

RPLC

RICHMOND PARISH
LANDS CHARITY



Report on Activities

July 2009 — June 2010



Registered Charity Number: 200069

Purpose and Values

Our Purpose

Richmond Parish Lands Charity administers a royal gift made in 1786 to help the community in Richmond. Through grant-giving and social housing we seek to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged people within our benefit area which comprises postal code regions TW9, TW10 and SW14.

Our Values

We aim to: -

- Optimise the relief of need
- Consider all our stakeholders
- Be rigorous in everything we do
- Monitor effectiveness of our donations and work

We seek to be: -

- Progressive in our appraisal of and our approach to need
- Responsive to need without prejudice and with a generosity of spirit
- Open, accountable and transparent in our activity
- Compassionate in our dealings with people
- Fair, independent and balanced in our approach

By: -

- Researching and understanding the causes of deprivation in Richmond
- Providing support to the needy and deprived
- Responding promptly to voluntary organisations seeking support
- Helping individuals in our area to live independently
- Managing our social housing properties for our tenants

<p>Cover Photographs (from the left)</p> <p>Home Start - What makes me happy</p> <p>Planting the reed bed in Barnes</p> <p>1 O'clock Club</p> <p>Youth Café Bus</p> <p>Ham Under 15s Football Club</p> <p>Large Picture: 1 O'clock Club</p>



4 Hands On—Richmond Music Trust

Chairman's Statement

This year has been a particularly demanding one for Trustees in making sure that the Charity responds appropriately to the changing economic conditions.

The economic downturn has affected the Charity in two principal ways. The first and most immediate impact has been on our investment incomes which have fallen sharply over the last two years. Whilst this was mostly caused by global economic factors, Trustees reconsidered the balance of the Charity's investments and moved more of the investment portfolio into longer term, capital growth investments in order to protect better the future endowment of the Charity.

The second impact is now beginning to be felt more keenly: reduced central and local government support for the voluntary sector. This is happening whilst individuals' standards of living are under increasing pressure which both reduces the amount of private giving, and increases the needs of those amongst us who are worst off.

These pressures have caused Trustees to rethink some of the policies of the Charity. More funds are being made available for individual crisis grants so that those in the community who are in the most desperate need are better supported. Education grants are being increased to help those who are striving to improve their lives through gaining qualifications. A greater proportion of education grants are being directed to employees and volunteers of the Borough's charities and voluntary organisations. The RPLC's recent strategic focus on the causes and effects of family breakdown is being continued since the link between financial pressures and family pressures is evident. This redirecting of grants towards those charities serving the most deprived, has led Trustees to examine other grants more closely.

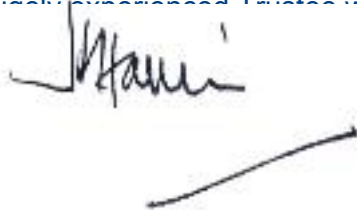
Whilst Trustees have recommitted to the continuation of the Charity's subsidised housing programme, greater priority is now given to those working in the voluntary sector, and rents will be increased so as to mitigate the substantial rental subsidy.

These careful measures have meant that RPLC has ended the year in fair shape. Our investment portfolio income, and therefore our total income, fell by over £200,000 compared to last year, but very stringent management of costs allowed grant giving to be increased by some £60,000 whilst the Charity still recorded a small increase in reserves.

I would like to pay a particular tribute to the very hard work both by Trustees and by our Director, Jonathan Monckton, and his Deputy, Barbara Gilgallon.

During this period we have been pleased to welcome Niall Cairns as a Trustee and member of the Property Committee, and thank Councillor Celia Hodges for her constructive contribution as a Trustee whilst Mayor. We welcome Councillor David Marlow as her successor.

All of us who are involved with RPLC feel a sense of privilege for the chance to be involved, and that is particularly true for me as I come to the end of my period of chairmanship. My successor, Colin Craib, is a highly experienced Trustee who will guide this great charity with wisdom



Jeff Harris
Chairman, RPLC



Director's Report

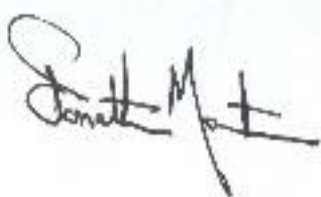
The office team at the RPLC is privileged to be in direct contact with many of the key workers and voluntary sector organisations offering support to vulnerable people in Richmond. It is clear that there remains a real need for financial assistance and practical support across all age groups in the Borough. What is striking is how each year we hear stories of individuals finding their lives turned upside down by circumstances such as domestic violence, ill health, and poverty. Often events are unforeseen, sudden and distressing leaving people uncertain as to the next steps to take. The numerous referral agencies who approach us for funding for their clients have staff who show real pastoral concern for them. In their discussions with RPLC staff as to what support is needed we get a clear idea of the dedication and understanding shown. The clarity of applications makes it much easier for us to arrive at decisions and to process payments accordingly. A new electronic application form has been prepared and this should help us to continue to provide a rapid turnaround of applications and funding.

Much time, during the last 12 months has been spent on reviewing the properties owned by the RPLC and how best to use these valuable assets in supporting people in our Benefit Area. Tenants in the RPLC's 86 charitable housing units are able to contact the office team or HML Shaw, our property agents, if they require assistance. Waiting lists are maintained and interviews are carried out to assess the needs of prospective tenants. I am particularly grateful for the assistance of Janet Kingston (trustee) and Dorothy Caygill for their valuable work in this area of our work.

Barbara Gilgallon continues to manage the education and grant giving activities at the RPLC. Support for people to attend education courses should ideally give them a greater chance to find employment and contribute to the local economy.

Significant funding was made to initiatives for people affected by family breakdown. Family breakdown affects all age groups and can result in mental health problems, poverty, abuse and unemployment. It was particularly satisfying to receive a number of deserving applications and to be able to help organisations carry out vital work.

At their June meeting Trustees approved the new 5 year strategic plan which sets out some of the priorities in the coming years. I am grateful to all the staff who have helped the RPLC respond to the changing needs of people in the benefit area and who continue to deliver an efficient service to organisations and individuals who apply for funds. With uncertain times ahead and a real sense of apprehension in the sector the office team will do their utmost to keep trustees informed of developments and facilitate a prompt and effective response to all enquiries.



Jonathan Monckton
Director, RPLC



RYP - Youth Community Bus

An Appeal

The Richmond Parish Lands Charity is well established and has long term aims. Whilst it is one of the leading local charities, we know that with greater resources we could achieve our objectives much more fully in this Borough. If you feel that you would like to make a contribution to our work and add to the endowment of King George III, whether through donation, gift aid or a legacy, we would be most grateful if you would contact Jonathan Monckton, at The Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SA.