

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust

Annual Report
2006/07





Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust

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Welcome to this year's annual report from the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust.

To keep all of our funders and friends briefed about the direction, the strategies, the planning, the activities and events that make up a typical year for this organisation we have to generate lots of paper. Paper filled with lists, charts and statistical breakdowns, procedures, profiles, protocols, reports. It's all about the numbers.

Even though those numbers seem to take up more and more of everyone's time, filling in feedback, completing surveys, doublechecking applications, quantifying every aspect of the service we provide in ever increasing numbers of forms and in varying ways, we never forget what those numbers are really for. Every number represents a young woman who has passed or is possibly still passing through the doors of 92 Tressillian Road, on her way to her future life, with your and our help.

So although we get through reams of paper, Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust is not about numbers. it's about caring for young people one at a time. And we hope it always will be.

Thank you for helping us to continue.

Woodrow Phoenix

Chair, Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust





Our Mission Statement

Through our work in providing housing, care and support, we aim to create an environment that gives young women a secure base from which to develop self-respect, independence and purpose in their lives.

Equal Opportunities Policy Declaration

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust is committed to equal opportunities in its provision of services, employment practices and management of the project.

As an organisation in a multicultural and diverse area of the inner city, the Trust seeks to actively oppose all forms of discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, colour, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, marital status, class and any situation where people are disadvantaged by conditions or requirements that cannot be shown to be justified.

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust declares that we are taking positive steps towards promoting equality and combatting all direct and indirect discrimination.



The 12 Principles of **Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust**

We will use our knowledge, skills, and experience positively, for the benefit of all sections of the community, particularly those who seek to use the service that we provide.

We will respect our residents/tenants as individuals, safeguarding their dignity and rights and promoting awareness of their responsibilities.

We will neither be discriminatory or prejudiced in ourselves nor tolerate discrimination or prejudice in or against others.

We will seek to recognise and accommodate differing cultural and other needs in order to serve all in the best and most appropriate way possible.

We will empower our residents/tenants to participate in decision making and defining services, and to take responsibility for their own lives and future development.

We will seek to maintain positive and helpful relationship with residents once they leave our service. This includes those whom we may be unable to continue to house for health and safety or other reasons.



We will ensure that professional responsibility takes preference over personal interests in all our work.

We will be responsible for a high-quality service, developing our skills and knowledge to ensure professional standards are met.

We will ensure that outreach and promotion of our services within the wider community takes place in the interests of individuals and we will ensure access to our services by anyone who may benefit from them.

We will maintain the confidentiality of our residents/tenants, only divulging information by consent or if health and safety are at risk.

We will work with residents/tenants in a clear manner, maintaining confidentiality in line with our procedures. Through this we hope to ensure clear expectations about our service are held, and that an understanding of the expectations that we have are known.

We will monitor our services regularly to ensure we are operating both as a good employer and as an effective service provider.





Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust 2006/7

Patrons

His Excellency, The High Commissioner for
Guyana, Laleshwar Singh
Dr Edward Adams, MB, BS
Ms Leticia Phoenix
Dr Pauline Webb, AKC
Ms Thelma Lewis, MILSO, MBE
Baroness Stern of Vauxhall, BA, BSC, LLB
Mr George A Mayor
Ms Sally Hawkins
Yvonne Thompson, CBE
Mr Allan Hudson
Joan Ruddock, MP

Executive Committee

Chair **Woodrow Phoenix**
Vice Chair **Councillor Alan Till**
Treasurer **Jenny Rutter**
Company Secretary **Sybil Phoenix**
Minutes Secretary **Camelia Thomas**

Executive Committee Members

Dione Dennie
Reverend Corinne Tournay
Gurbakhsh Garcha
Councillor Barrie Anderson
Councillor Darren Johnson
Mewbourne Huntley
Denise Stanford
Jenny Berbeck

Others

Liaison Officer, London Borough of Lewisham

Community Sector Team **Alison Licorish**

Liaison Officer, London Borough of Lewisham

Supporting People Team **Richard Holmes**

Liaison Officer, London and Quadrant

Housing Trust **Edward Brisset**

Staff Team

Director **Rebecca Long**

Project Manager **Sybil Carey**

Project Manager, Erlanger Rd **Althea Gayle**

(Maternity cover from Dec 2006 **Samantha King**)

Project Worker **Adebimpe Oputa**

Project Worker & In-house Counsellor **Samantha King**

(Cover from Dec 2006 **Elaine Reid**)

Project Worker & In-house Counsellor **Dr Christine Hunt**

Project Worker **Jackie Doyley**

Night Waking Staff **Lydia Faloye**

Night Waking Staff **Joy McCalman**

Night Waking Staff **Dorrett Russell**

Education Project Coordinator **Ethel Ross Wilson**

Cook **Fiona Turnbull**

Bookkeeper **Sue Lockwood**

Sessional & Sunday Staff **Elaine Reid**

Sessional Staff **Veronica Roberts, Simone Smith**

Lewisham College Tutors

English Tutor **Fran Gorton**

IT Tutor **Lance Stanford**

Art Tutor **Geraldine Walsh**

Contract cleaning by **Adfen Contractors**

Statistics

Referral source	Number	%
Youth Aid	9	18.7
Stopover	2	4.16
Lewisham Housing Options Centre	3	6.25
Lewisham College	4	8.33
Connexions	7	14.5
Alone in London	14	29
Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust internal	2	4.16
Platform 1	5	10.4
St Giles Trust	1	2.08
2.Outcomes of Referrals		
Housed	15	30.6
Waiting list	27	55.10
Applicant refused	2	4.05
Did not attend interview	3	6.12
Found alternative Housing	3	6.12
3.Reasons for Referral		
Family breakdown General	8	22.8
Relationship with; Mother	8	22.8
Father	1	2.85
Step parent	3	8.57
Aunt	4	11.42
Overcrowded	2	5.71
Violence/ Abuse	3	8.57
Other	3	8.57
Not known	3	8.57
4.Ethnicity		
Black Caribbean	19	42.2
Black African	12	26.6
Black British/ Other	7	15.5
White	5	11.1
Mixed race	2	4.44

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that the Trust had an operating surplus at the end of March 2007 in spite of increased costs in maintaining the building.

The main grant continues to be the Supporting People Grant but in line with Government policy this is a static amount and does not allow for inflation. The Trust was pleased to receive again this year a grant from the London Borough of Lewisham Community sector, which enabled the organisation to provide services and support not covered by the core funding. We are also grateful to receive grants from the Goldsmiths money, the Hilden Trust, the Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe, and the regular contribution from Mr Goss and Ms Drysdale, all of which has been spent on the continuation of the Education Project. Donations and the fundraising activities of the Friends of Marsha Phoenix have increased the size of the Education Fund, enabling more young women to further their education.

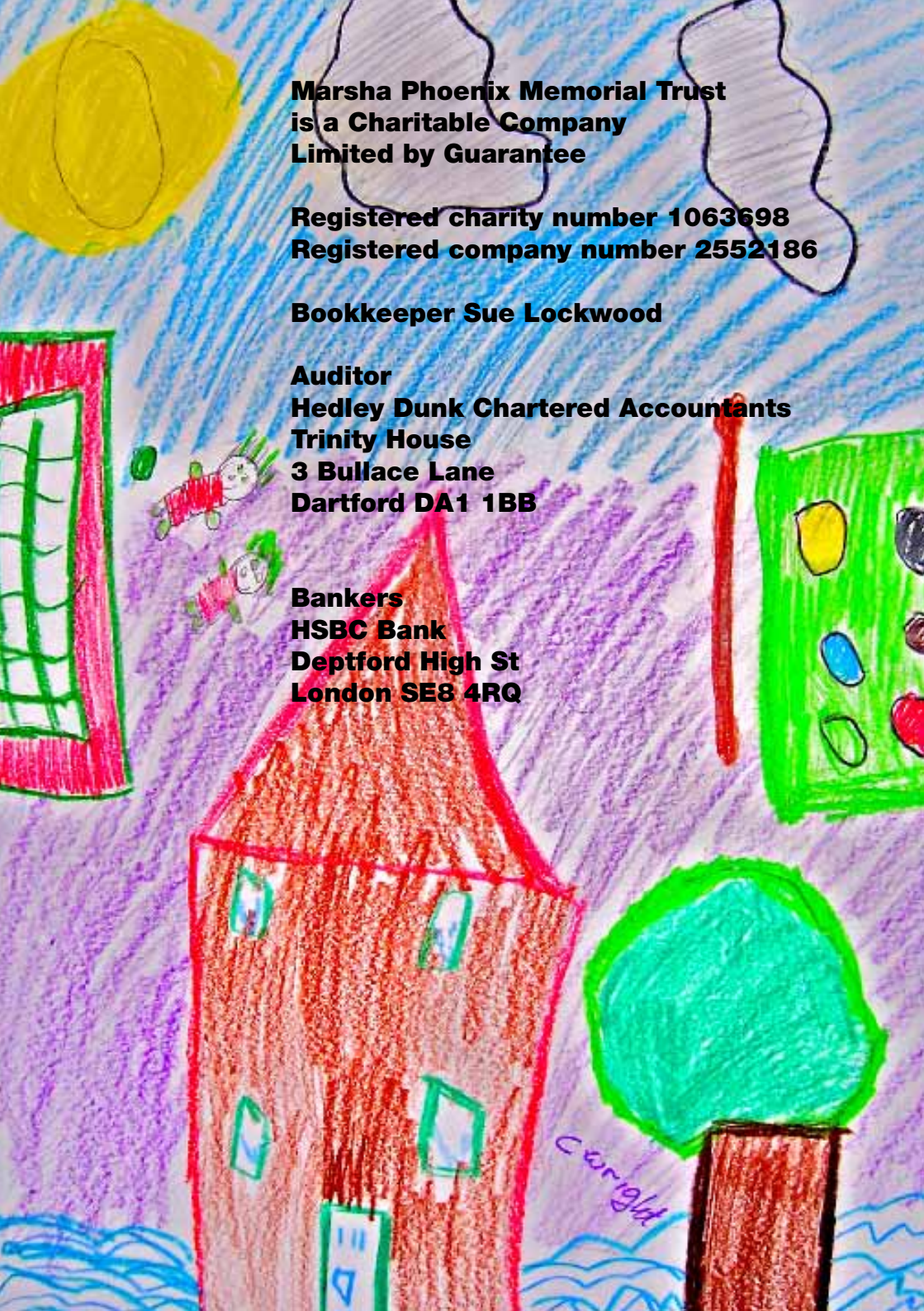
A summarised financial statement is included in this report. The statutory annual accounts were audited without qualification and approved by the Trustees on September 12th 2007. A copy of the accounts and Auditors' Report can be obtained by written request from the Trust.

The Trust continues to value the advice and assistance of Hedley Dunk Ltd, Chartered Accountants and I recommend that the Trust retain their services.

Jenny Rutter

Treasurer





**Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust
is a Charitable Company
Limited by Guarantee**

**Registered charity number 1063698
Registered company number 2552186**

Bookkeeper Sue Lockwood

**Auditor
Hedley Dunk Chartered Accountants
Trinity House
3 Bullace Lane
Dartford DA1 1BB**

**Bankers
HSBC Bank
Deptford High St
London SE8 4RQ**

Auditor's Statement to the Trustees of Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust

We have audited the summarised financial statements set out in this Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised statements consistency with the full financial statements, on which we reported to you on 14.08.07

Basis of Opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Charity's state of affairs as at 31.03.07. The summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended at 31.03.07.

Registered Auditors

Hedley Dunk
Trinity House
3 Bullace Lane
DA1 1BB

31 August 2007

**MARSHA PHOENIX MEMORIAL TRUST
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2007 £	Total Funds 2006 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	209,614	9,018	218,632	220,004
Investment income	3	5,352	-	5,353	2,957
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
	4	153,842	-	153,842	144,716
Other incoming resources	5	673	-	673	600
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>369,462</u>	<u>9,018</u>	<u>378,480</u>	<u>368,257</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities	6/7	(344,287)	(9,317)	(353,604)	(327,665)
Governance costs	8	(2,232)	-	(2,232)	(1,841)
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		<u>(346,519)</u>	<u>(9,317)</u>	<u>(355,836)</u>	<u>(329,506)</u>
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	9	22,943	(299)	22,644	38,751
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES					
Gains on revaluation of investment assets		(898)	-	(898)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>22,045</u>	<u>(299)</u>	<u>21,746</u>	<u>38,751</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>302,246</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>302,545</u>	<u>263,793</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>324,291</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>324,291</u>	<u>302,544</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

**MARSHA PHOENIX MEMORIAL TRUST
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**


BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2007

	Note	2007 £	£	2006 £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	12		164,000	168,000
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	13	10,247		8,829
Investments	14	19,102		—
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>166,850</u>		<u>157,454</u>
		196,199		166,283
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(17,709)</u>		<u>(13,539)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			178,490	152,744
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>342,490</u>	<u>320,744</u>
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES				
Other provisions	16		(18,200)	(18,200)
NET ASSETS			<u>324,290</u>	<u>302,544</u>
FUNDS				
Restricted income funds	17		—	299
Unrestricted income funds	18		324,290	302,245
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>324,290</u>	<u>302,544</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985.

These financial statements were approved by the directors on the 29th August 2007 and are signed on their behalf by:



MR WOJCIECH PHOENIX
Director

Director's Report

This is now my 5th year as Director and the role continues to present me with plenty of challenges and work which can be as varied day to day from unblocking the toilet to managing our finances! Yet more and varied monitoring requirements and reports have been asked of us this year and we have met these challenges as they arose; we have achieved a new "House in Multiple Occupation Licence" and implemented a new Food Safety standard. We replaced our (functioning) old central heating boilers with something modern and less effective (!) safe in the knowledge that we continue fully CORGI compliant.

The Supporting People system continues to throw up more challenges for us to meet in terms of monitoring and keeping abreast of changes to the regime. I think I am right in reporting that we have not been late for a single deadline for any report due to Supporting People, London Borough of Lewisham community Sector team, London and Quadrant or to our other funders and supporters all year long. Financially we have continued to maximise our income by having practically no void periods and low rent arrears. We have been able to stretch our food budget further by signing up with the excellent service of "Fareshare" which enables us to obtain excess quality food from supermarkets and other sources for our residents on a regular basis.

The staff team has continued as reliably as ever and we have varied some roles by taking advantage of Althea Gayle's maternity leave to allow for some in-house cover.

We have continued to try to continue to invest in our staff by maximising training and development opportunities with some 60 training courses and activities amongst 14 staff being undertaken throughout the year.

I particularly congratulate Chris Hunt who achieved her doctorate in counselling psychology this year, all in her own time. She is now Dr. Hunt and should give herself a well-deserved pat on the back for this achievement.

Resident satisfaction with the service in general has remained high, and we continue to seek ways of meeting needs in as many ways as possible. This might vary from helping someone with her university application to showing someone else how to operate a washing machine, and staff have to be flexible enough to make meeting these needs “all in a days work”, giving equal attention to everyone. Year one of our business plan commenced in April 2006 and progress towards our goals has been good, and even though external forces might change our focus, our core objectives have remained intact.

Last but not least, 2007 saw the 80th birthday of our founder and mainstay Sybil Phoenix, whom we wholeheartedly congratulate on reaching this milestone so successfully and with such style. We look forward to her 90th.

Rebecca Long

Director





Project Manager's Report

I can hardly believe how the year has disappeared and it's report time again!

In terms of Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust being viable, there is no doubt. We have been going for 28 years so this service must be needed. We have remained full as there is always someone waiting to come as someone leaves. We have had no voids this year.

We continue to provide a safe haven for the young women in their quest of wanting to enhance every aspect of their lives. Most of them have continued in education, as financially things are a little bit better with changes to Income Support rules. Our university students have to work to survive and we help as much as we can financially as they have to pay the full rent.

We have not had any staff changes this year and we remain a tight-knit team, striving to fulfil the aims of the Trust.

I close by extending my appreciation to the staff for their hard work come rain or shine, Rebecca our Director for keeping us sane, the Executive Committee for their time and their trust in us, Mrs Phoenix the glue that keeps us together and last but by no means least the residents for their faith in me and without whom, we would not be here.

Sybil Carey

Project Manager



Second Stage Manager Reports 1

This year has been very different for me, as I have been covering Althea Gayle's post. It has been extremely challenging, interesting and hard work and lots of fun too. Gaining loads of new and different experiences, which I loved.

We have had a great year for move on with four of the long staying residents moving out and into their new homes. It was sad to see them go but wonderful to see they had achieved one of their main goals. They have all blossomed and grown even more with their new responsibilities and are coping well with it. We would like to say a big thank you to the Lee charity of William Hatcliffe for the grants that they have given to our residents to help with their move on.

The new residents have settled in well and have developed a good team spirit, where they enjoy spending time with each other. They have all attended a range of trips - to the cinema, bowling and to Chessington. One of our residents also attended the two-day trip to Liverpool this summer, even though more of them wanted to go with Mrs Phoenix. All who did attend had a lovely time.

We are proud to once again have residents who are going to be starting their university courses this year, or are planning to go in the coming year. Many of the residents are working or in education at the moment and all are working hard towards their long-term goals.

Our Rent arrears have been very low which is due to all the residents showing maturity in making sure that they pay on time, in advance and being on top of their benefit situations, so well done residents! I would like to say that it has been a real pleasure covering the post and I am even prouder to hand it back to Althea with the house still standing and with a group of new residents that are ambitious and caring young women.

Samantha King

Second Stage Manager, maternity cover



Second Stage Manager Reports 2

Another successful year at the MPMT five star resort! (can all staff take a bow). I recently returned to work after maternity leave having left Erlanger Road in the tender arms of Samantha King (well done Sam)



Both Tressillian and Erlanger Road have been maintained to precision. My first day back in post felt like a new job, and also like entering the house as a stranger meeting new residents and in a few cases, existing ones who were as happy as the day I left. Leaving for home with a big smile and huge sense of belonging to a beautiful organisation made my own housework a breeze!

The residents have shown great commitment in the upkeep of the house and by participating in the range of meetings, outings, educational and motivational events run by the Trust. Many of the residents are juggling part-time work, education and social activities in an environment a far cry from home and I applaud the progress they have made to date.

As for the many residents who have moved on into permanent accommodation and made their house into a home.... your hard work has paid off. Enjoy the fruits of your labour and remember that the MPMT team are always here to help.



Althea Gayle **Second Stage Manager**

Residents' Reports

Since moving on ...

"Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust is very nice, very safe and the staff and girls are very nice especially at Erlanger Rd. I am happy the staff helped me all the time - Sam, Chris and Rebecca"

-HO, left January 2007

"The home was welcoming and felt like my own home. A lovely place to live and a good home to be a part of"

-NS, left September 2006

"Thank you for your support, words of encouragement and in everything that you have done for me during my stay at the hostel. You will always be remembered. Once again many thanks"

-NG, left April 2006

"Thank you for having me for two years, also helping me on the path to getting my own home. I am very grateful, lots of love and kisses"

-LS (Erlanger Rd)

"I will remember all of you.

Thanks for everything you have done. It's time for me to grow up now, I can't but I will try. I hope you will remember me- I don't really want to leave, before I did, but

now I don't. I am going to miss you all very much, I had some good times, some bad times but I still loved every minute of it"

-SS, confused at leaving us March 2007 and still in touch!

"I met lots of new people and learnt many things"

-NK, left summer 2006

And still with us....

"Being at Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust will enable me to further my education and become efficient with my time-keeping. Also I'll learn to be more responsible and will be fully prepared when it's time to move and have my own place; to be independent and learn to budget with money"

"I love the food!"

"My key worker is great"

"My key worker (Jackie) is excellent"

"I was at another hostel before but living at Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust is great"

-Various surveys, 2006/07



From Sybil Phoenix

The Friends group has worked hard with me as usual running the numerous events, which both fundraise for the Trust and help to keep its profile high within the community.

Father Owen Beamont spoke at our AGM in October and we thank him for continuing to be such a close friend and supporter of the Trust. Our Christmas coffee morning took place in December and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mavis Hughesden, a long-standing friend who was our guest speaker. We give thanks to all our helpers who contributed to the success of this event and to the annual party for the blind afterwards. I would also like to thank the pupils who sang at the event!



At our Annual Dinner this year we honoured Andy Hawkins, ex mayor of Lewisham, longstanding community activist and friend and supporter of all my endeavours. Our guest speaker was Alf Dobbs MP and Baroness Howells of St David's led the evening. A host of supporters honoured Andy in the programme produced for the event. We thank Lewisham College as usual for allowing us to hold this event in the Phoenix restaurant. I congratulate our patron Ruth Silver on her Dame-hood. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to honour Andy since in August this year he passed away, to our great sadness and regret. In his passing goes a real asset to our community, a gentleman and a warm-hearted friend. He will be sorely missed.



Dr William "Lez" Henry delivered our Annual lecture at Goldsmiths College. As a veteran

of Moonshot youth club he provided a fascinating insight into his journey from rebel to respected academic and provides a great example to others in his position. This event was hosted by the Warden of Goldsmiths University and chaired by Woodrow Phoenix, Chair of the Trust.

Baroness Vivien Stern hosted our House of Lords tea during the summer. At this event we took the opportunity to shower some long overdue praise on Mewbourne Huntley, member of our Executive committee and one of this organisation's most enduring supporters. The speaker on the day was Concillor Alan Till, the Trust's Vice Chair. He spoke about the value of volunteers as unsung heroes in our sector to complement our main theme of the day, honouring Mewbourne "Cyril" Huntley.

We have had generous support from Citibank, The British and Foreign Bible Society, Alma Jean Henry Trust, the London Borough of Lewisham, Mr and Mrs Gibbs and many more and we thank them wholeheartedly.

Finally I would like to thank Rebecca and Derek Johnson at Lewisham for organising my 80th birthday party in June. I thank the borough and the Trust for producing such a wonderful programme of events. I cannot thank everyone who helped with the event enough.





Staff Reports

Health and Safety is always a major part of Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust, because we provide accommodation on a 24-hour basis, which entails ensuring the safety of everyone in the House at all times.

We do regular spot checks when there are enough staff on shift. This allows us to know both the Trust and residents are adhering to the health and safety procedures. We also survey new residents to ensure they have a full knowledge of all the health and safety procedures as explained to them when they moved in. The Fire Brigade made one of their periodic unannounced visits one Sunday in February and we were given an excellent commendation for our record keeping and procedures. This is down to the fact that Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust's staff and residents adhere to the procedures that are in place. We have had some new challenges to meet this year and most recently put in place measures to respond to the smoking ban in what is both a home and a workplace. The two six-monthly risk assessments were completed on time as usual during the year and I say well done to everyone that assists in carrying these out.

Adebimpe Oputa

Project Worker and Health and Safety Officer

My name is Elaine Reid and I have been working at Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust for three years. In that time I have met and worked with many girls whilst on duty. I have seen many of them enter Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust with little or no hope, because of situations in their lives, and I have seen them leave with joy, hopes and dreams. This is achieved through the hard

work from all the staff that work here. I have enjoyed working with this team as they care for the welfare of these young, vulnerable girls; even those who are hard work.

I would like to offer a prayer to express my feelings about and hopes for the Trust;

“My Lord in Heaven, bless Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust and all the staff as it is hard work helping and supporting young women in need. May Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust continue to serve the community for many years to come and may it stay always the unique and special place that it is. Amen.”

Elaine Reid

Project Worker

It's that time of year again. Oh, how it comes around so quickly! I've been here for four years now and it's gone so fast and I am still enjoying working here. I look forward to coming back to work after Annual Leave (No. It's not sad; It's called satisfaction, enjoyment and achieving)!

The girls we get from one week to another are all individuals and no two are alike, just as no two days are the same. We never know what new challenges or situations might come up. The job can be very demanding at times but it's worth it when you see the end result to a girl when she leaves here. It gives me great pleasure to know that I have participated in making this girl a successful, independent, responsible adult.

Jackie Doyley

Project Worker





Report from the Executive Committee

I am delighted to report the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust Executive Committee continues to oversee the management of the Trust, which includes the Tressillian Road and Erlanger Road buildings. Both are “home from home” houses looking after the needs of young women by housing, supporting, advising and educating them.

The executive management committee volunteers come from diverse backgrounds bringing invaluable knowledge, experience, expertise and professionalism to the Trust. This year the executive committee and the staffing sub committee on which I also serve carried out the following:

- A Committee Skills Audit
- Committee skills training
- Training with staff of Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust
- Approved education grants
- Approved repair and maintenance for both buildings
- Reviewed and strengthened personnel procedures
- Approved new counselling and support services for staff
- Continued to oversee the budget of the Trust
- Supported the Friends of Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust in fund raising activities

2007 has been a special year for the executive committee, which continues to grow from strength to strength, ensuring the Trust is

fit for the 21st Century and ready to meet new challenges and requirements, such as updated Supporting People Requirements and Houses in Multiple Occupation Legislation.

This year is also poignant, commemorating the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1807–2007. Executive committee members visited the House of Parliament’s exhibition which looked at the background to the abolition of the British Slave Trade. It examined the pressures from home and abroad which influenced Parliament, and eventually led to the Act to abolish Britain’s slave trade in 1807. However, history tells us, this continued for sometime afterwards and sadly still exists to a degree today. A group of residents, staff, Friends and committee members also visited the opening of the new slavery museum in Liverpool in August this year.

We also pay grateful tribute to Mrs Sybil Phoenix MBE, MS, founder of the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust. She celebrated her 80th birthday with a “special surprise birthday party” in Lewisham’s Theatre and a thanksgiving church service and lunch. Mrs Phoenix continues to be the backbone of the Trust and works tirelessly to support the community here and abroad.

Jenny Berbeck

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust

Executive Committee Member

August 2007

(Executive Committee Member since March 2006)



Education and Resettlement Reports

Resettlement

The challenge of resettlement continued to fox us during this year, sometimes in unforeseen ways; new arrangements within the council have meant a lot of our mainstays for onward referral had to shift how they allocate their vacancies, plus move on to permanent housing continued as a challenge. In spite of this we managed to move on 22 people, two more than last year, with 14 going to permanent housing and seven to second stage projects.

This was achieved thanks to co-operation from the Housing Options Centre over six statutorily homeless cases to permanent move on, and from the strategic rehousing team and the Homeseach team who helped us to achieve our move on quota during the last quarter of the year. We calculated that the average stay at the main hostel was 16 months, which we are very satisfied with. Stays at Erlanger Rd averaged 29 months due to the aforementioned move on delays which are now resolved. All this enabled us to start the New Year with new residents and with some long standing people moving into their long awaited independent home. We surveyed those who had moved as usual and found the majority still housed and happy at the year end.

Thanks to St Christopher's, Stopover, Community Housing, Ekaya and King's Church centre for helping with move on over the year. Thanks as usual to Jane Ferneyhough and the borough for the move on quota and to London and Quadrant for honouring their quota to us as well. All this help has been much appreciated by us and more importantly by those we seek to house.

Again we thank the Morph housing project in Camberwell, which provides a valuable source of low cost furniture. Also to the Lee charity of William Hatcliffe who provided a move on grant to three hard working ex Erlanger Rd residents setting up home for the first time. We thank Community Housing and London and Quadrant for providing ongoing floating support when the need arose.

Social Events, Education and Welfare

Funding from the Goldsmiths Company and the Hilden foundation meant the Education coordinator continued her valuable work. We are also grateful for the private donations of Ben and Jane Goss. Their monthly payments have provided a funding stream for this project

which has been invaluable to us and which we have been able maximise by use of Gift Aid. We thank the Lee charity of William Hatcliffe for committing to help with this funding from 2007 and for the next two years to come.

Ethel attends the project every week and is always in demand to give some time to any number of young women wishing to use her expertise and mentoring to realise their educational goals. We thank Lewisham College for our excellent tutors, allowing us to offer activities which are both educational and fun throughout the year. In terms of “extras” our make up class run by Maxine of Nu Woman Beauty was especially popular. Testimony to this lies in the photographs shown elsewhere of our beautiful young ladies having fully utilised this class! We also ran an extra English Summer class, dance classes and some self-development classes run by our excellent and talented new partner and local author Esther Austin of www.emotionsintransit.co.uk.

Meanwhile our Education access fund has continued to grow and we have supported a number of young women over the year with rent, books and equipment. We can report that all those who we have helped at university are still studying and making a success of this opportunity. We thank Citibank, HSBC, Juliet Johnson and all at Thomas Ford and partners, The British and Foreign School Society, Bridget Hannigan and Analysis Mason Group, all for donations to the Fund which mean we can continue with this work. We extend our thanks to the London Borough of Lewisham Community sector unit for their contribution to our education work as well as to our cook and food provision. Their invaluable contribution also allows us to organise trips and outings and to support our counsellors, Chris and Sam, whose in house counselling service continues to be a popular and necessary part of the support we are able to offer our residents.

As usual we had plenty of trips during the year, to the theatre and cinema and out for meals. Our summer trip was to Thorpe Park, where Mrs P put us all to shame by going on all the fastest and most terrifying rides on offer. We had another lovely Christmas dinner, which has become a regular annual feature due to its popularity with staff and residents alike.

Rebecca Long



The Art Project: Project Exhibitions and Work

We thought it was time to bring the work back out into the local community - this being an essential ingredient of the trust's ethos and something important we wanted to show with the exhibition. We chose a local café in which to exhibit the work and by this we would also extend our audience through passing trade as well as our mailing list.

The exhibition was opened at café 'Chez Ecosium' in Brockley by Mayor Steve Bullock and attended by Darren Johnson and many others. The performance and some of the artwork was also exhibited at the Phoenix restaurant in Lewisham College. It was well attended and the effort and talent of the young women well received and commented on in both venues. This part of the project required great commitment from the girls in not only creating the work but in also rehearsing, being there on the night and also summoning up the courage to perform to such a large audience - and in all this they left a marked impression.

Esther Austin led the writing workshops drawing out creative contributions in poetry and song. This combined well with the artwork under the working title of 'House and Home' and all this material is also in preparation for our visual notebook. The project was funded by London Borough of Lewisham IWW: Lewisham College and MPMT. All of whom we are indebted to as without these and the support from many other organisations and individuals the workshops and exhibitions would not happen.

My wish is that we gain the funds required to create our notebook - thereby making a permanent mark, pulling together much of the work created in our project history. The work that is available through the blog will continue to build over time as I find and file new pictures.



**International Women's Week exhibition
3-11th March
Art workshops, exhibition & performance**



The 'Hearts' artwork was a collective piece of work from the Marsha Phoenix art class made during summer 2007 in celebration of Mrs Phoenix's 80th birthday.

Overall creative contributions to the art workshop from Charmaine, Esther, Claire, Corinna, Ruqiya, Rebecca, Najah, Shaneek and Ashleen (including overall 'Hearts' piece design) & Shenell.





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