

Charity number: 211756

HAMPTON FUEL ALLOTMENT CHARITY

ANNUAL REPORT

30 JUNE 2016

RSM UK Tax and Accounting Limited
Third Floor, One London Square
Cross Lanes, Guildford
Surrey GU1 1UN

HAMPTON FUEL ALLOTMENT CHARITY

**ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 30 June 2016**

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HAMPTON FUEL ALLOTMENT CHARITY

**THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
for the year ended 30 June 2016**

Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity provides fuel grants to low income families and individuals, helping them with the costs of their electricity and gas, as well as making grants to local charities that support local people and provide a range of services within the community. It gives me great pleasure to outline some of the key activities of the Charity over the year ending 30 June 2016.

While there is no doubt that our borough has many individuals whose standard of living is reasonable or good, there are significant pockets of deprivation within Richmond and statistics can still shock. For example, life expectancy for those in deprived areas within the borough is around five years lower than that of their wealthier neighbours.

Grants to individuals

Most of our grants to individuals are fuel grants which we pay direct to the energy supplier on their behalf, and during 2015/16, we awarded 1,585 fuel grants to individuals totalling £764,050 (1,615 fuel grants in 2014/15 at £771,233). In addition, we make grants for the purchase of basic white goods – e.g. a fridge or a cooker - and basic items of furniture (eg a bed). Typically, these grants are offered where urgent rehousing is needed, perhaps following family breakdown or homelessness resulting from mental illness.

Most of us feel fortunate to live in our borough but, particularly with rental costs at their current levels, there are all sorts of pressures on those who are on a low income. So, we also help with the cost of children from low income families going on their year 6 school trips.

Grants to local charities

We are lucky to have some terrific charities and community groups in our borough doing great work, and we also support the needy by making grants to many of these charities. For me, one of the highlights of the year came in September 2015 when a number of us from the Charity attended the opening of Homelink's new day respite care centre, to which we had given a substantial grant the previous year. It is a local charity rooted in its church and community doing work that makes a real difference and I was glad that we could support it in its work.

Overall, we made 61 grants in 2015/16 (58 in 2014/15) to charitable organisations totalling £1,037,292 (£973,200 in 2014/15) and we are pleased to say that this is our highest ever level of support to local charities.

Our grants cover a wide variety of sectors, including disability, older people, children and young people, carers, mental health and community activities. The end of grant monitoring report we receive from funded groups is one way we evaluate the impact of our funding. We are flexible with the level of support and try to tailor it to need. For example, we awarded Marble Hill Playcentres £4,500 for Saturday morning play sessions exclusively for children and young people with additional needs. And a grant of £55,000 to Citizen's Advice Bureau Richmond will support a range of services including their work in Hampton. We were also pleased to give further significant support to the YMCA London South West who are now into their second year of managing the White House Community Centre – and there has been very positive feedback on the changes and developments that have taken place here.

HAMPTON FUEL ALLOTMENT CHARITY

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Continued)
for the year ended 30 June 2016

Working For the Needy Today and Tomorrow

Looking after the endowment fund and balancing the needs of present and future generations are challenges that we as Trustees have to consider carefully. Our total return for the year was a little over 3% and, while this was a little below our target, we have to expect that there will be good years and bad. Given that the financial markets were essentially flat over the year, and, especially given the significant uncertainty relating to Brexit et al, I believe that this result was satisfactory.

We take independent advice on our investments, and the endowment fund is managed by UBS and Rathbones. We use a 'Total Return' approach to investment which allows Trustees to use both income and capital growth produced by the endowment to satisfy expenditure. It removes reliance on income alone to meet expenditure and permits a more flexible investment approach by allowing us to invest some of the endowment in lower yielding assets in order to pursue longer-term growth or reduce risk. In summary our main investment objective is to ensure that funds available for beneficiaries are at least maintained in real terms so as to ensure that future generations may benefit at least as well as the current one.

During the year, we said farewell to the Reverend Stuart Leamy and are about to say farewell also to the Reverend Derek Winterburn and Dr Jane Young as Trustees. All have served the Charity tremendously in many capacities and over many years. Derek in particular, as he moves on from being Vicar of St Mary's, has been our longest-standing Trustee. During the year, we welcomed Martin Duffy as a new Trustee with significant investment management experience. While from time-to-time we are pro-active in seeking to recruit new Trustees, we always welcome enquiries from those who might be interested.

If you would like to know more about the Charity, please look at our website <http://www.hfac.co.uk/> or call our office at 020 8941 7866.



..... Chairman
Mr Richard Montgomery

Date: 19 October 2016