

A photograph of a brick building facade. On the left is a large white bay window with three panes, featuring decorative white columns and a curved top. To its right is a smaller white-framed window with three panes. Below the bay window is another white bay window with three panes, also with decorative columns and a curved top. To the right of the lower bay window is a blue double door with a white frame and a decorative pediment above it. The building is made of brown brick with white decorative elements.

**Marsha Phoenix  
Memorial Trust**

Annual Report  
2007/08



# **Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust**

Annual Report 2007/08

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Hello and as always it doesn't seem like a year since the last time we put together our annual report from the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust. In fact if I had to say just how long it feels since we last did this, I'd say maybe four months. Five at the most!

It's an indication of how constantly busy things are at MPMT that time seems to pass by in a flash. So maybe it's especially good for us to be reminded to slow down, take stock of what we've been doing, make some observations and take a few deep breaths before we plunge back into the whirlpool again.

This year we will need all the deep breaths our lungs can take as we prepare to embark on a programme of conversion and rebuilding of 90-92 Tressillian Road. It's a hugely daunting and exciting project that has been the motivation behind numerous funding applications filled out by our director and most of the fundraising The Friends of Marsha Phoenix have done over the last year.

Thanks to them and to a grant from Futurebuilders we are at the beginning of a process that I hope will lead to a renewed and still relevant MPMT that will continue to serve the community for years to come.

We continue to be grateful to the Church Urban Fund, the London Borough of Lewisham and our many other generous funders for their continued support. Thank you all.

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 2007/8**

### 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 to September 07* **Samantha King**)

*Project Worker* **Adebimpe Oputa**

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

*(Cover from September 2007* **Elaine Reid**)

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

*Project Worker* **Jackie Doyley**

*Night Waking Staff* **Lydia Faloye/Elaine Reid** from October 2007

*Night Waking Staff* **Joy McCalman**

*Night Waking Staff* **Dorrett Russell**

*Education Project Coordinator (to May 08)* **Ethel Ross Wilson**

*Education Project Coordinator (from May 08)* **Jona Thorpe**

*Cook* **Fiona Turnbull**

*Bookkeeper* **Sue Lockwood**

*Sunday Staff* **Veronica Roberts**

*Sessional Staff* **Veronica Roberts, Lorraine Phoenix, Leticia Holland**

*Lewisham College Tutors*

*English Tutor* **Fran Gorton/Su Allen**

*IT Tutor* **Lance Stanford**

*Art Tutor* **Geraldine Walsh**

*Contract cleaning by* **Adfen Contractors**

## Statistics

<b>Referral source</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Youth Aid	5	11.6
Stopover	5	13.9
Lewisham Housing Options Centre	12	27.9
Lewisham College	2	4.6
Connexions	3	6.9
Alone in London	11	25.5
Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust internal	4	9.3
<b>2.Outcomes of Referrals</b>		
Housed	16	48
Waiting list	6	18.1
Applicant refused	2	6
Did not attend interview	3	9
Found alternative Housing	3	9
Agency Withdrew	3	9
<b>3.Reasons for Referral</b>		
Family breakdown General	2	6
Relationship with; Mother	13	39.5
Father	4	12.12
Step parent	3	9
Aunt	1	3
Overcrowded	2	6
Violence/ Abuse	6	18
Property repossessed	1	3
Left care	1	3
<b>4.Ethnicity</b>		
Black Caribbean	19	35.8
Black African	12	20.5
Black British/ Other	7	17.9
White	5	17.9
Mixed race	2	2.5
White other	1	2.5
Turkish	1	2.5

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Trust has continued to perform well for the financial year ending March 2008.

Rental income continues to be at a high level due to the low level of rent arrears and accommodation voids. This is due to a conscientious staff. The main grant, the Supporting People grant, will be administered under a different system from April 2009 with a Local Area Agreement. It is not clear how this will affect the Trust in the future, but I am certain that under a competent Director, the Trust will adjust to another change in the funding mechanism. A London Borough of Lewisham Community Sector grant continues to provide for additional services, while grants from the Hilden Trust and the Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe and regular contributions from individuals have helped develop the Education Project.

The fundraising activities of the Friends have continued to increase the size of the Education Fund and provide "extras" for the residents. The Trust will be dependent on the income raised by the Friends as it embarks on a major refurbishment programme during 2008/2009.

A summarised financial statement is included in this report. The statutory annual accounts were audited without qualification and approved by the Trustees on September 1st 2008. A copy of the Accounts and Auditors' Report can be obtained by written request from the Trust.

I am pleased to submit the Audited Accounts 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 08

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 31.03.08.

Registered Auditors

Hedley Dunk  
Trinity House  
3 Bullace Lane  
DA1 1BB

14 August 2008

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

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

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2008 £	Total Funds 2007 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	227,280	10,838	238,118	218,632
Investment income	3	6,675	-	6,675	5,333
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
	4	166,693	-	166,693	153,842
Other incoming resources	5	3,515	-	3,515	673
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u>404,163</u>	<u>10,838</u>	<u>415,001</u>	<u>378,480</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Charitable activities	6/7	(373,814)	(7,896)	(381,710)	(353,604)
Governance costs	8	(2,130)	-	(2,130)	(2,232)
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<u>(375,944)</u>	<u>(7,896)</u>	<u>(383,840)</u>	<u>(355,836)</u>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	9	28,219	2,942	31,161	22,644
<b>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>					
Gains on revaluation of investment assets		375	-	375	(898)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>		28,594	2,942	31,536	21,746
Total funds brought forward		<u>324,291</u>	-	<u>324,291</u>	<u>302,545</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>352,885</u>	<u>2,942</u>	<u>355,827</u>	<u>324,291</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**

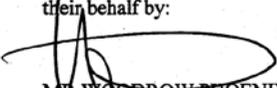
**BALANCE SHEET**

**31 MARCH 2008**

	Note	2008 £	£	2007 £	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	12		160,000		164,000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	13	7,068		10,247	
Investments	14	19,477		19,102	
Cash at bank and in hand		201,243		166,850	
		<u>227,788</u>		<u>196,199</u>	
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	<u>(22,861)</u>		<u>(17,709)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			204,927		178,490
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>364,927</u>		<u>342,490</u>
<b>PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES</b>					
Other provisions	16		<u>(9,100)</u>		<u>(18,200)</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>355,827</u>		<u>324,290</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted income funds	17		2,942		-
Unrestricted income funds	18		352,885		324,290
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>355,827</u>		<u>324,290</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 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
MR WOODROW PHOENIX  
Director



## Director's Report

AS the Trust enters its 28th year new challenges await us so that we can continue to operate as a successful organisation. This year we decided to take the plunge and commission a full survey of our premises at Tressillian Rd to see how we may convert the accommodation from shared to all single bedrooms. Having achieved this we now set about the daunting task of funding these works and as I write a number of funding applications are pending as well as a renewed effort towards fundraising led as ever by Sybil Phoenix and the Friends team.

We have had a few staffing changes this year and in particular were sorry to say goodbye to Ethel Ross Wilson our Education coordinator, whose services have been sorely missed since her departure by the many residents she supported in their education and training endeavours.

We also said goodbye to Lydia Faloye our longest standing night waking staff member. She goes on to take up the challenge of being a fully qualified nurse and we wish her well.

We welcome Jona Thorpe as Education coordinator and also recruited 3 volunteers this year who we welcome on board; Gillian Lee, Amy and Sally Hawkins.

In October 2007 we achieved renewal of our Investors in People recognition and were also awarded a 3 star recognition by the council for our performance in relation to food safety procedures. During the year we completed all the works we required to ensure our property is fully compliant with all the new regulations we must comply with in relation to fire safety and other matters. We particularly thank the London Borough of Lewisham environmental health department for help and support with this complex endeavour.

As ever the residents have been at the heart of everything we do; once again positive feedback about the service was received including a 100% acknowledgment that MPMT helped all those who left in the year to achieve their goals.

Rebecca Long  
**Director**

## **Project Manager's Report**

Many young homeless women who come to Marsha Phoenix House are trying to deal with issues such as family breakdown, violence, are abused victims and suffering bereavement in the family.

All this coupled with a time of adolescence when the young women are unsure of themselves and the direction of their lives, makes issues more difficult to face.

Many of the young women when they come to Marsha Phoenix, suffer with low self-esteem and are often hostile and unsure. This makes our task of befriending hard, but we persevere because we know that there is a light at the end of our tunnel and that of the young person's. There is a great deal to overcome.

Conventional wisdom holds that adolescence is a period of "storm and stress" characterised by moodiness, inner turmoil and rebellion, but research does not support this pessimistic view, although data (Petersen, 1988) indicate that this stage of growing up does have significant effect on body image, self-esteem, moods and relationships.

Highlighting the above statement is pertinent to the work that we do at Marsha Phoenix. The young women that come to us have had their self-esteem lowered because of the many other problems they have in their young lives. The staff team are armed with the awareness of the added stress in adolescence, at a time when the young women are having problems with the family, homelessness, finances, education and mental and physical health. The turmoil for these young women is almost unbearable. We are in a position to act as positive role models to the young women that come to us for support and encouragement to enable them to reach their full potential, fulfilling the aims of the Trust.

I want to thank the Staff Team, the Director and Executive Committee for their commitment the work in the project. I also thank Mrs Phoenix who is always there, befriending and fundraising to keep the Project going.

Sybil Carey

**Project Manager**





## **Second Stage Manager's Report**

It feels like only yesterday I was trying to locate a quiet area to write my contribution to the annual report – and already it's that time of year again!

Needless to say it's been an exciting year with the intake of four new residents. I congratulate their efforts to combine their studies and employment with the support programme provided at the project. Our rent and service charge income has remained on target and our voids at an impressive zero.

Although move on has been extremely slow this year we have seen one young lady achieve her dreams and go on to Greenwich University to study to be a pharmacist. MPMT recognise the financial difficulties this move poses and thanks to the internal Education Welfare Fund (raised by the Friends) the trust was able to subsidise her campus accommodation fees for her first term. How pleasing is that?

In addition the benefits of the 1st stage house (Tressillian Rd Project) has provided Erlanger Rd with a much needed stepping stone providing priceless pre-support in preparation for life at the 2nd Stage house. As a result one young lady has recently moved on into permanent accommodation provided by London & Quadrant's Outer Borough scheme and excelling in all aspects of her life. Thanks to Edward Brissett at London and Quadrant – our agency support officer and his team for their ongoing support and once again the welfare fund subsidised a much needed fridge freezer for her new home.

The project's post support service continues to help ex residents who have moved on with advice, welfare and independence support and this year has seen many ex-residents benefit from this service. Their visits to the office and kind words and gifts of gratitude are testament that this service is second to none.

The house remains solid as a rock but hopefully the future will see the refurbishment/modernisation of the two kitchens a job, which will compliment the continued efforts to maintain the project to the highest standard.

On a final note, without the help of the team at the head office our continual success through difficult times would not be possible and so the best paragraph is always the last – well done team Phoenix!!

Althea Gayle

**Second Stage Manager**

## Residents' Comments

**“The** counselling service has helped me – letting go of the past and moving on and looking to the future. It is still helping me a lot”

**“Staff** are supportive and advise me as necessary for me to achieve all I need to”

**“Thank** you for having me!!“

**“The** staff were friendly and available at any time”

**“Staff** are really helpful to talk to when I need to and helpful filling out forms”

**“I met** lots of new people and learnt many things”

**“Being** here teaches me to be more independent”

**“My** key worker has helped me a lot with various things”

*–Sources:  
Various surveys 2007/08*

**“Thank** you all for being there for me, love you all and I will miss you”

*–RA, left April 2007 after one and a half years at Erlanger Rd and Tressillian Rd*

**“I am studying** at London South Bank University for a degree in human resources and information technology. My first year has gone well, getting high marks and my exams went well. I am not in debt thanks to the grant from MPMT and I am enjoying life. Thank you to Marsha Phoenix. I would love to pay you back or help when I can, hopefully when I graduate and make a success of my life. I hereby invite Rebecca, Mrs P and Sam to my graduation! I also have to say thanks to Cathy from Connexions who has been there for me from the first, finding me a place to live and continuing to support me afterwards”

*–LN, ex resident now in her own home*





## **From** Sybil Phoenix

The Friends Group has taken up the challenge of the funds needed to refurbish the hostel and in addition we hope to eventually build new premises in the grounds to house additional young women in the years to come. This gives us the stiff target of £1.5 million to raise, so of course this involved the Friends group getting our heads together to see what extra events we could slot into our already busy calendar.

We kicked off in November with a swimathon in which members of the Friends group, residents and staff participated, raising around £300. We thank the staff at Ladywell leisure centre for their help with this event. A fundraising auction at Lewisham College took place in February and we say a big thank you to Dame Ruth Silver and Tim Potter for facilitating this. In March, an extra fundraising dinner on a Jamaican theme took place at Tressillian Road. Leticea Phoenix participated in the BUPA London 10k run in May which gave our fundraising efforts a further boost. We also hosted and expect to host some extra lunches at the House of Lords thanks to the help and support of Baroness Gardener of Parkes, Baroness Howells of St David's, Mary at the National Grid and all our other supporters.

We would also like to minute thanks to Coda Quashie and the 360-degree theatre company for their performance of "The Set Up " in April, the proceeds of which were donated to the Trust.

David Michael, who represents us on the police consultative committee, spoke at our AGM in November. We thank him for continuing to be such supporter of the Trust and also would like to note our appreciation of all the work he does for the community in Lewisham and beyond.

The Christmas coffee morning and fair took place in December and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lady Kris Hibbert who was our guest speaker.

At our Annual Dinner this year our guest speaker was Leo Muhammad, Actor, Activist and social commentator. At the event we honoured our longstanding friend and Marsha Phoenix stalwart Yvonne Stanford and the evening was enlivened by poetry readings from Esther Stanford, and Rosalind and George James. We thank everyone who helped to make it such a special evening for us all. Also we thank Margaret Asemoa, her team and the catering students for providing such a beautifully prepared meal.

Dr Mike Phillips delivered our Annual Lecture at Goldsmiths' College in May. His theme was Art and Culture in Education and he drew from his wide experience in both education and the Arts to provide a number of interesting observations in relation to this topic. This event was hosted as usual by Geoffrey Crossick the Warden of Goldsmiths, and we thank both him and the college for our continuing close relationship.

And so back to fundraising; I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has responded so well to my recent appeal; in particular the Metropolitan Police in Lewisham led by the borough commander, Chief Superintendent Alan Pughsley for their generous donation and event held for the Trust in May 2008 and for their support of our House of Lords lunch event. Thanks also to Lady Sainsbury for her kind donation and all the many others who support us at all our events and endeavours. We thank them all sincerely from the bottom of our hearts.





## Staff Reports

Well, what can I say, it's 7.00am it's Tuesday morning, I am coming to the end of another sleep in duty and it's a beautiful warm and sunny day with a real positive feel to it, and that reflects my mood as I begin to write my section for this year's Annual Report.

Where do I begin though as it's been yet another year, which looking back, holds so many memories and with those, so many challenges. As a Project Worker, our work is different every day, working in different situations with the girls who are all unique in their personalities. We have seen some of our old residents moving on into their own flats or moving to second stage accommodation and before we even have time to miss them, the new residents have moved in and are making their way in the house.

The biggest challenge but most rewarding of learning experiences is working closely with the girls on a daily basis, whether it be chasing Housing Benefit or DWP claims or chasing the resident to clean their room or the fridge freezer. The work though is not all about form filling in and endless paperwork. I have particularly enjoyed the take away evenings, the yearly BBQ, the weekend cook-ins (where the girls and myself have concocted some dishes which would render Gordon Ramsey speechless and yes I mean speechless), and the cosy late night chats on the weekends before bedtime where a multitude of topics have been discussed ranging from boyfriends, the latest storylines of Eastenders or Hollyoaks, scary ghost stories to body piercing and tattoos.

So it's here as a keyworker, where I would especially like to thank the 5 girls who I have personally keyworked over this last year (and some of you longer, and you know who you are), for making this part of my work the most interesting, challenging, mind bogglingly confusing, head bogglingly frustrating but most of all the best fun a keyworker can have. Yes you girls have made me the keyworker I am today and I thank you.

As in-house Psychologist and one half of the counselling team, during the year some real hard

work has been put in here both by those who have accessed the service and also by Sam and myself, in particular to the ongoing training we both undertake. Some very positive personal development and CBT work has been undertaken and our feedback from those we have worked with has been a very positive one. Which leads to our conclusion that there continues to be a real need for this service within the Trust. For the last 4 months I have been taking part in a research programme into Positive Psychology and Positive Health for the University of Pennsylvania, USA under Dr Martin Seligman, which is proving to be very insightful, and I will certainly be looking at bringing this kind of programme into the work done here in the future.

For my finale, I could not write this report without mentioning F O O D. A part of my work here is the ordering of the house shopping from a 10p bar of chocolate to a leg of lamb. Working closely with chef, putting together the weekly menus and getting involved in being her assistant with the preparation of some of the meals, and this has been a challenge in itself. I am very happy to report here that between chef and myself we have for the most part kept within our budget, and we now have such a repertoire of meals to put on the menu that no one meal is repeated in any one month. We are both learning so much here and are turning into a right pair of Jamie Olivers. Yes, we think nothing of adding a herb here or a spice there or even creating our own marinades. It's a satisfying sight to see our girls, and staff enjoying their evening meals.

So here I end, as I began, on a very positive note, my report for this year, and its here I would like to take the opportunity to thank both staff and residents for enriching my time and my learning experience at MTPT, for all your support during the year, and for not taking any pranks played by me too seriously (as there will be more in the year to come), and I am looking forward to the coming year with positive energy and excitement as we at The Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust move onwards and upwards.

Chris Hunt

**Project Worker**





## Staff Reports 2

I must emphasise that I am still enjoying my job despite the challenges that go with it at times. I like challenges and use them as a tool to improve myself.

As the health and safety representative, a role I have enjoyed so much since I took up the appointment, I have found it very tasking, Especially in the recent months as some additional paperwork required for Fire /Risk assessments has been landed on us, to join all the other checking and monitoring we already do!

This has been completed with input from Sybil Car-ey, the Project Manager and Bill Horlock at the fire service in order to make sure it is done appropriately to the stan-dard required. Thanks to both of them. We have always carried out full risks assessments for the whole building every 6 months but this new requirement means a separate one for fire risk only must additionally be undertaken.

We also carry out fortnightly spot checks and regu-lar room checks to ensure the safety of all stakeholders. A lot of catching up is always required with Health and Safety so that we will not be left out or found wanting over any aspect at MPMT.

Adebimpe Oputa

**Project Worker and Health and Safety Officer**



I love my job very much and I like cooking food for the girls, especially when I know they have enjoyed it. We work as a team, which I really like. Recently we have worked to respond to the girls' comments by making the menu more varied which makes life more interesting, with new recipes.

Old favourites that I cook are ackee, saltfish, rice and peas, also roast pork and roast potatoes. We cook Chinese, Italian and meals like shepherds pie and sausage and mash. We try to have something that everyone likes on a regular basis.

I enjoy chatting with the girls, advising them on how to cook and on how to be safe in the kitchen and when cooking.

And that is my first ever short and spicy contribu-tion to the Annual Report!

Fiona Turnbull

**Cook**

## Report from the Executive Committee

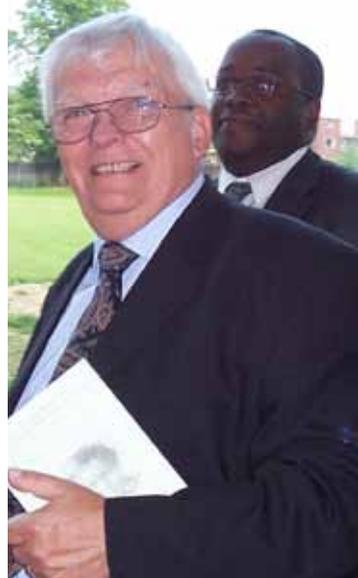
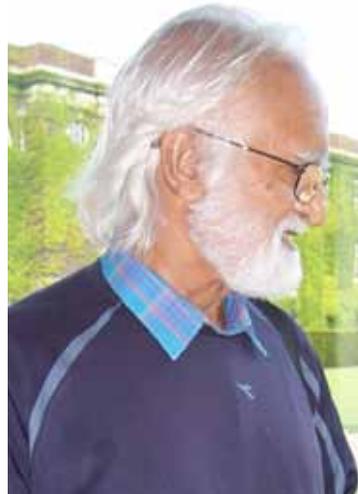
As a Brockley Ward councillor I had long been aware of the dedicated work carried out by the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust in providing accommodation and support to homeless young women. Two years ago, however, I was delighted to be appointed to the Executive Committee as the council's representative and thus play a more pro-active role in this vital local project.

At committee meetings held roughly every six weeks we receive a financial update and a comprehensive Director's Report. This has allowed committee members to retain a comprehensive oversight of the Trust's finances as well as being able to look at issues such as staffing, maintenance and repairs, residents' satisfaction levels and funding applications. The committee also approves any new or updated policy statements in line with legal and voluntary sector requirements.

The new requirement to ensure all residents have a single room has posed one of the biggest challenges over the past year and led the committee to review a wide range of future options. Out of this review plans have emerged for an ambitious refurbishment project and proposed funding package for Tressillian Road which provide an exciting way forward for the Trust.

In addition to formal committee work, executive members have also actively supported a range of fundraising and social events including the highly successful annual dinners at Lewisham College, the House of Lords teas and the art exhibition. Fellow executive committee members will also wish to join me in congratulating Sybil Phoenix on her well-deserved OBE this year and say what a privilege it is to work alongside her.

Councillor Darren Johnson  
**Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust  
Executive Committee Member –  
Borough representative**



## **Education and Resettlement Reports**

### Resettlement

The challenge of resettlement continued to beset 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 26 people, slightly up on as last year, with 7 going to permanent housing and 8 to second stage projects. 4 returned to their families and one person went away to university. 1 resident became pregnant and was rehoused by the council. We had to ask 3 people to leave but assisted them with onward housing. 2 found their own solutions.

Out of the cases of people going to permanent move on all bar one was through the Housing Options Centre / homelessness route, which in turn meant that we were only able to achieve one out of our quota of nominations via the councils agency move on quota. This was quite disappointing and has meant move on for some has been a very long wait.

We calculated the average stay at the main hostel for those who left was just over 10 months, which we are satisfied with. Stays at Erlanger Rd averaged 9.2 months We surveyed those who had moved as usual and found the majority still housed and happy at the year end.

Thanks to Alpha Homes, Hyde In Touch, and English churches for helping with move on over the year. Thanks as usual to Jane Ferneyhough and Es-mine Hilton and the borough for the move on quota; it is not their fault it is so slow!

This year we also benefited from inclusion on the Self Build Scheme which allows eligible residents to build their own homes and gain a recognised building qualification upon completion. A couple of our residents were selected to be involved in the project. The programme is due to start in the near future and we look forward to future partnerships of this kind.

We also say thank you to London and Quadrant for the one offer per year they give Erlanger Rd residents. A lovely offer was secured in Greenwich this year. All this help continues to be appreciated by us and our residents and helps us to achieve a throughput and so be able help more people.

We thank the Morph housing project in Camberwell, which provides a valuable source of low cost furniture, and also the DWP who provide community care grants to help those who move on get started in their new homes. We thank One housing for providing ongoing floating support.

Rebecca Long

## Social Events, Education and Welfare

Funding from the Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe and the Hilden foundation continued for this important aspect of our work during the year. We also continue to be grateful and appreciative of the private donation of Ben and Jane Goss for their monthly payments providing a funding stream for this project.

As noted we had to say farewell to Ethel our education coordinator and can now say hello and welcome to Jona Thorpe our new coordinator in post. We also welcomed Sally Hawkins one of our patrons on board in a more hands on role as a volunteer to help with education project.

As ever we thank Lewisham College for our excellent tutors in English, Art and IT. Once again some self-development classes were run by Esther Austin of [www.emotionsintransit.co.uk](http://www.emotionsintransit.co.uk). Spectrecom Films raised funds to carry out a film and media project with some of our residents, providing a valuable experience for them.

We thank 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 counselors, Chris and Sam who are our in-house counselling service. All this helps us to make our project special.

As usual we had plenty of trips during the year, to the theatre and cinema and out for meals as well as takeaway evenings at home and a barbeque. Our summer trip was to Chessington World of Adventures.

Meanwhile our Education access fund has continued to be successful and we had a bumper year for helping university students; 11 current and ex residents either going to university for the first time or continuing their studies. Through the fund we have supported a number of young women over the year with rent, books and equipment. We thank Citibank, HSBC, The British and Foreign school society, Housing for Women and Spectrecom Films for donations to the Fund which mean we can continue with this project.





## The Art Project: Project Exhibitions and Work

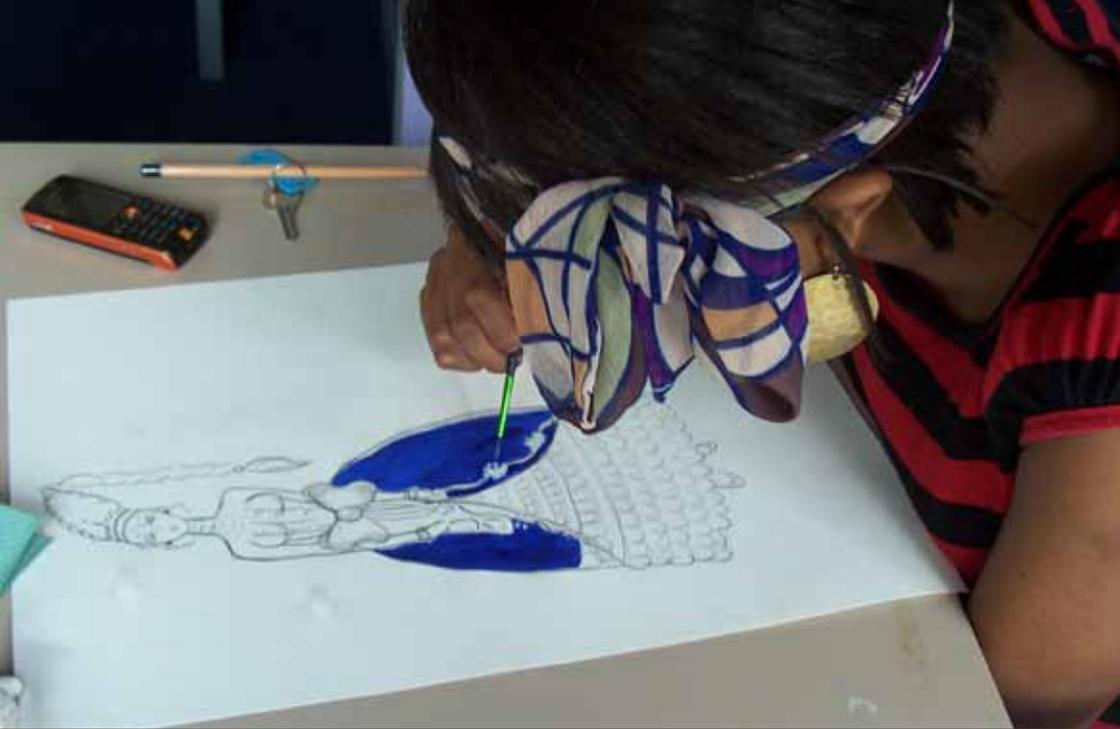
Our workshops continue as ever, supporting the creative output of the young women at the Trust. Much of the work is created during the workshop but I would also add that many pieces are made outside of workshop hours through studies pursued or out of personal interest & motivation from the young women. The materials are always available. Sometimes my energies are spent seeking out talent hidden away from the workshop – for example portraits displayed on the notice boards, a playfully spontaneous interaction work that was created round the dining room table one evening.

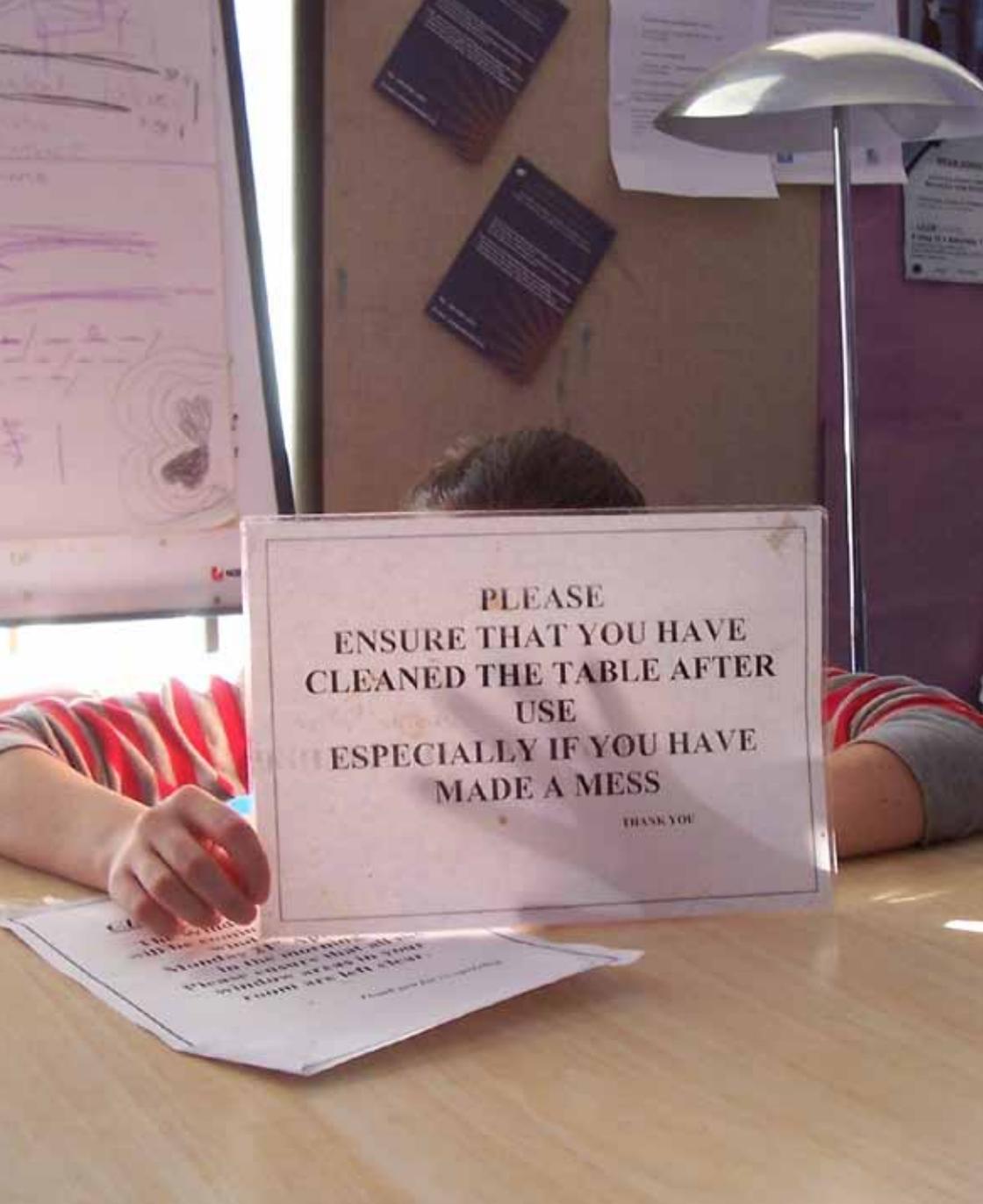
As with most of our Art workshops the themes act as a springboard and are never set in stone. The girls often bring their own inspirations to the workshop as many are already highly motivated in their creative pursuits and the class can act as an aid to this process. The other classes include sewing, dance, computer technology and many others that are run from time to time like make-up skills and drama.

This year we have also done some trips out and about, and this included a recent trip to the Institute of Contemporary Arts where Woodrow, the Trust's Chair, gave a talk on comics and his latest book which has recently been published. We have also visited several locations during the Brockley Open studios to see the work of other local artists.



Geraldine Walsh  
**Art Workshop**





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