

Chair's Report – 2021-22

This report covers April 2021 until March 2022. During this period we were still deep in the pandemic and dealing with the ever-changing government guidelines. It remained such a difficult time for so many people, especially our clients. Once again, our volunteers rose to the challenge to ensure everyone could be supported during that unprecedented time. Thank you to all of you for your time, it made such a difference in those dark days.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold our regular events once again, but we have tried to do as much as we can in the circumstances. Some of our key achievements include:

- The Virgin Money London Marathon finally took place in October 2021 and our runner, Kristan, did amazingly well! He finished in under 4 hours and raised a further £1759 in addition to money raised in 2020/21. Thank you Kristan and well done! The May Fair was also cancelled again so we have had to look to other sources for funding to ensure our services can continue.
- We were nominated for the Queen's Voluntary Award in early 2022, which was a wonderful recognition of the work you have all done during the pandemic. While sadly we were not selected on this occasion, it is still fantastic to have our efforts commended in this way.
- Our Treasurer and Trustee, Chris Holt stepped down in March 2022. A huge thank you to Chris for all of his work over the years and we are delighted that he has stayed on as a volunteer. Trustee Russell Stuart has kindly stepped into the role of Treasurer and is doing a wonderful job - thank you Russell!
- In January 2022, we welcomed a new Trustee, Jennie Vian, a current RGN volunteer. Jennie has taken a lead role on keeping some of our important policies up-to-date as well as focusing on vital areas such as fundraising and marketing, all while giving birth to her second daughter! Welcome Jennie!
- 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 once again been a very useful sounding board for Anne on many occasions during the past year. A big thank you to Trustee Anne Ardis too for supporting Anne when there have been any safeguarding concerns, as well as being a willing helper at the Cambrian Centre teas and a great driving shopping volunteer – thanks for being very much on the front line.
- A big thank you to Clare Judge, our independent auditor, for all of their work on RGN's finances and to Jennie Giangrande for looking after the RGN website, her work on our new-look newsletters and maintaining RGN's social media presence too.
- Finally, another big thank you to our Organiser, Anne. She runs RGN so successfully and has gone above and beyond once again this year to ensure our clients are cared for. I know we all appreciate everything she does and we would be lost without her.

I am sure we are all very happy to now be moving beyond the pandemic and hopefully next year's report will reflect that. In the meantime, thank you once again to you all for your efforts and the impact you have on our community.

Hannah Joyce
Chair, Richmond Good Neighbours
September 2022