

Chair's Report – 2020-21

This report covers the period of April 2020 until March 2021. As you can imagine, there was one big topic that has informed all of our decision-making during that time. It has been an exceptionally difficult time for everyone, especially our clients. Our volunteers, old and new, really rose to the occasion to help us support more people than ever during the pandemic. Thank you once again for this – so many of you stepped up to do more than ever and we really appreciate your efforts.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold our regular events this year, but there has still been plenty going on. Some of our key achievements include:

- The charity has been incorporated, which has changed the legal structure of RGN by becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), so that the charity can exist as its own entity. A huge thanks to Harriet Devey who did so much work to make this happen.
- We have now finalised all of RGN's policies and procedures and are in the process of making these guidelines available to both our clients and volunteers on our website. It is really important that we have these vital documents, and we thank Anne Ardis, Harriet Devey and Russell Stuart for working through them so diligently.
- In terms of events, the Virgin Money London Marathon was cancelled but our runner, Kristian, still received some generous donations. The May Fair was also cancelled but the Richmond Hill COVID Support Group (led by two volunteers, Russell Hanson and Fiona Cowan, and supported by volunteers, friends and neighbours) set up the 'Everesting Challenge' at the end May and early June. 26 people ran the equivalent height of Mount Everest and raised over £4000. This amazing achievement also really helped to raise awareness of the charity amongst a new group of local residents. Thank you again to all who took part.
- In late 2020, we welcomed a new Trustee, Russell Stuart, a current RGN volunteer who also participated in the Everesting Challenge, demonstrating much passion for our cause! Another Trustee, Michelle Foo, has stepped down but we thank her for all her hard work over the years, particularly around fundraising.
- Thank you once again to RPLC, who have generously continued to support our work during these challenging times. They play a key role in ensuring the running of RGN, whose services have been needed more than ever this past year.
- We would also like to extend our thanks to Anissa and her colleagues at Cantell & Co, a local family run estate agency, who have been so generous in their involvement once again. Thank you to our Trustee Matt Lund too, in continuing to support this relationship. Matt has also been a very useful sounding board for Anne on many occasions during the past year.
- A big thanks to Chris Holt, our Treasurer, and Clare Judge, our independent auditor, for all of their work on RGN's finances.



- Finally, a huge thank you to our Organiser, Anne, who has seen us through these difficult times with her usual enthusiasm and excellent problem-solving skills! Her work is so appreciated by both volunteers and clients, and she has given so much time and energy to deal with the unexpected so successfully.

I very much hope that next year's report will reflect more 'business as usual'! In the meantime, thank you once again to everyone who helped in any way during this unprecedented situation.

Hannah Joyce
Chair, Richmond Good Neighbours
September 2021

