



## The Tom ap Rhys Pryce Memorial Trust

### Newsletter Update – March 2009

It is now just over 3 years since the tragic event which prompted the creation of this Memorial Trust, and a great deal has been achieved. To date, Tom's Trust has given financial support to 15 different and dynamic organisations, all with the common aim of helping disadvantaged young people to fulfil their potential through a variety of engaging and innovative ways.

In addition, Tom's Trust has jointly set up and funds two academic bursaries in Tom's name, for students in financial need, with Marlborough College, and Trinity College, Cambridge. Tom's Trust has also seen one of its projects come to fruition: the Skilltrain 'MC Rapagram' project. The participants on the project produced a CD with a positive youth message of non-violence and tolerance, and went on to write, design and produce a short video on the history of Hip-Hop, with the help of 'Swiss', a member of 'So Solid Crew'.

During last year, Tom's Trust provided funding for the following:

- Greenhouse Bethwin Football Club in Peckham. Greenhouse Schools ([www.greenhouseschools.org](http://www.greenhouseschools.org)) is a charity which runs 41 sport and performing arts programmes for "at risk" young people in 31 state secondary schools and 6 community clubs in deprived areas of London. It currently reaches 7,000 young people and was selected as the Evening Standard's Christmas Charity last year. The Football Club in Peckham sits in the middle of one of the largest estates in Europe. Due to huge demand for the Club, and a long waiting list, Greenhouse Schools extended the number of teams at the Club from 18 last season to 28 this season. The funding from Tom's Trust has helped to purchase new team kit and equipment for the new players. Tom's Trust believes that the Club's work - providing mentoring both on and away from the pitch - plays a crucial role in encouraging young people away from negative influences in the community;
- the community centre in Kensal Green. The community centre is owned and managed by a local charity called LEAP (Local Employment Access Projects – [www.leap.org.uk](http://www.leap.org.uk)). When LEAP moved to Kensal Green in September 2002, it realised that providing activities and positive opportunities for local youths was vital, as it recognised that there is a local problem of drugs, criminal activities and gang culture affecting youths in the area. The funding from Tom's Trust has been used to refurbish the community centre, to enable LEAP to sustain and enhance its provision for local youths, and to provide support for extra activities, including delivering silk screen printing classes;
- Walmer Road School in North Kensington. This is the Trust's second project in partnership with the charity SHINE (Support and Help in Education – [www.shinetrust.org.uk](http://www.shinetrust.org.uk)). Walmer Road School is a special school set up by the Rugby Portobello Trust ([www.rugbyportobello.org.uk](http://www.rugbyportobello.org.uk)) in 2005. The School provides a full-time alternative education for 14-16 year-olds who have withdrawn from formal mainstream education, or have been excluded for various reasons, and who are heading towards not being in education, employment or training – often due to domestic/social factors. These young people are probably at the final point at which educational intervention could make a meaningful difference to their overall life chances. Pupils are treated as individuals and taught in a new and exciting way in small classes. It is hoped, amongst other things, that they will re-engage with learning, complete their compulsory education, achieve a minimum of 3 GCSEs, and continue into further education or training;
- a new 'IntoUniversity' centre in Kensal Green, close to where Tom used to live. 'IntoUniversity' ([www.intouniversity.org](http://www.intouniversity.org)) is a charity whose vision is to provide a national network of local learning centres. Its work is aimed at children and youths between the ages of 8 and 18, who are most at risk of failing to achieve their potential because of economic, social, cultural or linguistic disadvantage. There is a structured programme, consisting of academic support, FOCUS weeks/days and mentoring (by students from UCL, Imperial College, King's College etc). The programme is designed

to support, motivate and encourage the children and youths to achieve their potential, and to attain either a place at University or another chosen aspiration. The Kensal Green centre is now up and running and already has attracted good attendance by local children;

- Southside Young Leaders Academy ([www.syla.org.uk](http://www.syla.org.uk)), located in Camberwell. The Academy is based on the highly successful 'Eastside Young Leaders Academy' ([www.eyla.org.uk](http://www.eyla.org.uk)) which was established in 2002. SYLA works with boys of African and Afro-Caribbean origin who have the ability and aptitude to be leaders, but who are at risk of exclusion from school due to challenging behaviour. The boys enrol at the Academy at the age of 8 and it is intended that they will remain there until they are 18. The Academy offers the boys a varied programme of activities to help them to develop their leadership skills in a positive way, and ultimately to become leaders in society. Tom's Trust is helping to pay for the tutors and mentors needed to run the Academy.

In addition to the above, Tom's Trust continues to support a number of its initial partners who are all doing excellent work with children and young people in various capacities. These include: The Frank Buttle Trust, Livity/LIVE in Brixton, SHINE/North Primary School in Southall, The London Boxing Academy Community Project in Tottenham, Toynbee Hall, the OK Club in South Kilburn, and Midi-Music in Lewisham. A number of new proposals for further funding are either imminently expected, or currently under consideration by Tom's Trust, from a number of its other initial partners.

Another important development has been the ability of Tom's Trust to identify synergies between the projects it funds, and to create links between the organisations which run them. Tom's Trust has recently formalised this 'network', to create a Forum, with a view to (i) promoting the exchange of ideas and experience between the organisations, (ii) encouraging the cross-referral of children and youths across the respective organisations/projects, and (iii) encouraging closer relationships between the organisations and perhaps co-operation on joint projects. The first meeting of the Forum, which was hosted by Livity/LIVE on 12 March 2009, was attended by representatives from 12 organisations. A second meeting will take place in September 2009.

Tom's Trust has continued to receive very generous support with its fundraising. During the course of last year there were a number of particularly significant efforts: Nadia Lewis (an ex-colleague of Tom's) ran a Half Marathon in March; Adele Eastman (Tom's fiancée) ran the London Marathon in April, together with friends David Smellie, Alex and Julia Young and Dom Jones - all crossing the finish line within 4 hours and 41 minutes; Giles Vallis (Tom's cousin) rode his bike from John O'Groats to Lands End in 9 days in May; Deborah Cooper (an ex-colleague of Tom's) jumped out of an aeroplane in July; and Michael Firth (another ex-colleague of Tom's) and some of his family successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in August - reaching the summit in 7 days. A fund-raising picnic was held at Claremont Fan Court, and the Cycle to Cannes organisation ([www.cycle2cannes.org](http://www.cycle2cannes.org)) has given very substantial sums to the Trust following the ride to Cannes each year. The Trustees are extremely grateful to everyone who has kindly organised and participated in these events and others, and to all of those hundreds of people who have sponsored them, and donated to Tom's Trust over the past 3 years, so generously. A huge thank you to you all.

The total amount that Tom's Trust has funded or pledged to date amounts to over £320,000, but the need for money is still a challenge, particularly in the current economic climate. There are so many really worthwhile organisations in London that are doing tremendously good work on a shoe-string budget, that could do so much more, given the funding. In spite of all the problems we read about in the press, we believe Tom's Trust is making a difference, through the organisations it is funding, to many children and young people in deprived parts of London who otherwise lack the opportunities to develop their natural talents. However, we are acutely aware that they, and the organisations trying to help them, will need our support more than ever during these very uncertain and difficult times.

**The Trustees** - Adele Eastman, Andrew Hughes, John and Estella ap Rhys Pryce

[www.tomaprhyspryce.com](http://www.tomaprhyspryce.com)

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