keep cans and bottles separated this year for recycling with the support of the Rugby Club.

Simon and his team at the Warehouse were most helpful and Ludlow Cycling Festival are very appreciative of support from the Furniture Scheme.

Best wishes, David

News from Renaissance Bookshop



The bookshop has received a donation of some 30 volumes of the Shire Horse Society Stud Books from 1896 to 1936. The set is not complete - a few volumes are missing, but all are in nice condition.

Any one interested in some or all of them should contact Renaissance to arrange to see them Tel: 01584 877751



Lisa Jacks with the rare book

How did this rare book come to Shropshire?

The Furniture Scheme bookshop has received its most valuable donation ever. Discovered in a mixed box of books it is one of only 25 copies ever printed.

"Rambles by Yorkshire Rivers" by George Radford, first published in 1886 was a popular book which went into a number of editions. This one appears to be a specially prepared presentation edition, printed on hand made paper, bound in vellum, gilt edged, with 12 finely drawn etchings by J. Ayton Symington printed on silk and tissue guarded. Of the 25 copies printed this is no. 2.

The personal inscription, in a beautiful handwriting, tells an interesting story. It reads "Rachel M. Battye with affectionate remembrances and heartiest good wishes from Edw. Chadwick Thornhill Lees Vicarage 1898".

Rev. Edwin Chadwick was the first vicar of Thornhill Lees Parish, near Leeds, whose newly built church was consecrated in 1858. He remained the incumbent until his death in 1901. Rachel Battye was the daughter of a family who lived in the nearby Georgian mansion of Skelton Hall. She was married in November 1898, presumably in Thornhill Lees Church and the book was probably a wedding present from the vicar to one of his parishioners. As it is only no. 2 we may guess that Chadwick and Radford were friends as they were certainly near neighbours.

Sadly Rachel died the following year, having given birth to a son. Very few other copies have ever been offered for sale, and none known with such an interesting back story. We would very much like to know how this one came to Ludlow. It is now on display at Renaissance at a suggested price of £900.



SMALL GARDENS FESTIVAL next year!

Following on from the success of this year's Small Gardens event, we're delighted to announce the date for next year: **SUNDAY 2nd JULY** between 10.30am to 6pm.

We are developing some exciting ideas for the 2017 event - more details to come in the next magazine - but in the meantime **we need more gardens please!**

If you'd like to share your garden with people who love garden visits, please get in touch! Every garden owner who took part this year has said how much they enjoyed the experience - and want to do it again!

The Small Gardens Festival is part of the Furniture Scheme and the proceeds from the event go to help the Furniture Scheme continue their community projects. So - come and join us, be part of a fun event and know that your involvement will be helping the Furniture Scheme!

Contact Diane Lyle - 01584 876 854 / diane.lyle@btinternet.com



Everyone at the Furniture Scheme would like to say a special thank you to 'Expensive Mistakes' for all their support in 2016.

The Ludlow based Dress Agency, owned by Carmel Wilson, has been donating unsold stock to the Furniture Scheme for nearly 2 years. We have been building up a collection of clothes suitable for interviews and work with the intention of making them available for people on low income and benefits to borrow. The rest of the items are sold in order to raise money to subsidise our other charitable activities.

For more information on how to access the clothing please contact the team at Rockspring Community Centre on 01584 874922.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE FURNITURE SCHEME

All of the volunteering opportunities provided by the Furniture Scheme come with full training and an allowance for travel expenses.

10 week placements for a part or full day per week are available in the first instance with opportunities for feedback and review to make sure all is going well for you.

All volunteers have the opportunity to take a qualification and get employability support if required.

For more information on any of these opportunities please contact:

Di Hyde Tel: 01584 874922 or email: diane@furniturescheme.co.uk

The Charity Bookshop

Unit 2 Drovers House, Auction Yard,
Craven Arms SY7 9BZ

Selling books, jigsaw puzzles, CD's
and DVD's.

If anyone is interested in volunteering
here please contact Di Hyde on the
number above.

CasCA—General Assistants

Newington Way, Craven Arms SY7 9PS

General assistants needed to answer
phones, set up the rooms, make
refreshments (tea and coffee) and
meet and greet.

Waste Management Project

Could you help us to dismantle sofas,
washing machines and other items
ready for the recycling process?
Times to suit you, but you will need to
be reasonably fit as it's quite hard
work!

Rockspring Community Centre

We would like volunteers to assist with
cleaning and administration.

We also need volunteer gardeners for
our community garden.

Customer Service Assistant

At the Warehouse and Renaissance we
need help with answering telephone
calls, dealing with enquiries, making
sales, using the till and credit card
machine, keeping displays looking
attractive and using a computer.

We are flexible with time as you are
being generous with yours, but ideally
either 9.30am - 1pm or 1pm - 5pm.

We also need assistants in our Flea
Market.

Warehouse

Weeping Cross Lane, Ludlow SY8 1JH

- ◆ customer service assistants
- ◆ warehouse assistants
- ◆ van drivers and van buddies

You will need to be physically fit and
able to lift items of furniture.

Carpentry Workshop

Lower Galdeford SY8 1RZ

Volunteers carry out a variety of tasks
from stripping and polishing donated
furniture to more challenging projects.

Morning or afternoon sessions
available, starting with a half day
taster. You will be provided with full
workshop training and support.



Community Garden

ROCKSPRING THURSDAYS

At 12.15pm we have a **Community Lunch** which only costs **£2**—it's either jacket potato, cottage pie, sausage and mash/chips, potato and cheese pie, pasta bake etc (requests welcome within reason!) and slice of home made cake. Everyone welcome, no need to book, but if you are vegetarian it would be useful to know. See our website or call in to find out what the dish of the week is: www.furniturescheme.co.uk

During the summer months volunteers are welcome to come and work in the Community Garden between 10am and 4pm. **All garden volunteers can have lunch for FREE.**



ROCKSPRING COMMUNITY CENTRE

HIRE PRICES



RATE PER HOUR OR PART THEREOF	WEEKDAYS 9AM-5PM	WEEKDAYS 5PM-9PM	SATURDAYS 9AM-5PM	SATURDAYS 5PM-9PM
COMMUNITY GROUPS MAIN HALL - SEATS 60	£8.00	£12.00	£12.00	£15.00
PRIVATE HIRE MAIN HALL - SEATS 60	£10.00	£15.00	£15.00	£20.00
COMMUNITY GROUPS TEME - SEATS 20 - 25	£7.00	£10.00	£10.00	£14.00
PRIVATE HIRE TEME - SEATS 20 - 25	£9.00	£13.00	£13.00	£18.00
COMMUNITY GROUPS CORVE - SEATS 10 - 12	£6.00	£9.00	£9.00	£12.00
PRIVATE HIRE CORVE - SEATS 10 - 12	£7.00	£10.00	£10.00	£14.00

Payment in advance is requested for all private parties.

Please note, the centre is not licensed to sell alcohol.

To book a room or for more information contact: 01584 874922 or email rockspring@furniturescheme.co.uk

Tea/coffee and a biscuit can be provided for 50p per person.

rockspring community centre



WHAT'S ON AT ROCKSPRING

Monday	Baptist Church Lunch Club 2 nd Monday of the month	12 noon – 2pm	£2.50	
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Tuesday	Basic Flower Arranging	10am – 12pm	DONATION	Every two weeks
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Wednesday	Tai-Chi	10am – 12 noon		Susan: 01584 874296
	Singing for Lung Health	2.30pm – 3.40pm	FREE	Kate: 01584 890284
	Rockspring Community Choir	7.15pm – 8.45pm	£3 sub	Chris: 01584 874922

Thursday	LUNCH – it's either homemade soup, jacket potato, cottage pie, sausage & mash or pasta etc! and cake – all welcome! Lunch is FREE for Community Garden volunteers.	12.15pm	£2	
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Friday	Let's Get Cooking / Rag Rug making / crafts	10am – 12.30pm	FREE	Every other week
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Saturday	Marches Polio Group – 2nd Saturday every month (except Dec & Jan) – bring and share lunch	12pm - 3pm		
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IT suite with free access to computers and WiFi - usually available Monday – Friday 9am – 4.30pm (excluding Wednesday mornings and Bank Holidays).

Ludlow Churches provide Emergency Food Parcels (*by referral only through Housing Officer or Citizens Advice Bureau at Ludlow Youth Centre, Lower Galdeford, Ludlow Tel: 08444 99 11 00*) these can be collected: Monday, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 11am – 1pm.

Rockspring Community Garden – run by volunteers for the community. To offer help contact: Chris Perkins - 01584 874922

Community Directory, information on health and care services available to people living in the Southern Shropshire area. Contact: Elaine Duqqan 01584 874922 or 07896642018 Email: elaine@furniturescheme.co.uk

November 2016

Sandford Road, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1SX
rockspring@furniturescheme.co.uk www.furniturescheme.co.uk

**01584
874922**



The **Library** at CasCA, opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9am – 10pm, Friday 9am – 8pm and Saturday 9am – 12 noon.

IT suite with free access to computers (for the first 60 minutes) and unlimited free WiFi for using with your own devices available during opening hours.

Craven Arms and District History Group are based here on Friday mornings 10am—1pm, just drop in to view parish records, old photographs, maps, documents etc. For more information contact: Russell Jones 01584 861547

Cafe @ CasCA—on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays 10am – 2pm, offering sandwiches, Panini's, cakes and more!

Children's Party Packages are available, call into the centre and pick up a leaflet.

WALK IN WEDNESDAYS AT CasCA 10am—12 noon

COMMUNITY LUNCH at 12.15pm it's either jacket potato, cottage pie, sausage and mash, spaghetti Bolognese, cheese and potato pie etc followed by a slice of cake or a pudding for only **£2.50**.



KNIT AND NATTER bring your knitting and have a cuppa while having a natter!



What's on at CasCA

Day	Activity	Time	Cost	Other Notes
Monday	Art Group	1.00pm – 3.00		Call 07891106669
	CA Men's Chorus	7.30 - 9.00pm		Not in Jan or Aug
Monday- Friday	Craven Arms Childcare & Pre School	9am – 3pm – flexible hours		Birth to 11yrs Wendy 07891106339

Tuesday	Rhyme Time - under 5's	11am – 11.30am	FREE	Last Tuesday of month
	Indoor Bowls	2.00 - 4.30pm	£3.00	October – March ONLY
	Walking in to the Light	7.30 – 9.30pm		Every second Tuesday
	Youth Forum Football	6 – 7pm	FREE	

Wednesday	Knit & Natter	10.00am – 12.00 noon	FREE	
	Yoga	11am – 12.30pm		01694 724317
	Community Lunch	12.15pm	£2.50	Meal and slice of cake
	Tea Dance	2.00 - 4.00pm	£2.50	2 nd & 4 th Wednesday
	Kids Yoga – 5 – 7yrs	3.45 – 4.30pm	£5	Karen Morgan 77792385136
	Kids Yga – 8 – 12yrs	4.30 – 5.30pm	£6	Karen Morgan 77792385136
	Junior Football 8 – 9yrs	5.30 – 6.30pm		Dave Rowley 07976 241 463
	Slimming World	5.30pm and 7.30pm	£4.95	Alan - 01584 874430
	Zumba Fitness Class	7pm-8pm		07740835673
	Corvedale Badminton	8pm – 9.30pm		

Thursday	Rhyme Time – under 5's	1.30pm – 2pm	FREE	Last Thur of month
	Gymnastics 3-16yrs	3pm – 6pm		07769151649
	Marches Branch Embroiderers Guild	7.00pm – 9.30pm	£1.50 (member) £5.00 (visitors)	1 st Thursday of the month

Friday	Local History Group	9.30am – 1pm	FREE	
	CASBA Samba Drumming In Pavilion	4.15pm – 5.45pm	Children £1.50 Adults £3	Carol: 01588 672640
	CASBA Kids Samba Band In Pavilion	4 – 4.30pm	Primary age 50p	Carol: 01588 672640
	Flames Netball	4.30 - 5.30pm 5.30 - 6.30pm	Term time only	U 11's 01584 U 16's 841231

Saturday	Empathy	2.00 - 4.00pm		Every Other Saturday

Badminton and Volleyball are available every day and evening upon request Tennis: £8.00 per Court
 Badminton: £8.00 Per Court. Volleyball: £8.00 Per Court. CALL 01588 672847 November 2016

HIRE CHARGES FOR CasCA



Room		Corporate per hour	Community per hour	Youth per hour
Welsh Mountain (Sports Hall)	350 Theatre Style 200 Boardroom style	£30.00	£20.00	£15.00
Badminton Court		-	£8.00	-
Bowls per individual		-	£2.60	-
Children's party hire		-	£15.00	-
Shropshire	200 Standing/Theatre 170 seated	£25.00	£17.50	£15.00
Plowden	50 Theatre Style 30 Boardroom Style	£16.00	£12.00	-
Clun	20 Theatre Style 10 Board Room	£10.00	£5.00	-
Kerry	30 Theatre Style 15 Board Room Style	£13.00	£10.00	-
Playroom/pre-school		£13.00	£10.00	£6.00
Pavillion		£15.00	£10.00	£5.00
Small Office			£7.50	
Kitchen		£15.00	£7.50	
Badminton/Tennis/Table Tennis/Volley Ball		£8.00		
Bowls per individual		£3.00		
Tea Dance per individual		£2.50		
Art Group per individual		£1.50		
Children's Party Hire		Weekdays £15.00	Weekends £20.00	Bouncy Castle and room hire 3 hrs £100.00
Conference Hire (full use of building)		£1000 per day	£500 per day	

April 2016

Café @ CasCA open Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 10am—2pm

Sandwiches—£2.90



- Egg & Cress
- Ham & Salad
- Cheese & pickle
- Cheese & tomato

*Served on white or brown bread
with salad garnish*

- Bacon—£2.50
- Sausage—£2.50
- Egg—£2

*Or add any one of the 3 above for
an extra 50p*

Toasties—£2.50



A choice from the following
fillings:

- Cheese
- Tomato
- Onions
- Ham
- Beans

1 filling £2.50

Home made soup of the
day with bread—£2.50

Omelettes—£2.50 + 50p per extra filling



A selection of
Homemade Cakes
and
Homemade Biscuits



Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Choco milk, Café Latte, Cappuccino, Espresso— all £1.50



Find us on Twitter and Like us on Facebook!

The Furniture Scheme, Rockspring Community-Centre and CasCA are on Facebook and we welcome anyone who would like to be our friend or like our page!

The Furniture Scheme is also on Twitter which we try to keep regularly updated. Find us at : www.twitter.com/furniturescheme

Also visit our website for more information about The Furniture Scheme and up to date news www.furniturescheme.co.uk

Volunteer Training Opportunities

There are plenty of volunteer training opportunities in customer services, retail, warehousing and carpentry, these are great opportunities for developing employability skills in a workplace environment and giving something back to the local community. For more information contact: Di Hyde 01584 877751 diane@furniturescheme.co.uk

IT @ Rockspring and CasCA

Rockspring have a computer suite with free access to computers and WiFi which are usually available Monday – Friday 9am – 4.30pm (excluding Wednesday mornings and Bank Holidays).

CasCA have a computer suite with free access to computers (for the first 60 minutes) and unlimited free WiFi for using with your own devices available during opening hours.



South Shropshire Care Information Provider Shropshire Community Directory

If anyone would like information on where to access a support group or information on a health or care related issue, please contact Elaine Duggan on **01584 874922** Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm, or call into Rockspring Community Centre.

Alternatively you can access the Community Directory at: www.shropshire.gov.uk/community-directory

If you know of a group which is not on there and you feel should be, please let me know. Email: elaine@furniturescheme.co.uk





'Making a Mark'

Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

South Shropshire Furniture Scheme

The Furniture Scheme was started in 1994 to address a growing need to find a way to reuse and recycle unwanted household items.

We directly place resources into the homes of some of the most excluded members of our community, ensuring these people can begin to build an independent life and home without increasing debt. 100% of funds raised are reinvested into the organisation to support growth and help more people.



We also seek to protect the environment and increase environmental sustainability. This is achieved through reuse and recycling and we encourage people to avoid sending items to landfill.

The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives. Below are examples of how **The Furniture Scheme** is Making a Mark, committed to make a difference to people and planet.

Social inputs – improving quality of life

We seek to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged people living in southern Shropshire. We offer a houseful of essential furniture for just £40 to those individuals and families most in need.

Email: info@furniturescheme.co.uk
Website: <http://www.furniturescheme.co.uk/>
Phone: 01584 877788





We work to strengthen communities at our community centres where we facilitate a range of activities including regular community lunches, fitness classes, training, and IT drop in sessions where local people can learn how to get online, create a CV and apply for jobs.

In 2016, we have especially focussed on people aged between 25 and 55 who are suffering with mental ill health. Our 'Working with Wood' project aims to help those struggling with mental health by offering supported placements in our carpentry workshop. We have also run a series of workshop aimed at women called 'Women in the workshop', which has helped women to develop new skills and confidence.



Social outputs – key measures of support provided

- **40** households have received furniture referral packages worth between £550 and £1500 each
- **1,337** items were sold at a discount to those in receipt of benefits
- **53** people living in social housing have loaned garden equipment from our community centres
- **132** young people have taken part in holiday schemes and youth activities at our centres
- More than **33,000** people have used our community centres and accessed community activities and services
- **120** people completed training - 108 went into volunteering over 12 months, of these 25 went into employment

Social outcomes – creating benefits for local people

We are currently working to apply a value to our outputs and hope to have this available in early 2017.

We have numerous case studies that demonstrate how people have benefitted from the services we provide – please [visit our website](#) to read their stories.

Email: info@furniturescheme.co.uk
Website: <http://www.furniturescheme.co.uk/>
Phone: 01584 877788



Visit our website for up to date news: www.furniturescheme.co.uk

The staff and where they work

Rockspring Community Centre, Sandford Road, Ludlow SY8 1SX Tel: 01584 874922

Jean Jarvis MBE—Chief Executive	jean@furniturescheme.co.uk
James Cooper—General Manager	james@furniturescheme.co.uk
Gill Pitt—HR Learning and Development Manager	gill@furniturescheme.co.uk
Amy Morling—Management Team Support/Fuse	amy@furniturescheme.co.uk
Elaine Duggan—Community Directory and Marketing	elaine@furniturescheme.co.uk
Christine Perkins—Community Engagement Worker	chrisp@furniturescheme.co.uk
Rob Gardner—Caretaker	rob@furniturescheme.co.uk
Ben Jenkins—Reception/General Assistant (Mon—Thurs)	ben@furniturescheme.co.uk
Lynda Hoad—Finance Officer	accounts@furniturescheme.co.uk

Renaissance, 7-8 Tower Street, Ludlow SY8 1RL Tel: 01584 877751

Julie Nash—Renaissance Retail Manager	Julie.Nash@furniturescheme.co.uk
Richard Carpenter—Renaissance Co-ordinator	richard@furniturescheme.co.uk
Di Hyde—Volunteer Co-ordinator	diane@furniturescheme.co.uk
Paul Francis—Statistics Officer	paul@furniturescheme.co.uk
Lisa Jacks—Customer Service Assistant	

Carpentry Workshop, Ludlow Mascall Centre, Friars Walk, Ludlow SY8 1RZ Tel: 01584 877706

Stefan Laird—Workshop Supervisor	carpentry@furniturescheme.co.uk
Graham Lambourn—Volunteer Support Worker	

Warehouse, Weeping Cross Lane, Ludlow SY8 1JH Tel: 01584 877788

Simon Magill—Warehouse Centre Manager	simon@furniturescheme.co.uk
Kevin Jones—Assistant Manager	
Stuart James—General Assistant	stuart.james@furniturescheme.co.uk
Tim Stevens—Van Driver	
Daniel Price—Van Driver	
Chris Marston—General Assistant	

CasCA (Community arts sports Craven Arms), Newington Way, Craven Arms SY7 9PS Tel: 01588 672847 Email: casca@furniturescheme.co.uk

Alison Kennedy—CasCA Supervisor	ali@furniturescheme.co.uk
Lorna Odour—General Assistant	
Jackie Wright—Finance Administrator	
Alexis Seaborne—General Assistant	
Marion Bailey—Domestic Assistant	
Marilyn de Warrenne—Catering General Assistant	

The Charity Bookshop, Unit 2, Drover's House, Auction Yard, Craven Arm SY7 9BZ
Tel: 01588 673902 Monday to Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm and Saturday 9.30am - 1pm.
charitybookshop@furniturescheme.co.uk

DIRECTORS

Chris Horton—Company Secretary
Clare Ratcliff
Mike Beazley MBE

Julian Price—Co-opted
Steve Price—Chair
Bryan Powell

Chris Boote
Graeme Perks
Louise Holland