



ANNUAL REVIEW

2021/22





OVERVIEW FROM THE CHAIR ROY WITTER

Looking back, 2021/22 was a year full of change for the charity. We continued to adapt to changing Covid-19 circumstances whereby, we restarted many of our projects and activities around the guidance and restrictions. We attracted new funding and developed innovative new projects that are making a tremendous difference in lives in Lewisham.

We also said farewell to Philippe Granger, our long-standing CEO of 15 years who has moved on to pastures new.

The Trustees and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Philippe for his outstanding leadership and service over the years – he is truly missed.

Following Philippe's departure, we were pleased to promote our current Director, Sam Hawksley to the role of Interim CEO. With Sam's guidance and vision, our staff team has continued to grow over the last year.

We have worked collaboratively as a Staff and Trustee team to update our Vision, Mission and Values and organise our programme of work into key themes. The charity also changed its name to Lewisham Local – this better reflects how the organisation is largely known and recognised in the community and its increasing programme of work across the whole borough.

I would like to thank the incredible staff team for continuing to go above and beyond to make our work a success, our funders for their support, our volunteers and members of our projects for their commitment as well as my fellow Trustees whose consistent support and unwavering dedication for the charity is often hidden behind the scenes. I want to express my profound thanks and gratitude to every one of you who has always shown such commitment and dedication.

The year ahead presents challenges as we see increasing economic uncertainty for many and grant funding pressures for some of our projects. We will continue to adapt our delivery, work collaboratively with our partners and make the most of new opportunities to support our local community that needs our help more than ever at this time.



OUR VISION

A connected Lewisham community that gives, shares and works together to build happier, healthier communities.

OUR MISSION

- Connect and collaborate with individuals, community groups, businesses and statutory organisations
- Encourage all to give and share what they can; time, skills, expertise, knowledge, resources and money
- Respond to needs and opportunities through events, projects and communications
- Raise awareness of existing and emerging community needs
- Promote and strengthen Lewisham's voluntary and community groups
- Promote asset-based community development, making the most of what we already have in Lewisham
- Increase the impact and sustainability of Lewisham Local

OUR VALUES

- Everyone in the community is an asset and able to contribute, give and share
- We are inclusive, welcoming and open to all
- We are collaborative and committed to working together with a positive attitude
- We are dynamic and responsive to Lewisham's communities' needs and willing to innovate
- We value the diversity of Lewisham's communities and are committed to proactively representing Lewisham's diversity in our Staff, Trustees and projects

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

6,500

People Receiving our
Newsletters



5,600+

Volunteer Hours



360

Community Groups
Supported



750

People Attending
Workshops



£141k

Grants Distributed



148,000+

Visitors to our Website



8,147

FoodCycle meals



LOCAL GIVING

Encouraging and growing local giving of time, skills and money is a key element of the charity's existing work and future development. Bringing together partners from the voluntary, public and business sectors continues to be a core element of our work alongside building a dynamic network of local people that are willing to give towards existing and emerging community needs.

The charity continues to work with strategic collaborators both at a regional level through London Funders' London's Giving programme and locally including Lewisham Council, Goldsmiths University of London, Southeast London Chamber of Commerce, Deptford Challenge Trust and Lewisham Education Arts Network through the Lewisham Local Collaborative. Research was undertaken with local partners to develop a local funders network to convene grant giving trusts and organisations in Lewisham with the first meeting due to be held in June 2022.

A key strategy is developing projects that encourage Local Giving, including:

LEWISHAM LOCAL CARD



A discount card in local businesses which is freely given to local volunteers and can be purchased by those wanting to contribute in that way. The card encourages support for local businesses, connects the community and thanks volunteers for their contribution. Over 500 businesses give discounts and in 2021/22 we distributed 687 cards, an increase of 150% from the previous year. The card has been promoted through targeted campaigns such as a Valentine's Day, wellbeing and fitness, queer-led businesses for Pride month and Christmas. Printed advertisements have also been featured in the Lewisham Ledger as part of a 'Support your local high street campaign', funded by Lewisham Council.



LEWISHAM COMMUNITY TOILETS

A network of 65+ establishments allowing free access to their toilet facilities for members of the public following the closures of public toilets.



REFILL LEWISHAM

A network of local businesses offering free water refills to the public to help reduce single-use plastic waste.



TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

Businesses offering free skills-sharing workshops to upskill local charities and other businesses as a way of giving to the community

LEWISHAM COMMUNITY LOTTERY



After careful planning and consultation, Lewisham Local launched the Lewisham Community Lottery in November 2022 as a fundraising tool to support local good causes. The lottery has been well received locally, with 67 local causes signed up by the end of March 2022, and 561 tickets sold. So far, the lottery has generated £8,155.80 in funds, with almost £7,000 for local good causes.

SMALL GRANTS GIVING

The charity has continued to grow its role distributing small grants to other community groups in Lewisham. It has continued raising its funds both through public fundraising campaigns for emerging needs and acting as a giving intermediary for local strategic partners. Lewisham Local's knowledge of community needs and unique connections with community groups have enabled us to develop this work and direct resources to community needs in an agile and responsive way. This year Lewisham Local has distributed £141,657.60 to 83 different projects over eight different funding programmes. Programmes include 'Fresh and Cultural Foods for Food Banks', Infection Control Discretionary Fund and Lewisham Council Hardship Grants.

LOCAL GIVING IMPACT

£141k

Grants Distributed

500+

Businesses

£8k+

Raised through Lewisham
Community Lottery

83

Organisations Supported with
Grants

68

Community Toilets

VOLUNTARY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The charity continued its work as the key infrastructure organisation in Lewisham supporting and strengthening local community groups in Lewisham through: events, networks, workshops, 1-1 support, fundraising. Key themes the work focused on this year were fundraising, collaboration, Trustee development, Covid recovery and supporting groups to restart and refocus their work to support emerging post-pandemic needs.

Some of the highlights and achievements from this year include:

- **Friday Fundraising Club** – a weekly session of peer learning, sharing fundraising tips, 'meet the funder' and building collective fundraising confidence through collaborative grant writing
- **Pathways to Partnership** – a monthly session to improve awareness of collaboration and networking to building partnerships for upcoming fundraising opportunities
- **Trustee Development Network** – a monthly session to support groups overcoming governance obstacles and using peer sharing of governance skills and knowledge

The core funding from Lewisham Council's Main Grants for voluntary sector infrastructure support was changed at the end of March 2022 from a core grant to funding for projects. The charity was successful in applying for some of these projects and therefore began to rework our core voluntary sector development work to adapt to this funding. From April 2022 the voluntary sector development projects we will deliver will include:

- **BAME Infrastructure Support** – a partnership project with Kinaraa CIC to strengthen and support BAME-led community organisations
- **Digital Access for All** – a partnership project with Catbytes CIC to develop a programme of digital inclusion support across Lewisham
- **Community Directory** – maintain and update a directory of community organisations and services available in Lewisham
- **Fundraising Development** – support for equalities focused groups to increase their grant fundraising opportunities through signposting, application reviewing and writing

"Your website has very informative pages which I share widely to four Job Centres covering the Lewisham postcode area."

- Forest Hill, JobCentre Plus

"Without the Friday Fundraising zooms, we would not have the knowledge required to be able to apply for anything and for this we are very grateful for the time that was given pointing us in the right direction and pointing out the facts that are required."

- Evelyn Community Store

VOLUNTARY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT GIVING IMPACT

73

Workshops for Groups

90

Individual Capacity Building Sessions

740

Attendees at Workshops

360

Organisations Listed on Community Directory

VOLUNTEERING, HEALTH & WELLBEING

VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

- **London Borough of Culture (LBoC)** – In 2022 Lewisham became the Mayor of London's Borough of Culture with the charity acting as the Volunteering Partner to engage local people to become trained and equipped to develop their own cultural exchange events and volunteer at wider LBoC events.
- **Covid Vaccinators** – The charity was once again called on by Lewisham's Primary Care Networks and Pharmacies to recruit and place over 85 volunteers over the Christmas and New Year period to support the vaccination efforts, which we successfully did.
- **Mayor's Awards for Volunteering** – Working in partnership with Lewisham Council to recognise the outstanding contribution of volunteers in the community. Due to Covid restrictions videos were once again made to celebrate the voluntary contribution of many in the community.



TIMEBANK

Timebank continued its relaunching of activities that were largely on pause during Covid lockdowns. A new Coordinator was recruited in Summer 2021 to reconnect with Members and support restarting activities where safe to do so. Members initially instigated "Meet up in the Park" in that provided much needed opportunity for Members to get together again outside. Gradually longstanding groups such as 'Tea & Chat' were able to meet again initially outside and eventually inside in the colder weather socially distanced. Some groups had to fluctuate through lockdown guidance but activities remained largely open providing a much needed opportunity to connect after months of isolation.

Other groups restarting included members Action Group, Coffee Club and Boardgames and Timebank Choir. Membership inevitably dropped during Covid through some sadly passing away and others moving to new locations or changing circumstances. Highlights included an outdoor Christmas get together, an event during Black History Month on black servicemen and women in the great wars, our Valentine event sharing poetry and music over Zoom and a Bring and Fix event in April 2022.

The current membership stands at around 100 active Members. March 2022 marked the end of the Timebank's long funding relationship with Lewisham Council with the project sadly not receiving funding from the Council's Main Grants fund. The charity is committed to continuing this long running project work that supports isolated and vulnerable in the community, and is seeking funds that would enable it to do so.



"Thank you for a joyous Timebank return. It was a sign of normality to sit in my chair surrounded by valued crafting friends."
- Timebank Member



WILD CAT WILDERNESS

Despite our community green space still experiencing some Covid limitations the work continued to expand, maintain and improve the site with our volunteers over two weekly sessions, averaging about 150 volunteer hours per month. The site was fully used at least 5 days a week for volunteering, forest schools and by other local groups for their own activities. The Wilderness was used every week by up to 300 children. This included the introduction of a fortnightly forest school and a partnership with a group called the Mud Club, offering free places to families on low incomes.

Other highlights included new partnerships with organisations using the site for the first time including a theatre production! We continued to benefit the wider community through outreach including replanning a wildlife garden at Torridon School and a food growing talk at St Peter's social supermarket.

A full programme of events and activities at weekends and during school holiday periods included pumpkin fun day, Urban Harvest Festival, eco-printing using our dye garden plants, bushcraft, foraging walk, and Christmas wreath making. Building on the success of our You Tube videos we also released two new storytelling videos for Windrush day.

A key highlight was the Wild Wonder Wall project to redecorate the wall of the outdoor classroom. The local community and Lewisham school pupils submitted pictures of natural subjects and ran a series of events over the summer to paint the wall using the winning designs, and working with our freelance artist. The wall was unveiled at the Urban Harvest Festival and was a success engaging new people with nature and encouraging new site visitors.



"Forest School this year has given the Year 6's a fantastic opportunity to explore the world beyond the classroom. It has been a challenging couple of years where these opportunities have often been missed. Forest School provides an escape, where they can run, laugh and be with nature. It is always a highlight of their week and will be memories for them for years to come."

- Year 6 Teacher

"I love Forest School. It's a place where I feel safe and happy. Since we are leaving school soon, it's a great opportunity to spend time together before we go our separate ways. Forest School is a place where all our worries and anxieties melt away. I will always remember the times we had at Forest School. Thank you to the people who helped make Forest School a place for us to remember."

- Year 6 Pupil

BANK OF THINGS

Bank of Things is a partnership project with Lewisham Council's Young Mayor's & Young Advisers, based on the model of a food bank to support young people by providing them with everyday hygiene and school essentials. The pilot project was launched with funding from The Young Mayor's budget and is fundraising from the wider community as well as trusts and foundations.



The charity was kindly donated Unit 19 in Lewisham Shopping Centre by the owner, Landsec, to trial the project for one year. A team of young and corporate volunteers and staff renovated the unit between November and January and the unit was officially launched to the public in February 2022.

Bank of Things works with a range of community partners who refer young people for support including food banks, youth services, faith groups and charities. The project is growing in terms of young people receiving support as well as referral partners, local schools and corporate partnerships with local branches of corporate businesses. Bank of Things will continue to promote its offer to the wider community and develop and trial new initiatives to provide even more impact for young people in need.



Volunteering, Health & Wellbeing Impact

5,500+

Individuals Receiving
Newsletter

5,600+

Project Volunteer Hours

100

Timebank Members

300

Children Using Wild Cat
Each Week

GOOD FOOD

COVID FOOD NETWORK

Formed during Covid-19, Lewisham Local continued to support and develop a network of community food giving projects including: 52 meetings over the year attended by 40 different food partners, e-bulletins and an active Whatsapp group to share surplus food and resources.

Lewisham Local partnered with Independent Food Aid Network to develop a 'Worrying About Money?' 'cash-first' leaflet for Lewisham to direct people to financial advice and support in the borough. 6,000 leaflets were distributed through 18 community partners with an additional online form.

An Appreciative Inquiry into 'What food support at its best looks like in Lewisham' was conducted partnering with six local food projects to understand what made a difference to users of local food aid providers through listening to and elevating the voices of people using these services who are often seldom heard. Fourteen researchers captured stories and experiences from 36 individuals.

The report including key themes and recommendations was published on Lewisham Local's website. Thank you to all the groups and individuals who contributed to this inquiry: Action For Refugees In Lewisham, Grove Park Emergency Food Project and the Lewington Community Food Project, Legendary Community Club, Lewisham Food Bank, Kings Church London- The Feast, Rastafari Movement UK, St Peter's Brockley Food Bank.

Thank you to the London Community Response Fund, City Bridge Trust and Lewisham Council for their financial support which enabled this work to take place.

"Thank you very much for the really helpful information you provided via this route - it made a big difference and helped us line up at least a couple of grants we would have missed out on otherwise."
- Rob, Sandhurst Primary School PTA Foodbank, December 2021



FOODCYCLE LEWISHAM

FoodCycle Lewisham, a project managed by the charity, provides a community meal at the Lewisham Irish Community Centre. The project is powered by volunteers, and exists to reduce food poverty, food waste and loneliness. It operates as a franchise of FoodCycle, the national charity that runs over 40 vegetarian community meals throughout the country using surplus food.

The project welcomed back guests to a sit-down meal in September 2021 having provided takeaway meals during the pandemic. Since re-opening, they have seen an increase in the number of children coming to the Project.

The project continues a fruitful partnership with Catford Fridge who provide a bag of staple goods and surplus food items to guests at the end of the meal, ensuring that absolutely nothing goes to waste. Thanks also goes to Good Hope in Hither Green, Tesco Superstore in Lewisham, Aldi in Catford and The Felix Project.

This year FoodCycle Lewisham has saved 3422kgs of food from going to waste, served 1822 guests, provided 8147 meals, and volunteers gave 1395 hours of their time.

"The atmosphere is very sociable"
- Guest reported in a recent survey

"FoodCycle has proved to be very valuable to a lot of people. You can make new friends and have someone to talk to. It helps relieve loneliness. The standard of food provided is really good and proves that you can make a lot from a little."
- FoodCycle Guest



Good Food Impact

40

Food Groups Supported

1,822

FoodCycle Guests

3,422kgs

Food Saved from Waste

8,147

FoodCycle Meals Provided

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our trading figures for 2021/22 show an income of £762,356 and a expenditure of £600,925. Net assets at 31/03/22 were £442,296 made up of £101,395 restricted funds and £340,901 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.

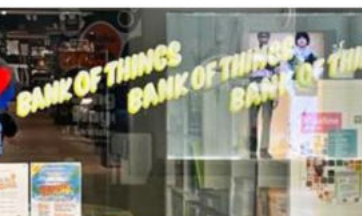
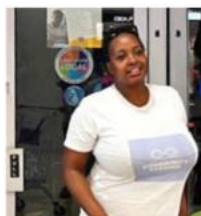
PRINCIPAL FUNDING SOURCES

The charity is grateful for the financial support funders have kindly provided, without whom the charity would not be as successful. The principal funders were The London Borough of Lewisham, The City Bridge Trust.

Other smaller funding streams came from The Merchant Taylors Company, London Catalyst, Lendlease, Small Charity Coalition, 1in4, Lewisham Homes, Phoenix Community Housing, Goldsmiths University of London, EY Foundation, Lewisham Foodbank, Social Bite and local businesses: Masher Bros, Catford Mews Comedy Club, Ordrs.

Lewisham Local would like to thank members of the community that also gave generously to the organisation and its causes through community fundraising appeals and projects.







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