



28 February 2013

Press Statement

The Council of the Royal Commonwealth Society has exchanged contracts to dispose of leases on Northumberland Avenue where it has resided since 1922. This is because income from members and trading activities are not meeting the full costs of retaining the premises as the Commonwealth Club. These actions put the Society on a secure financial footing, with reserves and no debts, and will allow it to enhance its work to fulfil its charitable objectives.

The Club and meeting facilities will continue to operate for the time being.

Despite its financial problems, the RCS has sustained a programme of activities in recent months. In 2012 it played a full part in HM The Queen's Jubilee celebrations, including the innovative Jubilee Time Capsule project.

The RCS is reviewing ways in which it can provide for its members and support the national and global network of branches. The Society will give more information on its future within the next few months.

The RCS will continue to focus on its role as an innovative bridge between the intergovernmental structures of the Commonwealth and civil society organisations.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The Royal Commonwealth Society

Founded in 1868, the RCS is the oldest and largest non-governmental organisation devoted to the modern Commonwealth. It conducts a range of events, activities and programmes aimed at promoting international understanding. HM Queen Elizabeth II is Patron and Peter Kellner is Chairman. Headquartered at the Commonwealth Club in London, the RCS has some 4000 members in the UK and a presence in 40 Commonwealth countries through a network of branches and Commonwealth societies.

The modern Commonwealth was established with 8 members in 1949. In 2011, it has 54 members with a total population of 2.1 billion. It is a voluntary association of governments and peoples, built around shared language, institutions, challenges, aspirations and values. Commonwealth countries work together to promote common values: democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and opportunity for all.

Contacts

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