



Summer 2009

NEWSLETTER

Colchester and Tendring Community Trust

grassroots.
Supporting causes in Colchester & Tendring

Welcome to our new style Newsletter

Following the rebranding of the Colchester and Tendring Community Trust to Grassroots, we are continuing to develop the charity so that we can give the maximum help and support to local good causes.

One of these changes is to design a new Newsletter which we plan to publish on a regular basis keeping you informed about the work of the charity.

We are intending to initially produce two Newsletters a year. These will be in the summer and winter and will provide details of the grants we have made and the other activities of the charity.

We are hoping that many people will be quite happy to receive our Newsletter as an e-mail and we will be asking all our supporters and grant recipients if they would provide us with an e-mail contact address.

If you do not have an e-mail address and would like to receive our Newsletter in a normal printed format then please write or telephone our Director, Sue Hawes, who will add you to our mailing list.

Finally, this Newsletter is as much about you as it is about Grassroots so please keep us informed of the benefit our grants will have made to your organisation as it may well inspire others to request some support for their own group.

Difficult times for everyone

Grassroots Trustees are well aware of the difficult financial situation many people are finding themselves in at present and this is also reflected in the voluntary and charity world as well.

For Grassroots to make grants to deserving causes in the Colchester and Tendring areas we need an income which, in the past, has been a mixture of donations and interest earned by the money we have invested.

Unfortunately, investment income is now very poor and donations have also fallen because of the current limited financial resources of so many people.

The Trustees hope that the situation will soon improve and they look forward to giving many more awards to deserving local causes.

Over £2,400 given to local good causes

More than £2,400 was awarded to eleven local charities by Grassroots at their May meeting and presented by Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex at the AGM held in Clacton on 16 June.

The awards varied from £120 to £500 and will be used in helping good causes in the Colchester and Tendring areas to continue with their work or to develop new services or projects.

The Trustees of Grassroots are delighted that these awards will be put to such good use across the Colchester and Tendring communities.

Organisation	Beneficiaries	Amount awarded
Tiny Tots, Alresford	Activities and free play for under 5's	£150 towards insurance for the group
The Compassionate Friends	Supporting bereaved parents and families following the death of a child	£120 towards hire of a hall
CHTV - local life tv	Changing tapes to DVDs	£250 towards cost of DVD transfer
Friends of Westland's Country Park	Providing community facilities for adults and children	£190 towards public liability insurance
Colchester Toy Library	Drop-in for pre-school and parents and older children	£500 towards room hire and craft materials
TACMEP (Tendring and Colchester Minority Ethnic Partnership)	Support for the BME community to combat isolation	£150 towards room hire
HEAL	Support and information for adult survivors of child abuse	£200 towards weekly support group costs
Kingswood Hoe Special School	Support for residential trip to Norfolk	£240 towards helping families who find difficulty in paying the full cost
Young Children's Festival	Provide workshop at festival held in the Castle Park	£180 towards craft workshop
Clacton and Tendring Shopmobility	Assisting those with permanent or temporary disability to have access to amenities	£200 towards the purchase of collection tins
CVST Tendring	Promote and support voluntary groups	£250 towards a projection screen

Annual General Meeting in Clacton

The nineteenth Annual General Meeting of Grassroots (The Colchester and Tendring Community Trust) was held at Sam's Hall, Imperial House, Clacton on Tuesday 16 June. Lord Petre, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex was the Guest of Honour. Also in attendance was Cllr Sonia Lewis, Deputy Mayor, Colchester Borough Council.

Peter Simpson welcomed guests and supporters and gave the Chairman's Report on behalf of Robert Clubb, who was unable to attend.

Chairman's Report

Just when we hoped that we had overcome the trauma of moving the Grassroots office we have had to cope with a worldwide economic crisis. Given that we operate on such small margins and rely heavily on the interest generated from our capital, this is having unfortunate consequences that will be particularly painful in the next year or so.

I wish to place on record our appreciation for Councillor Peter Crowe in the first instance in selecting Grassroots as one of his charities as Mayor of Colchester and, of course, to Councillor Margaret Crowe for her sterling work following his sad passing.

My fellow trustees and I are exceedingly grateful and the £6,000 given will certainly assist us in continuing our work in the short-term.

The annual raffle that we have operated very successfully for many years is now, sadly, past its 'sell by date' In 2008 it only generated half its normal profit. Therefore, it has been decided because of the enormous amount of work in organising the raffle, we have little alternative but to utilise new vehicles to replace this income.

In the 2008/9 year we made grants to local deserving groups to the value of £9328. That brings the grants since 1989 to a staggering £416,349.

We continue to get valuable support from both Colchester Borough and Tendring District Councils and other corporate and individual donors and it is hoped that we will be able to develop links with businesses, solicitors and social groups in the future.

Financial and Director's Report

During the year 31 voluntary and community groups were awarded grants. In addition 27 groups benefited from Raffle grants by selling tickets.

It has been a privilege to witness the dedication and hard work of the individuals working in the many groups and organisations providing social and welfare services across Colchester and Tendring. As previously, new and emerging groups with little fund-raising experience, particularly value our help, both in terms of financial assistance and signposting towards other possible sources of funding.

Operating costs continue to be maintained at very modest levels and there is little room to trim these costs further while economic pressure mean that our traditional sources of income appear to be under threat.



Representatives from organisations who received cheques from Lord Petre at the Grassroots Annual General Meeting



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Supporting causes
important to local
people in the
Colchester and
Tendring areas



Director

Sue Hawes

Volunteers

Ondra Allison
George Posner

Trustees

Peter Simpson
(Chair)

Anne Brown
(Vice Chair)

Allan Blundell
Robert Clubb JP
Robin Finch
Richard Gower
Bonnie Hill JP
Ray Roberts
Westley Sandford
MBE JP
Tony Whitmarsh JP



Grassroots? Never heard of you!

When you're chatting with people and you tell them you are connected with Grassroots often there is a blank look on their faces. What is Grassroots they will ask?

Originally started as the Colchester and Tendring Community Trust in 1991 the charity helps and supports small organisations in area. These organisations, such as playgroups, scout groups and older people's welfare clubs are the grassroots of our community and that's the reason why the trust decided to change it's name to Grassroots a couple of years ago.

We offer help and support to these organisations - both in the form of grants for specific projects - but also signposting them to other local and national organisations which may be able to assist them in their work.

As trustees it gives us all great pleasure in being able to offer financial support but it has also opened our eyes to the many local people who have identified a need in their community and are working hard to meet that need.

For example, we have recently helped the Tiny Tots Toddler Group in Alresford to remain open by supporting their insurance costs while they organise new fund-raising ventures to take them forward, while Layer Good Companions Club and Connaught Social Club for the Blind each received grants so that members could go on outings.

To be able to offer financial support to these small local organisations we, at Grassroots, have got to have the money to give out.

In recent years, we have been putting money away so that our grant giving could come from the interest that this investment brings, but, I am sure you will all be aware of what is happening to bank interest rates at present and so one

of our sources of grant money has virtually dried up.

In addition, to holding money as an investment we are also able to offer local businesses the opportunity to give to their local community. By donating a global amount and working through Grassroots the business can be certain that it's charitable giving will go to the most deserving causes in the area.

Being relatively small, and more importantly, local; we can work closely with our supporters in meeting their wishes. For example, it may be that a donor wishes their money to cover a particular geographical area or they may wish to support organisations for the elderly or disabled.

We are already doing this by administering a number of local charities across the Colchester and Tendring areas.

We would hope that many local businesses and others will help us to support others in our local community. If you would like to make an individual or corporate donation please contact our Director, Sue Hawes, who will be happy to discuss your wishes and to provide more information on Grassroots grant-making activities.