

Brockenhurst Charity Shop - A Local Gem With a Big Impact

Since opening its doors in April 2021, the Brockenhurst Charity Shop has become a shining example of what a united community can achieve. Run by the Brockenhurst Village Trust, this shop isn't just a place to find pre-loved treasures—it's a cornerstone of local life, deeply rooted in sustainability and community spirit. Starting out at the Brockenhurst Hub, the shop quickly proved its value, leading to its relocation in September 2023 to a central spot at 37 Brookley Road. We also recently opened an online eBay shop that anyone can browse and bid on our array of fabulous items.



A Hub Extension of Pre-Loved Goodness

The charity shop has become the 'Front of House' for the Community Hub with shelves brimming with possibilities, offering everything from clothing for all ages to bric-a-brac, homeware, toys, games, and books. By giving new life to pre-loved items, the shop embraces the ethos of sustainable living while creating an enjoyable shopping experience for residents and visitors alike. You can also buy tickets for events such as the monthly movie matinees.

A Commitment to Carbon Neutrality

But the Charity Shop is more than just a place to shop; it's a key player in the community's journey towards sustainability. Guided by the ambitious vision of the Brockenhurst Village Trust, the shop actively supports efforts to become carbon neutral. Proceeds from the shop have already funded critical projects within the Hub, such as replacing fluorescent lighting with energy-efficient LED fixtures. These upgrades not only reduce energy consumption and operational costs but also demonstrate the trust's commitment to sustainable development.

This effort extends beyond cost savings—it's about building a sustainable future for everyone. By promoting circular retail, the shop enables the community to make environmentally conscious choices while supporting projects that align with the trustees' forward-thinking goal of creating carbon-neutral facilities.

Supporting Facilities That Matter

The proceeds from the shop have made a tangible difference to community spaces. At the heart of these efforts is the Brockenhurst Hub, a vibrant facility shaped by local community feedback. The Hub serves as a versatile venue, hosting everything from life celebrations, weddings, and family gatherings to meetings, workshops, and public events.

Exciting developments are on the horizon! Plans for the Hub include the launch of a cosy meeting space for smaller gatherings and a fully equipped café. These enhancements will create even more welcoming and functional spaces for the community to enjoy. Watch this space—these new features are coming soon!

Guided by the Community, For the Community

Every decision, project, and improvement made by the Brockenhurst Village Trust is guided by input from the community it serves. This collaboration ensures that local needs are met while fostering a sense of shared purpose and pride. The trust itself is managed by a dedicated board of trustees who oversee operations, maintain transparency, and work hand-in-hand with volunteers and partner organisations to create lasting impact.

A Volunteer's Perspective

The shop's success is a testament to the dedication of its volunteers. From friendly faces in the shop to those working behind the scenes at the Hub's donation station, every individual plays a vital role in its operation. Trustees and regular volunteers like Trica and Helen are proud to be part of the team:



"We love meeting new customers and chatting with familiar faces on Wednesdays," they share. "Volunteering has not only taught us new skills like window dressing and donation display, but it's also brought us a real sense of belonging. The social events we've attended have even helped us form lasting friendships."

For many in retirement, volunteering at the shop provides a renewed sense of purpose and joy. It's a chance to connect with others, stay active, and enjoy the camaraderie of being part of a team, all while making a meaningful contribution to the community.

Beyond the shop, another group of dedicated volunteers independently runs the monthly Monday Matinee cinema at the Brockenhurst Hub. This team brings the community together for an afternoon of entertainment, creating yet another way for residents to connect and enjoy shared experiences.

Whether you're looking to give back to the community, develop new skills, or simply connect with others, volunteering at the shop, donation station or with the cinema team offers a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

Youth Development

The Brockenhurst Village Trust is equally committed to fostering the development of young people. The shop actively supports Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award participants and provides work experience placements for school and college students. These programmes offer invaluable opportunities for young volunteers to gain hands-on experience, such as customer service and teamwork, while building confidence and learning about community engagement.

By participating in these placements, young people not only develop practical skills but also learn the importance of sustainability and giving back to the community—a truly inspiring achievement.

Celebrating Success Together

The Brockenhurst Charity Shop's story is one of collective effort and shared success. It's a place where sustainability meets generosity, where residents of all ages come together to make a difference, and where every purchase and donation supports the greater good.

The shop's success wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of the local community. Every volunteer, donor, and customer has contributed to its achievements, and the Brockenhurst Village Trust extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who have played a part in this journey.



More Than Just a Shop

The Brockenhurst Charity Shop stands as a symbol of what can be accomplished when a community comes together. It's not only a space for incredible finds and sustainable shopping but also a hub of connection, inspiration, and impact. Here's to celebrating its continued success and the vibrant community that makes it all possible.

For further details on volunteering opportunities and all that's happening at the Brockenhurst Hub, please visit our website or email us at **trust@brockenhurstvillage.org.uk**.