

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Rugby Portobello Trust is part
of the P3 Charity Group



Overview

The Rugby Portobello Trust (RPT) has been supporting the North Kensington Community since 1884. Through a diverse range of programmes and activities, we give children and young people the best possible start in life by introducing them to new experiences and opportunities, helping them to reach their potential and lead lives free from crime and the effects of deprivation.

2020 has been an unprecedented year. Like many charities and community-based organisations, RPT closed its building in March. Throughout the year, we continuously adapted and changed our offer to the North Kensington community to respond to changing restrictions and needs arising from the pandemic. While some activities were restricted or stopped completely such as sport, residential and drop-in clubs, others were created and expanded; online tutoring, food deliveries, laptop distribution, one-to-one support and partnerships. Prior to the pandemic and during periods of relaxed restrictions, RPT's services were delivered face-to-face albeit with restricted numbers—with our clubs, football academy, creative arts programme and mental wellbeing programmes supporting **1,401 children, young people and mums** across the year.

Despite these challenges, we were delighted to be awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) in recognition of the outstanding commitment and dedication of our volunteers. Their support in 2020 alone was astounding, with **209 volunteers** delivering an incredible **3,633 hours of support to the community**, a large proportion of which was in supporting children with their education.

Our programme costs reduced to £806,018 as some activities had to be suspended. RPT employ a small FTE staff team, some of whom were not able to work and were furloughed. All fundraising events were moved online, but despite this, RPT is indebted to the continued support of local supporters, small business sponsors and family trusts and foundations who funded our work.

Our Services

Homework Club



In 2020 our Homework Club underwent a complete shift from face-to-face delivery of homework support to online tutoring. With the dedication and tenacity of the staff team, the transformation started immediately under lockdown, with delivery from April continuing through the school holidays. RPT's supporters generously donated towards the purchase of over 50 laptops for families who needed them.

We tutored both one-to-one and with small groups, in English, Maths and Verbal and non-Verbal Reasoning, using academic platforms. The importance and impact of this programme cannot be underestimated as the reality of the educational attainment gap between the state

and private sector began to emerge. The online academic programmes have enabled RPT to create bespoke learning pathways and to chart and measure individual and collective progress for the first time (**see the case study on p. 5**).

In addition, Homework Club has also provided an online kids club, online parents group and other sessions including arts and crafts, board games, dance and fitness.

Last year, Homework Club worked with **120 children who engaged with this service 3,079 times, over 93 days of sessions, supported by two paid members of staff and 168 volunteers.** The project was largely funded by The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, along with generous donations from supporters.

From a parent of an RPT student:

“You’ve been a lifeline during tough times, never abandoning your members and parents. Your staff and volunteers put in the hours to provide a top-class service. My child adores her teachers and lessons and would prefer full-time Homework Club over full-time school any day!”





Case Study

Homework Club: Year 5

All of the year 5s have made considerable progress over the past few months— especially Asad—he has particularly grown in both character and academic attainment. He was taken out of school several years ago and has been living abroad, arriving back in the UK just as lockdown began. Accessing online support has helped him re-integrate into our schools system and his progress has been so impressive.

When we first began Asad was fairly quiet, he lacked confidence and really struggled with most of the Maths sessions as well as English. He received low scores on the Atom platform and took far longer to go through worked examples than his peers.

However, over the past few months, Asad has progressed enormously in terms of his confidence. Now he always puts his hand up when questions are posed to the group as a whole, he's more willing to talk through examples and show his thought process, laughing off errors and recognising why he got certain elements wrong, rather than just staying silent and not attempting to answer questions as he once did.

His Atom scores have improved greatly; he is now taking on board my feedback to go slowly and get five questions right rather than rush through 20 and only get a few correct. There are still some topics which Asad finds challenging and would benefit from a bit of individual tutoring, however, this is to be expected given his disrupted schooling. Asad is always one of the first to log on at the start of the session; his dedication to Homework Club is clear and I hope that his Atom scores continue to reflect how much he's achieved in terms of confidence and engagement.

RPT are now able to track childrens academic progress in granular detail. For Asad in the 12 week Autumn term alone, we know that in English he improved by 100% and in Maths he improved by 60%. The detail we have on his attainment means we can give a tailored approach to helping him address the specific areas identified in his Maths.

**Written January 2021
by RPT Volunteer Hannah**

Our Services

Junior Club

Junior Club, which is entirely funded through donations from the local community, runs parallel to our Homework Club, offering arts, music, sport and team games to provide a ‘whole child’ approach in getting to know and fostering the best outcomes for every child.

Between January 2020 and March 2020, we had **1,274 individual attendances** at Junior Club activities and ended the period with **353 registered members**. We were able to deliver **26 sessions** which saw an average of **36 children attending** each weekly session.

From April 2020 when our service closed, all face-to-face sessions, residentials and trips had to be suspended.

Our team got in touch with all of the families we knew to be most vulnerable and from April until August 2020 we created **19 food parcels**



for families which were delivered weekly and included pantry, long-life products as well as fresh vegetables and dairy products.

Children from our Junior Club have been able to engage in our Homework Club online activities three days per week, and accessed a range of other summer holiday programmes including creative writing, film-making and music courses.

Junior Club children participated in a creative writing competition with the support and advice of volunteers who had professional links with publishing and writing. This culminated in a book of short stories, ‘Exploding Voices’ produced together with the Youth Club and published in November.





Our Services

Youth Club

Following the closure of the RPT building in March, our Youth Club team immediately adapted, shifting to online group wellbeing sessions delivering cooking, dance and conversations as well as one-to-one support and mentoring over the phone or out in the community.

Between July and October we restarted face-to-face delivery at our youth club two nights a week, keeping people safe and reducing the risk of young people becoming victims or perpetrators of crime. We offered music and lyric-writing sessions and mentoring in small groups, focusing on self-reflection and awareness, exploring values and beliefs, recognising emotions, goal-setting and empathy.

We were lucky to be able to take the young people on two visits to the National Theatre in February and October to see Death of England. Through our Amplify Creative arts programme we delivered a range of creative programmes for young people over the summer holidays - see our Amplify section on p9 for more details.

Over October half-term we launched a film project called Future Generation Voices. Young people worked with a photographer, film producer and film director to make their own films about their feelings and experience of lockdown. The launch of the film is due in 2021.

In 2020 our Youth Club supported 187 young people, 169 of them aged 13 to 19 and 18 of them aged 20+. Together these young people engaged with Youth Club either in the building or through online activities 520 times and 33 sessions were delivered.



Project Athena

Athena is RPT's girl-only youth club, established in 2018 to give young women and girls a safe space to explore issues that face women, such as the 'identity' of women, friendships, relationships and consent. This year RPT joined in partnership with three other youth service providers forming the North Kensington Youth Collective, delivering sessions at the Lancaster Hub.

Funded by RBKC, the aim of this partnership is to help reduce postcode territoriality in W10/W11 and also reduce duplication between our services. RPT has been delivering weekly Athena sessions since the autumn, restrictions permitting, with small groups of girls undertaking a range of activities around building self-esteem, exploring identity and coping with isolation during lockdown.

Man Cave & Boy Cave

Man Cave and Boy Cave were launched in 2019 and are now being delivered through one-to-one and group sessions in primary and secondary schools supported by West London Zone.

The programme works with boys and young men, giving them a forum to discuss and explore a range of issues and subjects that affect them: relationships, consent, conflict and what it means to be a man. Man Cave moved online this year, supporting boys and young men who were experiencing particular challenges during lockdown.



Our Services

Magic Mums

Adapting throughout lockdown, this programme delivered **20 online sessions engaging with 57 mums, 9 online mindfulness sessions with 30 mums and 27 face-to-face sessions involving 158 mums and 70 children.**

Mums were supported at this difficult time with **127 calls to 32 of the mums, 79 meetings to give one-to-one support and the facilitation of 'support bubbles'** where staff setup and joined meetings between the mums outdoors, to help build mutual support and companionship.

As one Mum said:

“For me, Magic Mums has always been a loving and warm place, where I have learnt so many skills and techniques for the daily challenges of being a mum. At times when I have been going out and about with my young children, Magic Mums has been the safe place for my children and me. Having this support network given me the courage and confidence to get on with life as a relatively new mother.”

Magic Mums works alongside mums with pre-school children from over **19 different countries**, supporting them with parenting and a long-term holistic approach which builds confidence, friendship and support from our team of four staff and eight volunteers. Our hot shared meals and baby equipment lending services were curtailed by the restrictions of lockdown, but remain a central part of our offer to families.



Football Academy

Our Football Academy exists to introduce children to organised sport. We work to build great football skills and at the same time encourage the boys to learn about teamwork and other social skills which have a huge impact on their lives. Many of the players go on to be signed by professional clubs.

This was a difficult year for the Academy, losing seven months of football to the disappointment of coaches, parents and especially the children who play for RPT FC. After a good start which saw the Academy get two teams into the cup finals at Regents Park, all games and competitions had to be abandoned due to the pandemic.

The players were sent an online fitness and skills programme and strength and conditioning sessions were conducted on Zoom for some of the older teams. This was so important not only for their physical fitness but also for their mental wellbeing. On a more social level, the staff set up online football quiz for parents and players which was great fun.

In 2020 our Football Academy engaged with 125 children aged 4-14 years who accessed this programme 5,120 times.

Despite some children spending large amounts of time in front of their computers they have all now been encouraged back into the Academy. At the same time five members of our staff have now gained coaching qualifications.



Avondale Play

The Avondale Holiday Play scheme provides a wonderful opportunity for children to access the many benefits from Play during the school holidays. Play is so important for childrens' social, behavioural and emotional skills, forging imagination and creativity as well as building friendships and promoting fitness and teamwork.

The Summer Play scheme was a particular challenge this year as permission for holiday play was given at the very last minute and involved detailed risk assessments to ensure Covid-19 compliance and the safety of the children and staff. Many children arrived withdrawn at first but adapted quickly and joined in with the many play activities in their bubbles.

In 2020 **we delivered five weeks of holiday play schemes** in the February half-term and summer holidays, **providing activities for 148 children and 1,017 total attendances.**



Amplify

Amplify is RPT's new creative arts programme, supporting young people to gain skills, training and employment in the creative arts industries.

Supported by Arts Alliance, Amplify has continued to expand and this year offering a range of programmes, including the opportunity to co-create a sound installation with musician and composer Martyn Ware, as part of a public art project called 'Breath is Invisible'. The project aimed to address social inequality and injustice, and also featured work by the Gambian-British artist Khadija Saye who died in the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017.

In 2020 Amplify delivered 56 sessions with a total number of 495 service visits.

In addition, young people also joined the Six Days of Magic music production programme in the summer, producing an album available to buy, as well as online training courses in mobile film making and creative writing. Plus, a number of young people have been supported during lockdown with one-to-one mentoring by industry professionals.

In 2020 RPT took on the lease of 226 Walmer Rd where we are working with local architect Michaelis Boyd to transform this space into a hub for creative arts in North Kensington, escalating the number of courses and opportunities to build skills and move towards employment in the creative arts, building aspirations and hope for young people's futures.

Case Study

Written January 2021
by 'Alex', a young person
who joined Amplify in
Summer 2020



For me, playing and making music provides a sense of belonging and helps me avoid a sense of deep isolation and lack of options due to the global crisis taking place. It provides the freedom for me to just express myself and inspires me to be different, to be something I thought I could never be, and to be comfortable and relaxed in school and elsewhere in my life. Music helps me release or control emotions and to cope with difficult situations such as peer pressure, pressures of study and family, the dynamics of friendships and social life, and the pain of loss and missing out during the pandemic.

I believe developing musical skills and performing through community projects such as RPT. It is important as it paves the way to musical opportunities as my skills develop. I definitely long for more variety and options for making music outside school, including instruments and technology used in rap/hip-hop music. So, I am extremely fortunate to have this opportunity at my fingertips.

I strongly believe that music is an integral part of London life, and that music reflects our culture and society immensely. I feel that playing music teaches self-discipline such as the idea that 'there are pay-offs if you practice and stick with something you love'. I also believe that playing music diminishes boundaries between people of different ethnic backgrounds, age groups and social interest.

This was exactly the case for me when I got the opportunity to produce a whole album in such a short time, with the brilliant support from Rugby Portobello Trust, Finding Rhythms, Amplify Studios, Desiree, Megan, Nick, Ruddy, Leone and the rest of the team. The '6 Days of Magic' project was such a great result that has benefited me immensely and gave me more strength, motivation, along with a boost in my self-esteem and my skills and gifts. I also had the opportunity to visit places such as the National Theatre which was an amazing experience for me.

I would like to thank all of the team who are helping and providing massive amounts of support for me to reach where I want to be in life. An extra massive thank you to Desiree who is my mentor and key worker. She has supported me a lot through this period and always makes sure I am at where I'm supposed to be.

Our Volunteers

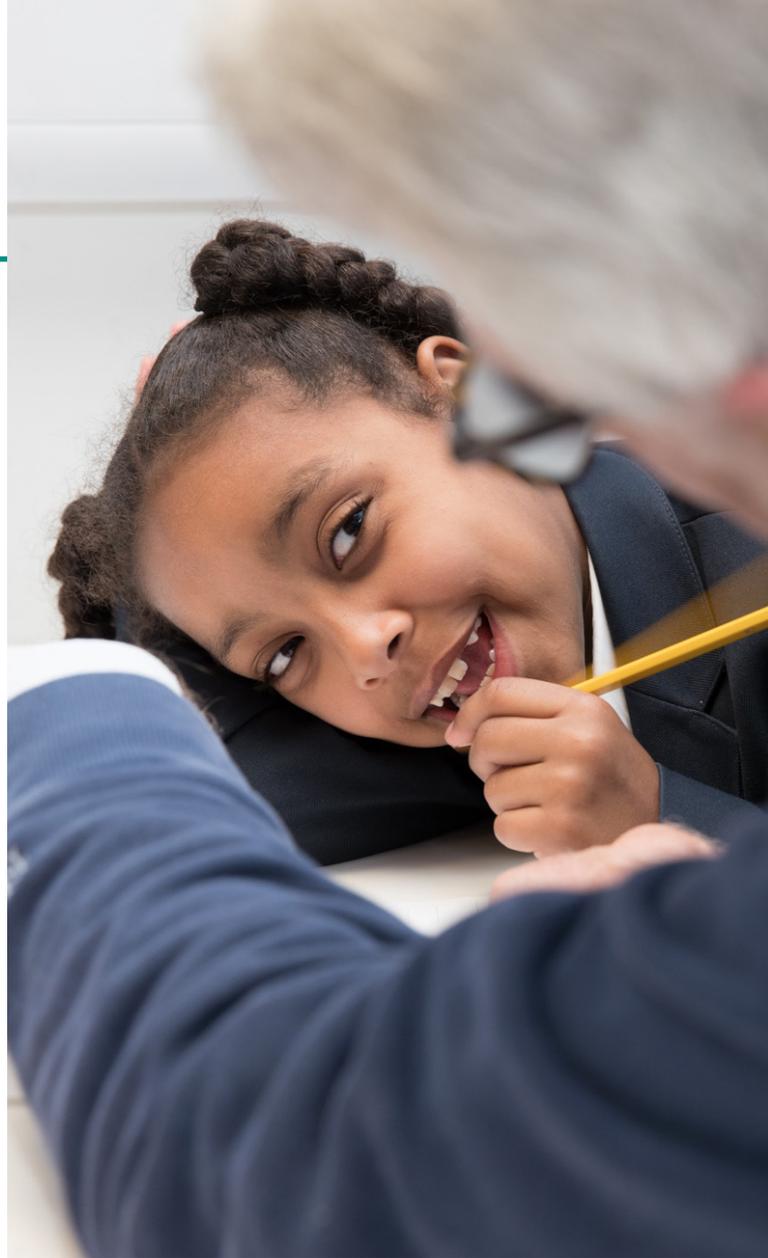


The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

RPT and our school-based Play Services were supported this year (2020) by a network of over 209 frontline volunteers and fundraising volunteers. Our frontline volunteers delivered an amazing 3,633 hours of voluntary support during this challenging, Covid-interrupted year.

Volunteers supported RPT in 2020 predominantly in the online Homework Club delivering tutoring and also supporting our range of programmes, carrying out mentoring for young people and delivering food and Christmas gifts.

The absolute highlight of the year for RPT was being awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for the support volunteers have given to the community in North Kensington. Other highlights include the expansion of our partnership working with schools including ASL, Latymer and a new relationship with Rugby School, with pupils from these supporting RPT children with online tutoring.



The online academic support involves volunteers supervising sessions via online educational platforms, working with the children to embed the learning. During lockdown RPT benefitted from the many students at sixth form level including from local schools, right up to university students and recent graduates.

Aside from supporting the children to catch up and excel in their skills and build their confidence, from a volunteering perspective some of the young people delivering this support are now considering a career in teaching and overall, the volunteering ethos has now rippled across a much younger generation.

Volunteer Story

On March 17th 2020, as we put away the pens, paper, dictionaries and usual paraphernalia of Homework Club, no-one realised that it would be many months before we'd be getting them back out again. The sudden closure of the RPT building and all the services within came as a great shock. Like many of the Homework Club volunteers I wondered what was going to happen to the many many children who used the service and who benefited from the support, knowledge and positive reinforcement that was metered out, week on week.

However my concern was short-lived as within days I was sick with Covid and too ill to think about very much. Little did I know that while I was languishing in bed, behind the scenes Homework Club was being transformed. Very quickly the realisation dawned that the children and parents needed the educational support Homework Club provided more than ever and the only way to deliver that was to go online.

By mid-April when I finally rallied, the new format was up and running. At first I was sceptical. In my years as a volunteer I'd got used to sitting side-by-side pouring over the weekly homework sheets, spelling challenges, maths problems and occasionally having to construct some elaborate 3D edifice, as we worked away at school set tasks. How could that possibly work online?

curriculum-led materials, Homework Club transformed into a de facto tutoring service. In much the same way as before, children turn up, are allocated a volunteer and away they go. One of the great strengths of the service is the age range of the volunteers - at one end bright young 'A' level students getting their first taste of volunteering, at the other older volunteers with slightly rusty teaching skills, honed over years of supervising homework round the kitchen table and many in between. All bring something different to the task.

Whilst I initially froze with terror at the idea of virtual teaching, the patience and conviction of the IT support team meant that even luddites like myself were soon up and running. If I nevertheless found myself being 'muted' by a group of 7 year-olds, their mastery of the technology has served me well when my IT skills fail me! Just as the volunteers have become tutors, so the children have had to learn to work differently.

I've been lucky enough to work with a regular group of Year 2 children and one of the most touching things is the extent to which they have learnt to be patient with each other (and me) and that they genuinely seem to enjoy seeing each other (and me!) every week. Whilst I miss the physical proximity to the children and at times long for a pen and paper to demonstrate a concept rather than simply trying to explain it, it is nevertheless a very special rapport that develops when you are all 'working from home'.

It is clear that lockdown is having a profound effect on these children. They miss their friends, their teachers, their routine. It seems more important than ever to be there for them, to help with literacy and numeracy and, through reading, story-telling and just talking, to help them to imagine a day when things will get better and life will return to normal.



Our Year In Numbers



Our programmes are supported by 13 staff (FTE) and 209 frontline volunteers

“Every week we celebrate that you and your team do everything possible to open a door for us, when the rest of the world has become virtual ... Somehow it would not mean the same in a virtual Zoom session. I believe in real life and I appreciate the effort you go to offer us a safe session in the real physical world.”

RPT Magic Mum

People We've Supported

1,401

The number of people we worked alongside in 2020

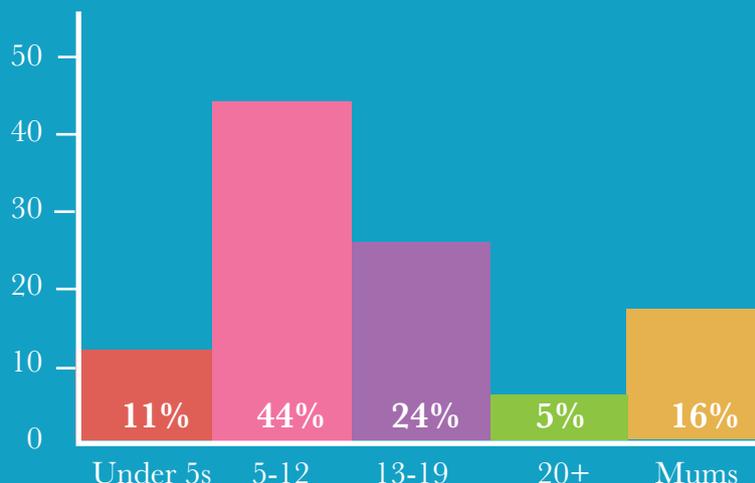
13,789

The total number of service visits in 2020

633

The total number of sessions delivered in 2020

Age Breakdown of People Using Our Services



Fundraising

In 2020, RPT was more than 80 per cent funded through our fundraising initiatives, raising a grand total of **£792,713.09**. This included events, trust and foundations, major donors and community donations.

In 2020 we were obliged to move all of our fundraising events online or 'at home' including an online Quiz Night, The Portobello Dinner at 'at home' and an online Christmas Market.

Our 2020 events were supported by our corporate sponsors Strutt and Parker.



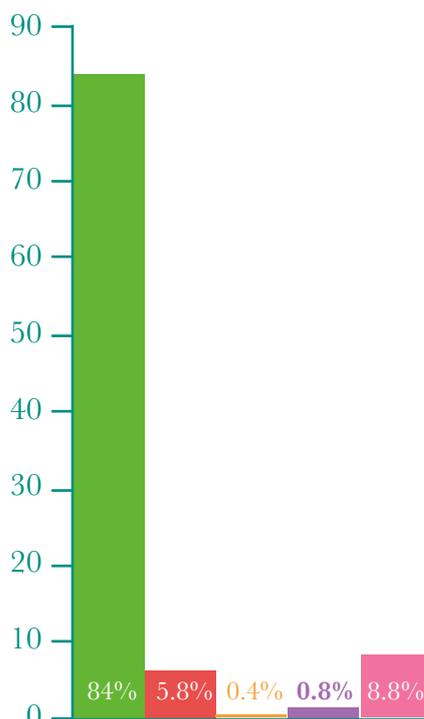
Fundraised Income



Total fundraised income: £792,713.09

- 49.8% Events**
- 37.1% Major Donors**
- 11.3% Trusts & Foundations**
- 1.4% Crowdfunding (outside of events)**
- 0.3% Other**

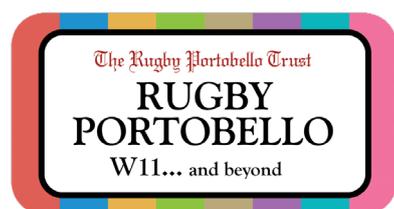
Financial Overview



Total income: £941,706.64

- 84.2% Fundraising**
- 5.8% Statutory Funding & Commissioned Work**
- 0.4% Room Hire**
- 0.8% Service User Contribution**
- 8.8% Other (including furlough income)**

Our Supporters



2020 Supporting Trusts, Foundations, Businesses and Delivery Partners

Alveston Fine Art Gallery
American School London
And Breathe Yoga
Andrew Robson Bridge
Arts Alliance
Avondale Primary School
B and J Lloyd Family Charitable Trust
Bassett House School
Camden Charities
Caroline Agnes Joan Hervey Trust
Ceffin
Chepstow House School
Chesterton's
Christie's International Real Estate
City Harvest
Coffee Plant
CVC
David Yarrow
Donmar Warehouse
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
FareShare
Franco's
Goldman Sachs Gives
Greater London Authority
Hair EQ
Holland Park Residents' Association
Hollick Family Foundation
Honeywell
il Portico
Innocent Drinks
Josh Wood
Kate Daudy
Katie&Jo
Ken's Dry Cleaner
Ladbroke Square Nursery
Lea & Sandeman
Lime Green Bow
LORDS

London Sport
Lucio's Restaurant
Lutyens & Rubinstein
Lyndsey Ingram Gallery
Marbella Beach Club
Martine de Richeville
ME+EM
Natasha Durlacher
Natasha Hidvegi Design Ltd
New Art Centre
NPC Foundation
Peach on the Hill
Relaxayvo
Richard Parr Associates
Rococo Newsagents
Rosa de la Cruz
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
Rugby Portobello Foundation
Salomon Oppenheimer Philanthropic
Foundation
SALT Design
Serena Bolton Photography
Soho House & Co
Soneva
Southampton Row Trust
Sport England
Strutt & Parker
The Arah Foundation
The Ashdene Trust
The Cairns Charitable Trust
The Childhood Trust
The Corcoran Foundation
The David & Deborah Stileman Charitable Trust
The Felix Project
The Grove Trust
The Grenfell Foundation
The Hon M L Astor's Charitable Trust
The Jewel Gallery
The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation
The Land Gardeners
The Mbili Charitable Trust
The MT and SD Burton Charitable Settlement
The Roger and Jean Howard Trust
The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation
The Sobell Foundation
The Virginia Ashton Charitable Settlement
The Week Junior
Tim Hall
Waitrose
West London Zone
Wiltons

Contacts

To find out more about our dedicated services or to get involved please contact us at:

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Opening Times

9.00am-10.00pm
(Office Hours: 9.00am-5.00pm)



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