

SUPPORTING LONDON'S COMMUNITIES

The community theme is reflected in the Lord Mayor's Show floats sponsored by the City of London Corporation. This sponsorship funds creative assistance for groups in the City's neighbouring areas. These floats are often the most dazzling elements of the Show because they demonstrate the energy and ideas on the City's doorstep (see page 40).

This is also an example of the City of London Corporation's partnership work with its neighbours on regeneration projects that are of mutual benefit. The City Corporation has an extensive programme of work aimed at improving long-term economic, social and environmental wellbeing in London, particularly in neighbouring boroughs. It supports a diverse range of projects including business enterprise and inward investment, training and skills development, employment, the physical environment and transport.

One of the key focuses is on

working with schools in training and employment and on business support to overcome barriers to an area's economic prospects. This extends to the City of London Corporation's sponsorship of three City academies outside the Square Mile to help raise education standards

The City Corporation's charity, the City Bridge Trust, gives grants of over £15m each year to projects across London. It is the capital's largest grant-giving charity, but it also funds

initiatives such as research projects, feasibility studies and conferences. Many have a London-wide and, in some cases, national benefit. This year, in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the City Bridge Trust launched Growing Localities – a £2m fund based around the theme of making better use of London's green spaces while encouraging community involvement, ownership and volunteering.

PROTECTING LONDON'S HERITAGE

Heritage plays a large role in the City Corporation's activities. This can be seen most clearly in the wide range of historic and architecturally important buildings for which it is responsible. Tower Bridge, the Monument, the Old Bailey, Leadenhall and Smithfield Markets, Roman London's

Amphitheatre, Mansion House and Guildhall are just some of these. Guildhall Library, Museum of London and London Metropolitan Archives also house a wealth of information that puts the City Corporation's history in context and makes it accessible.

Perhaps because of its concentrated nature, located in just over one square mile, wherever you go there will be something that relates to heritage. This could be a historic church, a street name reflecting the original trades practised here (Bread Street, Poultry) or plaques on walls that tell the buildings' stories.

The City is where London began. Its influence extended over the centuries to the outlying regions and beyond and eventually became an economic powerhouse vital to the whole of the UK.

In tandem, the Corporation itself has developed over the years to protect and preserve the heritage that makes the City so special and to use its resources outside the Square Mile for the benefit of all. The Lord Mayor's Show is a chance for everyone to see how the City and its Corporation go way beyond just business.

Chef Raymond Blanc and actor Joanna Lumley launching the City Corporation's Growing Localities scheme

