

NEWSLETTER



Message from our CEO:

This year has sped past. As people begin to gear up to Christmas, our thoughts, as always, are with those who find it the hardest season of the year, for whatever reason.

At Fircroft we like to make it as special as we can, and will be doing special Christmas lunches, and send people home with at least one gift.

Here is where we need your help. Would you be able to buy a present for someone at Fircroft this year? Or perhaps donate a financial gift so that we can make this year a wonderful time of year for the people we support? Your donation can do so much.

Best wishes, Kay

Story: We were taken aback one year when a person we support told us she was going to take her gift home to open on Christmas day. "This will be the only present I will receive. Thank you so much!"



Open for Business

This year we opened our garden shop to showcase the work that the people we support have made. There's quite an eclectic range of items, but there is something for everyone to see. Our opening hours are:

Monday, Wednesday &
Thursday
10am to 1 pm

WE HAVE SPACES FOR JOINERS AT OUR MAN SHED

This is a small group of men who work together to create, repair and upcycle items to sell in our Hub Shop.

We now have spaces available - if you'd like to share/learn skills, please come and have a look. For more information: please contact Gaja on 0208 339 6938



The Fircroft Shop

We are delighted that our charity shop on Tolworth Broadway is now an integral part of The Fircroft Trust. Up until recently it was considered a separate entity, and officially known as the Trading side of the charity, with all profits covenanted to the Charity. This was a cumbersome and bureaucratic system, and which now is made so much easier, helping us to save on our precious funds.

The shop has a dedicated Facebook page: **Fircroft Trust - Charity Shops**. All our media can be accessed by **#thefircrofttrust**. Please do follow us to keep updated with our news.



HARDSHIP FUND

We are delighted to launch a Hardship Fund. This will be a new scheme to help people we support when they urgently need something like an essential piece of equipment, but are unable to afford it. Many of the people we support are on Benefits.

Last year we found ourselves in a difficult position. One person we support, on palliative care, became bedbound. As a very sociable person, this was very difficult. The reason was there was a 6 month waiting list for her to be assessed for a bespoke sling.

We felt that this was unacceptable, and made a decision to go privately. Now she is able to get back to enjoying her very social life.

This has prompted us to start a campaign to raise £2.5k for the Hardship Fund. Would you consider a donation towards this fund up?

Please:

- click on the QR code to donate or
- go to our Justgiving page or
- send us a cheque made out to 'The Fircroft Trust' to 96 Ditton Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6RH

Thank you!



Date for your diary:
AGM 17th March at 2pm

You've got a friend in me...



Research has proven that friendships are just as important as diet and exercise. At Fircroft we have seen what a difference friendships can make to the quality of lives.

At the Wellbeing Hub, we provide activities and outings where people can get to know each other and find common interests in a safe and supportive environment.

At Firs Court our houses are clustered together, allowing people plenty of opportunities to get to know and meet up with others.

One person we support moved from a single occupancy home to one of our group residences. She said: "I wish I had done this sooner - I am having so much fun." That says it all.