

4 Covent Garden Community Association

Unwin, sadly passed away. He remembered the CGCA in his will and left us £1,000. The Covent Garden Housing Co-operative very kindly made a £300 donation to the CGCA and Sarastro Restaurant generously sent us a £1,000 well-wish on our 30th anniversary.

We continue to receive donations via the Internet. We can accept donations from CAF Charity Card holders and we are looking at the best way to accept credit card and other donations on-line. Despite the enormous advances in technology over the past 5 years, cash and cheques are still the preferred payment for most of our supporters.

Some examples of help-in-kind during the year included the very generous offer from Rugby Estates plc to pay for the entire production and printing of our Annual Report, enabling us to print a full colour cover. The New Connaught Rooms generously hosted our AGM in a large, air-conditioned conference suite without charge. Other generous sponsorship came from Neal Street East, who have kindly agreed to pay for a thorough review of the CGCA and its work by a professional consultant.

Considerable efforts have gone into finding funds from charitable trusts and grant-making organisations. Our Executive Committee is very aware that we need to bring in more sponsorship and donations during the coming year. So if you are reading this and are able to help, either through making a donation or through help in kind, please contact us – we would love to hear from you.

Every little helps and is much appreciated.

Sital Maan, Hon Treasurer

a copy of the CGCA's audited accounts will be available at the AGM on 19th June or from the CGCA office

Staff Reports

This last year has been a particularly busy one for the CGCA, thanks in no small part to having been tenacious enough to celebrate 30 years in the business.

Our 30th anniversary events included a classical concert, a Service of Celebration, a Tea Dance for CGCA's more senior members, a photographic exhibition at the Royal Opera House, guided walks and the Neal Street Festival. All of this on top of the day-to-day work, of course.

The Neal Street Festival in particular took a great deal of time but it paid off. We combined with one of Covent Garden's longest-running businesses, The Punjab restaurant in Neal Street, who were themselves celebrating their half-century. There were plenty of delectables at the Food Fayre, colourful performances by Indian dancers and drummers, 50 stalls – most with a local connection, street entertainers, a bottle stall and the CGCA Grand Jumble Sale, all of which contributed enormously to the £1,750 profit, some of which enabled us to buy a much-needed digital video camera.

Throughout the year, the Smoke Detector project has been on-going.

We work in conjunction with Soho Fire Station in providing and fitting free smoke detectors and batteries (and their replacements) for local Senior Citizens.

Please do contact the CGCA if you, or someone you know, would benefit from this service

Volunteers: we still need to increase our pool of volunteers who can give the occasional couple of hours to fit smoke detectors. We would be delighted to hear from you - training and equipment provided.

We commenced a much-needed platform for discussion by local residents covering any issues around the subject of housing, advice and networking. These topics take many forms and can range from diverse issues, for instance:

- *The drug problem, which has had such an unfortunate knock-on effect to the quality of life of many residents*
- *The ineffective management of certain blocks or estates*
- *The question of youth in the area and how to provide services for this growing group of residents.*

We continued to organise a number of public meetings on matters of local interest and our various sub-committees meet every few weeks – please ring the office for details. We are planning a Community Carol Service at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden. This will be held on the evening of Monday 16th December 2002. Please put this date in your diary, as it will be a beautiful evening.

Alison Cattermoule, Assistant Co-ordinator