

AGM - Chair's Report

Once again, I sincerely thank our volunteers for all the time and care they have given to asylum seekers and refugees in Darlington and for the way that you have made DAR such a thriving community. There have been many highlights over the year.

Our fun-day was a fantastic example of how individual members can make a difference. It was such a privilege to be among those enjoying the fun, playing games, having their faces painted, and sharing smiles and laughter. Asylum seekers also enjoyed a trip down to Bainbridge where the local Quakers had organised a day of food and fun. Despite the dire weather conditions, it was enjoyed by all.

Our 2019 Quiz Night was again a great event which raised much needed funds and brought new members along.

Clarey's trip to Lesvos created great excitement. She and her friends collected and sorted tonnes of donations before loading a van and driving all the way to Lesvos. Her initial aim was to deliver a much-needed respirator and stretcher to Refugee Rescue, but it also helped us in raising awareness of the plight of refugees seeking sanctuary in Europe, particularly unaccompanied children.

A key backbone of our work is the teaching of English, so that we enable better communication. Our language team continue to work hard at developing new ways of doing this. They are reliable and consistent in their commitment to regularly teaching families at home and in classes. We have started to set up a school induction programme for newcomers to Darlington in partnership with Tees Valley of Sanctuary and Corporation Road school, and we hope this will go live this year. Once again, we organised language daytrips for the Syrian families and many asylum seekers and refugees enjoyed a free trip to the theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk courtesy of the Darlington Hippodrome. Many of the children sent drawings of their experience and messages of thanks to the Hippodrome.

The weekly drop-in at Walkington House also went from strength to strength. We saw more volunteers coming in to help this year, particularly with the teaching of English. Many of the asylum seekers who received their 'right to remain' continue to come along and play an important role in helping newer arrivals. Sadly, as the COVID-19 virus hit, we had to close the drop in. However, the team continue to maintain contact and provide support by phone and through social media.

The Home Office contract for asylum seeker support was transferred and split between two new contractors this year. Difficulties were encountered by many during the transition period, as Mears Group and Migrant Help took over from G4S. We managed to maintain links with key workers and ensured that adequate services were delivered especially to those in vulnerable situations.

Some of our asylum seekers have volunteered with other projects like the reclaimed-food charity 'Food for Thought' and local Foodbanks. One has become the Vice Chair of Tees Valley City of Sanctuary and another has assisted the NE British Red Cross and is volunteering with the Regional Refugee Forum. It has been a privilege to get to know such resilient people.

In the coming year, I hope we can build on what we already do and ensure that we bring friendship and relief to those who are displaced from their home countries despite the difficulties our country now faces.

Fran Wood
March 2020



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2019	To	Period end date 31/12/2019
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donation	2,004	25	-	2,029	2,467
Fundraising	1,159	-	-	1,159	142
Collection for White Helmets	-	-	-	-	-
Book Sales	-	-	-	-	75
Bus Hire	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	3
Other	-	-	-	-	25
Celebrations, Entertainment & Catering Costs	-	595	-	595	-
NEMP Project	-	5,000	-	5,000	4,000
Toiletries & Household Cleaners	-	-	-	-	-
CDCF Micro Grant School Holiday Clubs	-	1,000	-	1,000	500
The Hospital of God Bike Grant	-	-	-	-	3,000
Bicycle Repairs etc	-	-	-	-	-
Fostering Event	-	-	-	-	-
Lesvos Solidarity	-	-	-	-	859
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,163	6,620	-	9,783	11,072
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,163	6,620	-	9,783	11,072
A3 Payments					
Translation expenses	26	-	-	26	98
Stationery, Printing, Office Equipment & Postage	136	-	-	136	666
Bus Hire	100	-	-	100	-
Insurance	252	-	-	252	252
Household Goods	488	-	-	488	87
Travel Costs	20	-	-	20	-
Fundraising Expenses	27	-	-	27	59
Donation to White Helmets	-	-	-	-	-
ICO Fees	35	-	-	35	35
Rent - Storage Unit	-	-	-	-	-
NE Regional Employee DBS checks	58	-	-	58	67
Celebrations, Entertainment & Catering Costs	836	595	-	1,431	1,411
NEMP Project	-	5,001	-	5,001	3,983
Emergency Clothes AS Families	269	-	-	269	372
Toiletries & Household Cleaners	31	-	-	31	39
Lesvos Solidarity	-	-	-	-	859
Holy Trinity Darlington PCC re Walkington House	-	-	-	-	350
CDCF Micro Grant School Holiday Clubs	327	1,033	-	1,360	934
Bicycle Repairs etc	39	25	-	64	35
Emergency help e.g. food, phone top ups	66	-	-	66	-
The Hospital of God Bike Grant	-	2,938	-	2,938	63
Book Sales	-	508	-	508	-
Other	43	-	-	43	101
AS ESOL Provision Dictionaries etc.	434	-	-	434	-
For AS - Craft items, toys & other sundries Walkington House	53	-	-	53	-
Fostering Event	87	-	-	87	-
Sub total	3,327	10,099	-	13,427	9,409

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,327	10,099	-	13,427	9,409
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 164	- 3,479	-	- 3,643	1,663
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,707	3,496	-	7,203	5,540
Cash funds this year end	3,543	17	-	3,560	7,203

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Petty Cash	22		-
	Bank Account - Darlington Credit Union	1,966	-	-
	Bank Account - Co-Operative	1,555	17	-
	Total cash funds	3,543	17	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Janet Walker</i>	Janet Walker	02/04/2020