



Rushey Green Time Bank

Annual Review

2020/21

Overview from Chair of Trustees - Roy Witter

What a year 2020/21 was - a year we will never forget! It brought about incredible challenges for the local community that none of us could have imagined.

It is also with great sadness to mention that our Time Bank lost some of its long-standing members during this time whom we served over the years - they will be truly missed.

Whilst we witnessed some of the worst times during this pandemic, it was also a chance for the community to come together and give their time and skills and for us to observe some of the best our community has to offer. It is remarkable what can be achieved when we unite, in this case against a common enemy - Covid-19. During this time, we used our resources to come up with new solutions. The staff team responded in an astounding way, stepping up to undertake new roles and work closely in partnership with other local charities and the local authority. This enabled the much celebrated Lewisham Covid-19 Response Hub to make a real difference for local people adversely affected by the pandemic.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the staff team who worked tirelessly to respond to the needs of the community, our funders for their flexibility and support and also to our members for your understanding and patience as our projects and activities gradually resumed.

To remember those we have lost; RGTB will continue to serve the community as we look to the future.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

9,354

People Supported Through
Covid-19 Response Hub

300+

Community Groups
Supported

£148k

Grants Given to Lewisham
Good Causes

700+

Volunteers Recruited For
Vaccination Centres

5,000+

Volunteers Registered
With Lewisham Local

669

People Attending Our Events
& Workshops

COVID-19 RESPONSE HUB

Many of our planned projects over the past year were severely disrupted by Covid.

From March 20 to October 21 the staff team were redeployed to support the Covid Response Hub, in partnership with other local charities and Lewisham Council, to develop necessary services and a single point of access for individuals needing support during the pandemic. This included setting up referral routes for people affected by Covid, cross-organisation IT systems to collect and share data across 5 organisations, repurpose our website to provide up to date information and resources and promote volunteering and local giving.

The Covid-19 Response Hub was widely praised by local organisations and the wider community, serving the needs of vulnerable people in Lewisham adversely affected by the pandemic. An evaluation by Dr Kalbir Shukra from Goldsmiths University can be viewed on Lewisham Local's and Goldsmiths' websites.

This work was intense, requiring staff to work long hours as well as at weekends and in tough conditions. There were however benefits from this work such as increasing our links with local people interested in volunteering, closer working with partner organisations, increased brand exposure, investment in digital tools and recognition by the wider community for our contribution and leadership during Covid-19.

Thank you to all partners involved in the Covid-19 Response Hub (Lewisham Council, Voluntary Services Lewisham, Age UK Lewisham & Southwark, Lewisham Foodbank, Goldsmiths Community Association, GCDA, Bellingham Community Project and others!



We can do it!

Lewisham's Voluntary Sector Conference

The Lewisham Local logo, which is a colorful circular graphic with the text 'LEWISHAM LOCAL' inside.

November 2020

11th WHAT HAS JUST HAPPENED?

12th MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

VCS INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

VCS Infrastructure Support was a key area of our work during the pandemic coordinating the Covid-19 Response Hub and developing the Covid Food and Befriending Networks. We boosted our communications, moving to weekly newsletters for groups and volunteers to share latest guidance, volunteering opportunities and support and resources. As demands on the Response Hub eased in Autumn 2020 we began to resume our VCS support programme of workshops and events.

A particular highlight of the year was our Voluntary Sector Conference '**We Can Do It**' in Nov 2020 where over 110 people from local organisations over two days reflected on the impact of the pandemic, the volunteers' mobilisation, health inequalities, and shared ideas and vision for the future ahead.

"It was a really energising conference! I enjoyed and was stimulated by all of the sessions I attended." Dr Greg Ussher, METRO Charity

We also launched a Community Directory with over 300 local groups and a well-received Community Events Calendar.

OUR IMPACT



COVID-19 RESPONSE HUB

14,058

Referrals for Food and
General Support

2,470

Local People Signing
Up To Volunteer

9,354

Adults & Children
Helped

712

Volunteered for
Response Hub

11,187

Food Packages
Delivered

VCS INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

669

People Attending
Events & Workshops

332

Organisations on
Community Directory

203

Organisations and Businesses
Exchanging Skills

162

Newsletters to Community
Groups, Volunteers
& Businesses

115

Organisations Supported
with Capacity Building



VOLUNTEERING

Many local people showed an interest in volunteering their time and skills to support local people and organisations during the first few weeks of lockdown 2020. Over 2,500 signed up to volunteer with over 5,000 local people now on our volunteer newsletter. We were able to match 712 volunteers into a Covid Response Hub role and link many others to volunteering opportunities within Lewisham's community groups through our communications.

As the Vaccine programme launched, we supported Lewisham's vaccine centres in January 2021 recruiting volunteers for marshalling, stewarding and volunteer vaccinators. Another incredible community response saw 700+ volunteers sign up to support within one week.

Other highlights of the year included the annual Mayor's Awards for Voluntary Contribution, in partnership with Lewisham Council and Lewisham Local Collaborative, focusing on the contribution of many during the pandemic. We organised videos of 11 projects and over 200 individuals received awards. We also ran online volunteer and Trustee recruitment fairs to support local community groups with one in partnership with Goldsmiths University.

"My partner and I volunteered at the Covid vaccination clinics at the Jenner medical practice. We found the opportunity via an email from Lewisham Local. We have made many new friends and contacts as a result, giving us immense satisfaction and I have got to practise my French and Spanish too!"

Jeremy, Time Bank Member

"We simply couldn't do it without the volunteers. Big thanks to the team at Lewisham Local!"

Damian Brady, Lewisham PCN Partnership.

OUR IMPACT

6,595

Volunteer Hours Across
Our Projects

712

Volunteers Supporting
Covid Response Hub

5,000+

Signed Up To Volunteer
Newsletter

700+

Volunteers Recruited
Supporting Vaccinations



LEWISHAM COVID FOOD NETWORK

Lewisham Covid Food Network was formed out of a meeting in March 2020, convened by Lewisham Local to bring Lewisham's foodbanks and food projects to see how we could work together to provide food to vulnerable people during Covid-19. The network has grown to 40+ food projects and is a key asset in the response to tackling food insecurity in Lewisham.

Highlights that have come out of this network include:

- Mapping Food Provision in the Community - printed and digital listings of emergency food provision. Collaborations with Lewisham Pensioners' Forum and Positive Ageing Council.
- Lewisham Packed Lunch Appeal - 2,000 hampers for families on free school meals for October 2020 half-term, in partnership with Mayoresses of Lewisham and Lewisham Homes. 121 volunteers were recruited helping at 6 hubs making 5,106 packed lunches for 12 schools.
- Surplus Food Hub - In partnership with the Greenwich Co-Operative Development Agency (GCDA) and Phoenix Community Housing with food from The Felix Project (formerly Fareshare) and delivery support from Phoenix Repairs Service (PRS). 80+ tonnes of surplus food, 13 community food projects supported, reaching over 1,400 households a week.
- Lewisham's Food Transition Plan - Co-written with partners supporting the transition out of lockdown. Identified as good practice by Dame Louise Casey and recognised for leadership on emergency response around food planning in a report by Sustain.
- Distributed 16 small grants for community food projects in Lewisham to support their continued response to food insecurity since the start of the pandemic.

Participants said:

"Thanks for your continued engagement week after week. It feels so special to be part of the Food Network and it wouldn't be possible without everyone joining forces and sharing skills and experiences"
Will Cooper, Lewisham Homes

"This network has been fantastic. We can pick up surplus food, get advice and everyone is so friendly!" Cllr Kim Powell - Catford Soup Kitchen

"It's great to see how you are all working together. The joined up thinking is really impressive!" Melanie Lee, Christain's Against Poverty



LEWISHAM LOCAL GIVING



The organisation's work has increasingly become known under the brand of Lewisham Local and the response to the crisis encouraged local giving of time, skills and money. This year we became a small grants funder, distributing over £148k to 54 local projects. We worked with regional funders London Catalyst and Merchant Taylors' Company to manage and distribute small grant funds to tackle issues such as poverty, emergency food aid and Covid-19 as well as fund innovative new community projects through Lewisham Launchpad, initial funding from Lewisham Council. Examples of funded projects include a Digital Devices Lending Library, Refugee Café to boost employment skills and an online mental health meetup for men.

A part of our role this year was running campaigns to raise awareness and create opportunities to give. Some of our campaigns this year included International Women's Day and a Christmas Campaign. Another highlight was working closely with the developer Lendlease to raise and distribute £10k of small grants to fund the Familia Project, a BAME-led partnership delivering services to BAME residents across the borough hardest hit by Covid-19.

Despite this success, local businesses being closed meant progress on developing local giving projects was affected, such as Lewisham Local Card, Community Toilets, Refill, Collaborative Partnerships Network. We did however launch a paid for option of Lewisham Local Card, to incentivise more local people to give their money towards good causes. We hope to build on this idea and launch a small grants fund in the future using the proceeds.

We are part of London's Giving, a network of 'place-based giving' initiatives coordinated through London Funders and work with Lewisham Local Collaborative, a cross-sector group of local representatives promoting local giving in Lewisham.

Local giving is a key strategic area for the charity moving forwards as we seek to use our place-based giving vision of encouraging all in the community to give their time, skills and money to support good causes in Lewisham.



OUR IMPACT

£148k

Given In Small
Grants Distributed

54

Organisations Supported
With Grants

£400k

Funding Requested

500+

Business
Discounts

72

Community
Toilets



TIME BANK

RUSHEY GREEN TIME BANK

Rushey Green Time Bank was one of our projects most affected by Covid with in-person activities and programmes suspended until restrictions eased due to many of our Members being older and vulnerable and staff redeployment to the Response Hub. In normal times the Time Bank gets ideas from its members and co-produces the work to instigate the activities and projects.

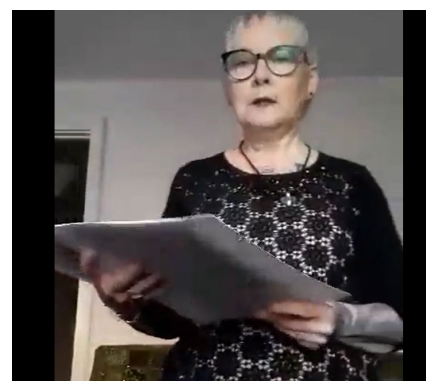
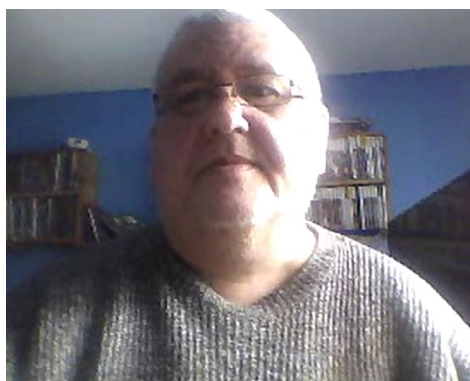
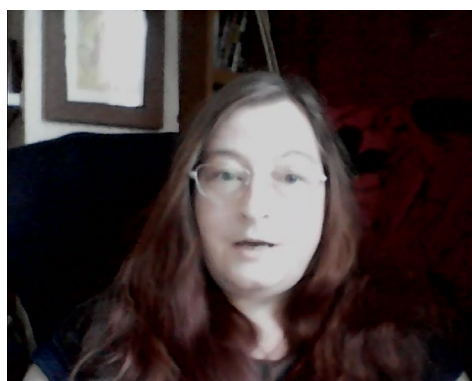
Despite this pause in activities, Members were matched to each other to act as phone buddies, checking in on each other and delivering creative activity packs to those having to isolate at home. The Newsletter moved to a weekly email, with Members contributing in new ways such as 'Jeremy's Cultural Corner', 'Fix it with Joe' videos and tips on lockdown DIY interviews with Time Bank Members, creative submissions of poems. A highlight was an unforgettable Zoom Showcase with music, poetry and circus skills. Time Bank members also helped to support other local causes such as volunteering for the Response Hub, vaccination centres and Lewisham Donation Hub.

The Time Bank was impacted by the loss of five Members who sadly passed away during the pandemic: Samuel Shodimu, Phyllis Street, Nick Tsiricos, Michael Williams, and Jim Greeves. Restrictions have prevented a collective memorial for these Members however a date has been set for January 2022.

Members said:

"After Time Bank activities had to be put on hold I offered to volunteer for Blind Aid and Voluntary Services Lewisham as a phone befriender calling 17 people. It helped me as well as others through the lockdowns and it felt good to give something back." **Patrick, Time Bank Member**

"Thank you so much for arranging our Tea and Chat afternoons, I know there was a lot to consider and it was just perfect. I feel years younger and as if a burden has been taken from my shoulders." **Time Bank Member**



FOODCYCLE LEWISHAM



FoodCycle Lewisham, usually meets Saturdays for a three-course vegetarian community meal attended by 40-50 people every week. At the start of the pandemic the service had to be suspended for two months. Guests were connected to support needed, while the project was remodelled into a home delivery service. This took a huge amount of planning, and some amazing support from Oxo Tower Restaurant who cooked the food while the volunteers organised delivery. Volunteers continued to pick up free food that could be shared and this was distributed by our partner Catford Fridge.

A Cook & Collect takeaway service was launched in September 2020 from Lewisham Irish Community Centre, socially distanced and additional groceries provided by Catford Fridge. A huge thanks goes to our volunteers who worked tirelessly to relaunch the service. Thanks to the national FoodCycle charity also for their support and resources during this time. Thank you to the local businesses and groups supporting us with surplus food donations including Found Hope Hither Green, the Self-Managed Allotment Holders, Tesco Superstore, Sainsbury's, Aldi Catford and to Prendergast Ladywell School for their fundraising and support as part of Envision's Community Apprentice programme.

Our Impact

4,393

Meals Provided

1,845kg

Surplus Food Saved

1,168

Guests Served

Guests' feedback

"We appreciate the three-course delivery service that you provide" FoodCycle Guest

"This is the first time I've not had to cook for myself since March" FoodCycle Guest





WILD CAT WILDERNESS

The Wild Cat Wilderness has continued to thrive despite challenges during Covid. Events and activities sometimes changed or cancelled at short notice to keep up with the latest guidelines but having an outdoor space has meant unique and creative responses to local needs. One example is hosting a tree planting memorial for a group not able to attend a funeral due to restrictions. Our regular volunteers have continued to maintain the site throughout this period for the benefit of all and we were able to creatively connect the local community with the site using our local contacts including schools, newsletters, YouTube videos, social media and online support.

The site has continued to expand and is used 5 days a week for volunteering, forest schools and group activities. The food growing area has expanded, including a soft fruit bed, herb garden and more trees added to the orchard. Creating a space for a new outdoor classroom was a particular highlight, allowing more groups to use the site during bad weather. Outdoor play and connecting with nature has been valuable to the 240 children (ages 3-11) who use the site each week from 5 local schools. Referrals and partnership work with mental health and social prescribing services have increased as well as the site being used by other community groups.

Covid has increased demand for outdoor volunteering opportunities, with volunteers clearing new areas and removing skips of rubbish to make the site more accessible. Special thanks to our regular volunteers and their families as well as Lewisham Good Gym who have been invaluable in helping maintain and improve the site.

"I want to express my gratitude for the outstanding work you have done in Lewisham during this very difficult period. You have shown unwavering commitment to the Wild Cat Wilderness and have produced imaginative solutions that have inspired others to continue learning about gardening and nature conservation - something that is so important at this time." Sir Steve Bullock, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Lewisham

Participants said:

"Working from home, I value weekly volunteering at Wild Cat Wilderness as I'm part of a friendly group; getting outside, learning new skills and connecting with nature in Catford!" Vivien, Volunteer

"Today I went to the Wild Cat Wilderness for the first time ever and I think it might be the most magical place in the whole of London" Visitor on Twitter

"Thanks for a fabulous morning at Wild Cat Wilderness! The children loved exploring the wilderness, trying all of the different herbs and making their campfire pizzas!" Free to be Kids

Our Impact

2,000+
Hours Volunteering

250+
Visitor & Volunteer Sessions

240
Children Visiting
Per Week

THE FUTURE

The next year will continue to present challenges as we continue to adapt activities around Covid and support the local community in the pandemic recovery. Future cuts are likely from central and local government so fundraising will be an important focus for the organisation. We will continue to develop our current projects and develop new approaches to be relevant and meet existing and emerging needs and aspirations in the community.

Our work in the Covid Response Hub used the banner of 'Lewisham Local' and the charity has been increasingly recognised under this name in the local community. The charity has adopted Lewisham Local as its working name moving forwards.

We are excited about the future such as being the Volunteering Partner for Borough of Culture 2022 and our Bank of Things project in partnership with Lewisham Young Mayor & Young Advisers. We will build on our work with Food Projects and further establish ourselves as an agency to promote and generate local giving of time, skills and money to support local good causes through campaigns and small grant funding.

We will continue to build on our strengths to be a positive influence to help local people and organisations to connect, collaborate and give to address local issues in Lewisham and make a difference.

THANK YOU PHILIPPE!

We would like to convey our sincere gratitude to our CEO Philippe Granger for his outstanding leadership of the charity over the last 15 years. Philippe's extraordinary leadership enabled much of the achievements during this extremely challenging year, particularly partnerships with other organisations. He will be stepping down as CEO during the next financial year. We will miss him dearly and wish him well for his future endeavours!



FINANCE

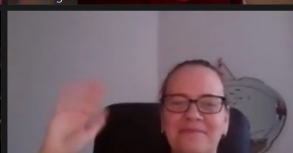
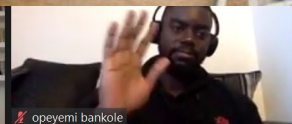
Our trading figures for 2020/21 show an income of £757,730 and a expenditure of £613,631

Net assets at 31/03/21 were £280,865 made up of £75,159 restricted funds and £205,706 unrestricted.

Full accounts are included in our Annual Report, submitted to Companies House and the Charity Commission. They are also posted on our website and copies are available on request.

Principal funding sources

The Trustees, staff and members of Rushey Green Time Bank are grateful for the financial support funders have kindly provided, without whom the charity would not be as successful. Our principal funders are: London Borough of Lewisham, The City Bridge Trust, The Merchant Taylors' Company, and smaller funding streams from, Lendlease, Clarion Housing, Prudential, London Catalyst, Age UK Lewisham & Southwark, Lewisham Foodbank and Co-operative Local Community Fund.



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