



Chair's Report - 2023-2024

This report covers the period April 2023 through to March 2024, for which I was Chair from October 2023. We have now got back into a full roster of events and supporting our clients. Some of the many highlights and headlines over this period have included:

- The post-pandemic return of the wonderful May Fair in May 2023, which is not only a brilliant fundraising opportunity for us, over £2000, but also a chance for us to raise the profile of our work amongst the wider Richmond community. Thank you for all the donations we received from across the community, clients, family members, volunteers and local businesses for our 'Gin-Tastic' tombola stall.
- On the fundraising front, we'd also like to say a big thank you to RPLC for ongoing, core funding, and to the National Lottery community fund for their continued support. This year we also benefitted from the incredible generosity of the members of Richmond Park Golf Club having been chosen as one of their charities of year by the men's Captain, John Cahill.
- Over the period, we have also received wonderful support from so many other places too from local individuals, Julia Stead, John Cornish and those who very kindly made RGN the beneficiary of collections after the loss of a relative; as well as Richmond Team Ministries, Cantell & Co, and also being nominated for donations from our local councillors based on filming revenue. We are so appreciative for each and every one of the donations we receive!!
- August 2023 saw a Kew Gardens summer picnic to say thank you to our wonderful volunteers who, over the 12 months, completed almost 3,500 tasks to support clients across befriending, shopping, transport both medical and social, equating to some 7000 hours of volunteer time – thank you!! We also hosted volunteer drinks at The Hope as a small token of our thanks, and to help build more of a volunteer community as well.
- We welcomed a new Trustee, Richard Seabourne, who joined us in November 2023 and was keen to get involved in his new local community after moving to the area. We have already benefitted hugely from his background in both previous work and voluntary positions, so thank you Richard! We were lucky enough to



recruit him after Janet and I attended the RCVS Trustee Recruitment event, at which I also gave a talk about what being a trustee involves.

- I would also like extend a heartfelt thanks to Anne Ardis, who stepped down as a Trustee in February 2024; we are delighted she has stayed on as a volunteer. Also a huge thank you to Hannah Joyce who stepped down as a Trustee in October 2023 having also been our Chair. Thank you both for the huge contributions you made during your time as Trustees!
- A big thank you of course to all our other Trustees too - Russell, our diligent Treasurer; Janet, a keen networker and recruiter; Jennie – who has been our fundraising maestro; and Matt for all of his safeguarding insight.
- A big thank you also to Clare Judge, our independent auditor, and to Jennie Giangrande for looking after the RGN website, her work on our newsletters and maintaining RGN's social media presence too.
- Finally, a big thank you to Anne, and to Fay who also joined us over the year. Without their hard work and dedication, RGN would not be in a position to support as many clients as we are able to, through initiatives such as the introduction of our Kew shopping trips, which have been a great success; Easter and Christmas goody bags; Cambrian teas; visits to Isabella plantation, and Christmas lunches. We are hugely grateful for all the work they do to keep RGN running smoothly, efficiently and, the extra miles they both go to support the charity.

Thank you to everyone involved for the impact you have on the lives of all our clients. We greatly appreciate every one of you – volunteers, donors, fundraisers, supporters and trustees.

Louise Taggart
Chair, Richmond Good Neighbours

October 2024