

WONERSH UNITED CHARITIES (WUC): REPORT TO ANNUAL CIVIL PARISH ASSEMBLY, 2019

WUC was formed over 100 years ago in 1911 by merging six local charities. The oldest and by far the most significant of these is Smith's Charity set up in 1616. The aim of the charity is to apply the income for 'relief in need' to individuals or families within the villages of Blackheath, Shamley Green and Wonersh that make up our parish.

WUC has ten Trustees. Meetings are now held three times a year in the Jubilee Room, Christ Church, Shamley Green. I want to thank all my colleagues for their work and commitment over the last year, especially those who have recently retired – Jeanette Farley and Glynis Drummond. I am also very proud that one of our trustees, Penny Hodgson, was recognized in the Queen's New Year's honours list with the award of the British Empire Medal for her service to the community, especially the elderly, in Shamley Green.

We have brought along copies of our 2017/18 annual report. We are pleased to have made 39 grants, totalling £7,786, to our neighbours who needed some help. We continue to focus on the elderly folk in the parish together with other adults in difficulty but we have also been able to respond to help families and children too.

We were also audited by the Henry Smith Charity at the end of 2018, when we were questioned about our disbursement of our annual £4,900 Henry Smith Charity Grant. I am glad to report that we were congratulated on the range and appropriateness of the grants we are making.

Most of our beneficiaries have come to our attention through word of mouth. We do advertise in the local parish magazines and through Parent Information at the local Primary School, however word of mouth does seem the best line of contact, so I ask if anyone here knows of anyone to whom the WUC may be able to assist, please let us know via the clergy, our clerk, myself or other Trustees. We always treat any enquiries and all grants in the strictest confidence.

Diane Savage

24 April 2019.