FRIENDS WITHOUT BORDERS (PORTSMOUTH)

OUR VOLUNTEER LIA DEYAL TRIUMPHANTLY COMPLETES A SPONSORED SWIM FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS



AMOUNT OF CASH STRAIGHT TO NEEDY PEOPLE -

82.24%

Annual Report for the year 2019 Published April 2020

ANNUAL REPORT OF FRIENDS WITHOUT BORDERS (PORTSMOUTH) FOR THE YEAR 2019

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity number 1080187

Trustees 2019:

Alan Fair Lia Deyal

Bosco Nyombi (Treasurer) Michael Woolley (Chairman)

Charles Leddy Owen (A to J) Rowshanara Reza Coleen Le (Deputy Chair) Sharon Brooks

John Gordon Yenga Ikuse

Contact information:

<u>coordinator@friendswithoutborders.org.uk</u> chairman@friendswithoutborders.org.uk

FWB, All Saints Church, Commercial Road, Portsmouth PO1 4BT

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Purposes for which the charity is established:

Relief of immigrants or refugees who are suffering hardship or distress or are in need, with particular reference, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to those who are imprisoned or detained by the Immigration Services of the United Kingdom whether in Holding Centres, Detention Centres, Prisons or Police Stations. There have been no changes in the aims since the charity was registered.

Organisation: The charity is managed by an Executive Committee, consisting of the trustees, which meets every two months. Day to day management is by the coordinators

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The trustees have paid due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit. a) Friends Without Borders has relieved poverty through the provision of payments to meet particular needs, granting allowances to destitute clients for limited periods and assistance with travelling expenses and hostel beds. b) Friends Without Borders has also provided free legal advice, regulated by the OISC, on immigration matters. c) Public Benefit has also been served by the education of the general public through lectures, presentations and discussions.

Chairman's Report on 2019

Wonderful Support

Friends Without Borders relies on the wonderful support it gets from the wider community. Sometimes this is in terms of personal contact as when Stephen Morgan MP sends one of his staff to run a monthly surgery for asylum seekers in All Saints. Or when the Mayor and Mayoress pay a visit to the All Saints Dropin. Or when volunteers give hours of their time to aid the project. Sometimes it is financial: hundreds of local people putting their hands in their pockets to help our work. In one notable case a volunteer plunged into the Solent on 1st January to raise funds!

82.24% Straight to Needy People

Friends Without Borders has no paid staff and this means that we can spend a great deal of the money we raise in direct aid to needy people. Last year over 80% of the money we raised went in grants to needy asylum seekers. We support over twenty with a weekly allowance of £20, not much but much better than nothing.

We also pay a lot of travel expenses: to sign-on at the Police Station in Fareham (11 miles away); to visit the hospital (4 miles); to go to court in Hatton Cross (70 miles) or a legal aid immigration solicitor in Southampton (21 miles). We always pay the cheapest way but it all adds up.

In the Treasurer's Report (over the page) you will see that £59,673 (82.24%) went to the needy and £12,889 (17.76%) was spent on "administration": rent, phone bills etc. That's a proportion to be proud about.



The Lord Mayor chatting with our clients

Hostel and CIO

A disappointment this year is our failure to make more progress with the provision of a hostel for homeless asylum-seekers. Our volunteer Geoff Wilson writes about this on another page. Because of the sums of money involved we are updating our charity structure to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) but sadly even that is still not resolved. 2020 perhaps.

A Happy Note

To end on a happy note we received a call the other day from a man who had been helped ten years ago and had been trying to find us to say "thank you" (we've changed our name of course). It was very encouraging to know that our work had been so appreciated and remembered.

Michael Woolley

Financial Report 2019

John Bosco Nyombi, our Treasurer, reports that the charity is in good financial shape. Points to note are:

- that this year we use the Charity Commission's preferred format;
- that our income has grown this year but that it may not grow in 2020 the outlook for charity giving is not good;
- that though legal grants for fees have gone down (£3,477 to £250) direct support overall has increased (£41,082 to £59,673);
- £59,423 is the sum of Destitute Clients, Client Travel and Client Hostel, we don't have equivalent figures for last year, just the total.

INCOMING		2019	2018
Donatio	ine	2019	2010
Donatio	Regular (under £500)	19,931	22,546
	Unique Donations	11,626	10,635
	'	27,533	22,658
	Legacies etc (over £500) Gift Aid	-	•
Ponk in		5,597 31	4,630
Bank interest		_	16
TOTAL INCOMI	<u> </u>	64,718	60,485
OUTGOING			
	and direct support		
0.0.00	Destitute Clients	39,198	37,605
	Client travel	7,968	0.,000
	Client hostel	12,257	0
	Client legal fees	250	3,477
	Total	59,673	41,082
Other expenditure		33,513	,002
	Volunteer travel	3,342	2,316
	Rent	6,280	6,375
	Phone and admin	2,495	1,912
	Insurance	556	559
Fund ra	ising costs	230	
	Just Giving fees	216	234
TOTAL OUTGOING		72,562	52,478
Net receipts for the year		(7,844)	8,007
1101100	siplo for the year	(1,044)	0,007

Thank you!

Bosco Nyombi is retiring this year after ten years of loyal service. He leaves with our <u>warm thanks and very best wishes</u>. We also thank Trevor James, a volunteer who has inspected our books and given us wise advice. Thank you both!

Housing Project

Our volunteer Geoff Wilson reports on an exciting project which has absorbed much time over the last year

Eighteen months ago we conducted a survey amongst those individuals who came to our centre on a regular basis to find out about their housing and accommodation. Approximately half were either staying with friends (sofa surfing) or rough sleeping - so clearly the Government's hostile environment policy is working.

We felt that we had to do something to support these individuals as they were not able to receive help either from the local council or the private sector and so we took short term action. Firstly we introduced over the winter of 2019 a weekly payment of £5 to some of our rough-sleeping homeless clients to help them to contribute to their host's costs and secondly we took on the rental of a caravan to accommodate our most critical cases. The caravan was in Eastney and we kept this rental going for nine months. Whilst it helped address some immediate need it was clear that it was not a suitable solution from several points of view and it put a severe strain on our finances. We then developed the case to obtain a "house of multiple occupancy" (HMO) which we could run as a 5/6 bed hostel. We looked at renting a suitable property or buying a short lease.

Over the past year we have spent a lot of time consulting with various organisations and individuals in the voluntary, the public and the private sector in order to explore the way forward. These consultations have

greatly informed our thinking and we are confident that we could manage the practical problems. However the real stumbling block has been how to secure funding - despite valiant efforts we have not managed this.



Geoff Wilson looks at houses

As a temporary measure we have again introduced our extra £5 per week payment for the winter of 2020, though this time for all our destitute clients, paying them £25 a week instead of £20. This enables them to make some contribution to their hosts or buy themselves some small "luxuries" like gloves.

If anyone reading this has accommodation to let or money to spare please get in touch with me via: geoff@friendswithoutborders.org.uk.

Geoff Wilson

Quakers give a Fun Day Out

Refugees need fun and relaxation like anyone else. With this in mind Chichester Quakers invited the asylum seekers and refugees in Portsmouth to join them for a day out in April 2019. Hilary Cooke, a Quaker herself and an ex-volunteer at FWB, reports.

Chichester Quakers invited Friends without Borders to visit them in April during the school holidays. It was a fun day out for everyone who would like to go. Initially 25 Asylum Seekers and Refugees were expected to sign up but that number increased to 70! In addition there were 15 members from Sanctuary in Chichester and a few Quakers so eventually there were over 90! Though not all at the same time

With the help of Coleen and Sue and other volunteers (and vouchers supplied by Stage Coach) everyone went to Chichester on the 700 bus

(two bus loads!). They were welcomed at the other end by the Chichester Quakers.

After a walk round the centre of Chichester to see the outside of the Cathedral and the Bishop's Garden everyone made their way to the Meeting House to eat. In spite of the numbers and the tiny kitchen a hot lunch was provided and everyone squeezed in. In the afternoon some went to Friday prayers in the Swanfield Mosque, followed by a football 'match' against Sanctuary in Chichester. For the children there was an Easter Egg Hunt and face



The Meeting Room laid out for food and games



Access to Justice

Our Trustee Charles Leddy-Owen reports on our Access to Justice Project – the legal advice arm of Friends Without Borders



It's been another busy year for the Access to Justice project, though since the retirement of John Bingham in 2017 what constitutes a busy year has changed dramatically. We are now only able to take on a limited number of clients as our two qualified advisers, Frances Pilling and Charles Leddy-Owen, have full-time jobs elsewhere. However, we do still take on between 10 and 15 cases a year. Earlier this year we helped to write an application aimed at bringing the elderly mother from an African state to Britain to live with her daughter and son-in-law in Portsmouth. Initially the application was rejected because the Home Office claimed the daughter's birth certificate was a forgery. Access to Justice were therefore required to arrange DNA tests here and in the relevant African capital to confirm the relationship. The family was finally reunited in the summer. Interestingly this would not have been possible at all were it not for the Portsmouthbased clients being citizens of an EU

state *other than* the UK. These kinds of more generous EU rights will soon be unavailable to millions of UK residents (most of whom probably do not even know such rights exist).

Perhaps the biggest achievement of Access to Justice in the last year was to play a major role in reuniting a family with their child who, for complicated reasons, had stayed in the African state they had migrated from some years ago. Although the initial application made by us was rejected, a solicitor from elsewhere took the case on and the bundle of evidence put together by Friends Borders advisers Without instrumental in a visa being granted iust before Christmas 2019. Daughter, siblings and parents were able to spend their first Christmas together in many years.

Most of our other clients' cases have involved applications for British citizenship. This is a very expensive process costing around £1,300 for adults and £1,100 for children in Home Office fees. Applications are usually relatively straightforward but can require evidence of continuous residence for every year the client has Britain. been in This can particularly difficult to prove with regard to children's early years. We quite often have to work hard to gather suitable evidence to prove that a ten year old child was resident in the UK between the ages of 2 and 4. This is no small task if they did not attend

nursery, and seems rather pointless when the child doesn't even have a passport (thereby rendering travel from Britain impossible).

We expect to see similar cases to those outlined above over the next

year. However, from 2021 it seems rather likely that we will see an increase in advice being sought by citizens of EU states who will no longer have access to freedom of movement within the EU.

THE FWB GARDENING PROJECT

THE COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT at Moneyfields, Copnor, has been a great success. People meet on Wednesdays between 11:30-14:00.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME,

no experience is necessary,
tools are provided.

Jan, Helen, Abdou, Peter, Rohima and
Mohammed have all spent some time
working at the allotment.
It is a great way to learn about
gardening and growing food, and
everyone shares the vegetables grown
on site. As well as developing
gardening skills it is a fantastic
opportunity to meet and collaborate with
like-minded people in a healthy, natural
environment.

With spring around the corner it is a great time to come along as we plan for summer and this year's crop





CONTACT JAN,
THE CHILDREN'S LADY,
FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Working in the Community

Part of our work is the "education of the general public through lectures, presentations and discussions". Coleen, Harsh, Lia, Magid, Michael, Rob, Samina and other volunteers have all helped with these events.

Corpus Christie Primary All Saints Denmead Westbourne Church Westbourne Lunch Club Chichester Quakers Emsworth Art Preview Portsmouth Cathedral Cosham Baptist
Rushmere Farm
Sonnenberg Association Royal Naval Officers
Chichester Quakers
Chichester Cathedral
Resurrection Farlington
Resurrection Farlington
Emsworth Methodists Cosham Baptists

23 rd Jan 2019 17 th Feb 2019 12 th March 19 29 th March 19 12 th April 2019 26 th April 2019 17 th June 2019 23 June 2019 20 th July 2019 20 th August 19
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23 June 2019
20 th July 2019
6 th Sept 2019
19 th Sept 2019
20 th Sept 2019
13 th Oct 2019
25 th Oct 2019
4 th Dec 2019
. 20020.0
22 Dec 2019

Illustrated talk Talk and Exhibition Illustrated talk After lunch talk Trip for Quakers and Refugees **Exhibition Appeal** Refugee Week Vigil Refugee Week Talk Feast Appeal Lecture Lecture and Discussion Film and Discussion Multi-Faith event Talk **Concert Appeal** Talk, appeal



The Friends Without Borders team, March 2019

lf know of you an organisation which would be interested in having a speaker or hostina exhibition, or know of a public figure who would like to visit the drop-in please let us know. We like to help - there is no charge though we would appreciate the chance to make an appeal

Christmas Appeal

Football

We were excited to have a football team in 2019. Sadly we weren't able to find a volunteer to lead and coach. It was based conveniently close to All Saints at the Charles Dickens Centre and we used to meet on Monday lunchtimes after the dropin, though neither the time nor the place are absolute requirements. If anyone

would be interested in starting football for refugees and asylum-seekers again, we should be very happy to support with information and modest amounts of money. Asylum seekers are not allowed to work and need things to do. It is good for their physical and mental health. Contact: chairman@friendswithoutborders.org.uk



The Real Cost of Asylum

The huge psychological and financial costs of "Discretionary Leave to Remain" are a scandal says the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network

The Home Office has recently granted many people who sought asylum here Discretionary Leave to Remain for 30 instead months of Refugee Leave. These people then have to make repeated applications further Leave to Remain until ten years has passed in order to stay legally in UK. They must then apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain, and one year later they can apply for British Citizenship - a series of five applications any of which could be refused, all incurring exorbitant fees compared to the cost of processing the application.

In addition to the psychologically damaging cost of being at the mercy of at least 12 years of instability, the experience of having to find money to pay for the excessive fees is a heavy and unacceptable toll on already vulnerable people.

These applications for further leave to remain used to be free. In 2015 the Home Office introduced a fee. These fees have risen steeply and now far exceed the costs incurred for each application.

In 2020 further applications for Leave to Remain must be made three times, at 30 month intervals, at a fee (including the health surcharge) of over £2000 a time for the applicant and every one of their dependents

regardless of age. An applicant with three dependents pays £8,000 a time, three times. Then Indefinite Leave must be paid and a year later they can apply to become a British Citizens. If a mistake is made in any application the fee is not necessarily returned. There is no legal aid for renewals.

What needs to change

People in this vulnerable situation should not be financially subsiding the system. If a fee must be made, it should reflect only the costs of processing the application - about one tenth of what is charged today. The system of requiring people to make and pay for these repeated applications over a ten year period is recent and causes unnecessary suffering. It needs to be cheaper, simpler and shorter - five years would be in line with Refugee Leave and much more reasonable.

What can we do?

- Write to our MPs about the injustice of such high fees.
- Do anything we can to raise awareness that the Home Office is making millions on immigration cases, profiteering off the vulnerable.

[Editor: Since this article was written the Health Surcharge has been substantially increased].

My New Year's Day Swim

Lia Deyal, a volunteer at Friends Without Borders, tells the story of a fund-raiser which financed a 20% rise in benefits

Just before Christmas we were expecting a £1,000 donation and excitedly wondered how to spend it. After discussion it was agreed that the money should be used to give our destitute and homeless clients an extra £5 a week during the colder months of January, February and March. £5 might not sound much but when you are only getting £20 a week it can seem a fortune.

The £1000 did not materialise so there would be no extra £5 a week for our destitute and homeless clients. A few are street homeless, a miserable existence. Most are sofa surfing and most of the people who provide a roof or a floor or a sofa are very poor themselves. It is often those people who are poor, sometimes hungry and sometimes cold who are the most likely to share what they have with someone who has even less. The £5 we had hoped to be able to give would have maybe been something to enable our clients to contribute to the food or heating.

I was gutted. I lay awake wondering what I could do. I could swim in cold water.

I drew up some sponsor forms. I got a page on 'Just Giving'. I told my friends and relatives. I took the sponsor form to the Friends without Borders Christmas meal, to the U3A walking group, to the U3A Film group, to the Zumba class, to the Bridge Club, to the Burns Night Supper and

to the Sea Swimmers Winter Lunch Group. My brother spoke to the congregation at his church. Michael Woolley raised money from the Quakers. Rob Johnston and I spoke to the Wesley Guild about Friends Without Borders and we raised some money. I was very determined.

The swim was the GAFIRS (Gosport and Fareham Inshore Rescue Service) New Years Day Swim.

I had to do it. I was so lucky, really lucky. It was a lovely day. The wind was minimal. The water a lovely 10.5 - it has been as low as 4 in previous years. There were 600 people a record number - most people do a 2 minute dip. People are sponsored for various charities and GAFIRS has donation buckets. I was wearing a bright pink Paddington "Migration is Not a Crime" T Shirt and a swimming costume - not a wetsuit.

My swimming friend Judy was there. In we went. It was good. We started to swim. We swam all the way to the buoy - there were about twelve people who swam to the buoy. I was the last one back and the current was strong. I had life guards on paddle boards accompanying me - they kept asking if I was OK.

I was, I'd done it - and I'd raised £2040.38. All our regulars will be getting £25 a week from Christmas till Easter - the three coldest winter months!



The shirt says "Migration is not a crime"

Michael adds:

<u>Well done Lia!</u> Asylum seekers who appeal an immigration officers decision in the courts get a bedsit and £37.75 a week from the Government until their cases are heard – usually between six months and a year.

If they win their Appeal they can stay in the UK and work – but if they lose they are made homeless and all their benefits are cut. They are not allowed to work, to drive, to rent or to hold a bank account. Some get Government support (though not in cash) but have to sign that they are willing to return.

Some choose to make "fresh claims", if they have fresh grounds, and it is these who become destitute. First they must prepare their claim, which can take months if evidence has to come from their own countries. Then it must be accepted by the Home Office - and that can take months too. During this time they are outside the Welfare State.

We have around 25 such people on our books at any one time, most sofasurfing, some street homeless. We pay them £20 a week while they prepare their claims and wait for the Home Office - £25 in January, February and March thanks to Lia's swim!

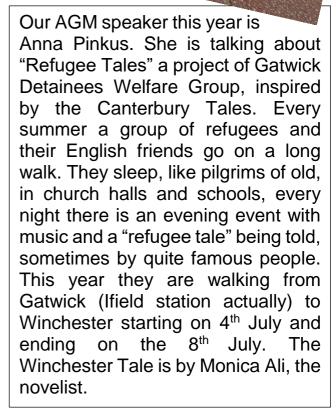
£2,040.38!

Refugee Tales

AGM TALK 29th APRIL 19:00 ALL SAINTS











Registered Charity no 1080187
This is a multi-purpose form. Please fill in such parts as are relevant.

Count me as a Supporter

Please add me to your supporters.

Name:			
Email for news:			
Address:			
Postcode:	Phone	number:	
	Gift Aid	d Certificate	•
	nake the claim, the		ne Treasury e donor is their address and
am a taxpayer paying future donations. I have	•		claim Gift Aid on this and all
Signed:		Dated: _	
	Stand	ling Order	
until further notic	e. Friends Without	Vithout Borders the sur Borders account is with . Account number: 009	•
Monthly amount in	ı figures: £	_ in words:	
Date of first payn	nent:	My bank:	
My sort code:	My acc	ount number:	
Му а	ccount name:		
;	Signed:		
All Saints	Friends \	eturn this form to: Without Borders, ercial Road, Portsn	nouth PO1 4BT

FRIENDS WITHOUT BORDERS

a completely independent, all-volunteer charity which has served asylum seekers and refugees in Portsmouth for the last 26 years. We have NO Government contracts (which means we can challenge Government) and rely almost entirely for support on the contributions of local people.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Become a Supporter

Email: coordinator@friendswithoutborders.org.uk and we'll send you an occasional newsletter.

Give Money for Grants

Asylum seekers still only get £37.75 a week – enough to live but any small emergency becomes a crisis. We pay over £1,000 a week in small grants to needy asylum seekers.

Make out a Standing Order

One of our strengths is a network of local supporters who pay small (whatever you like but £5 to £25 is typical) amounts each month - giving us staying power.

Remember to add Gift Aid

Gift Aid adds 25p to every £1 you give so anybody who pays income tax and donates should sign the form overleaf. We got £5,600 in Gift Aid in 2019

Leave a Legacy

Two of our supporters left us legacies in 2018. We did not get any legacies in 2019 though generous donors stepped in and saved the day. Hopefully we shall get more legacies in future years. They helped us run our hostel for homeless asylum seekers for nine months last year.

Volunteer Yourself

We need volunteer case workers. We also need volunteers to do various other jobs. The asylum-seekers themselves do much of the hum-drum work but it's good to have a team of steady volunteers. Email:

chairman@friendswithoutborders.org.uk

And finally to all those of you supporting the work already be assured that we will spend your money wisely and

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Friends Without Borders (Registered charity number 1080187) on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019

This report is made solely to the trustees of Friends Without Borders, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of Friends Without Borders those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the trustees as a body, for any work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Friends Without Borders you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Act. You consider that the audit requirements of the Act do not apply.

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts of Friends Without Borders for the year ended 31st December 2019 set out on the attached pages carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

10 Janes.

Trevor James FCA DchA
Dormer Cottage
West Broyle
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 3PR
12 November 2020

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year to 31 December 2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2018
Income Receipts From Voluntary Sources	£	£	£	£
Regular Donations Unique Donations	19,931	-	19,931	22,546
Legacies and Major Donations	11,626 27,533	e -	11,626	10,635
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	5,597	_	27,533 5,597	22,658
	No.	<u>.</u>	5,597	4,630
	64,687		64,687	60,469
Fund Raising				
		-		-
				9
Bank Interest	31		31	16
Total Receipts	64,718		64,718	60,485
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Grants and Direct Support	* 3			
Destitute Asylum Seekers	39,198		39,198	37,605
Client Travel	7,968	=	7,968	37,003
Hostel	12,257		12,257	F
Legal Fees	250	-	250	3,477
	59,673	-	59,673	41,082
Other expenditure				
Staff Costs				
Volunteer Travel and Expenses	3,342	-	3,342	2 246
Rent	6,280	<u>-</u>	6,280	2,316 6,375
Telephone and other administration costs	2,495		2,495	1,912
Insurance	556	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	556	559
	12,673		12,673	11,162
Fund roleing easts		•		11,102
Fund-raising costs Just Giving fees	216		040	004
	210	.=	216	234
	216		216	234
Other Payments				
Purchase of Equipment	-			
Total payments	72,562	-	72,562	52,478
Net receipts for the year	(7 944)			
The state of the your	(7,844)	-	(7,844)	8,007

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2019

	ă.	2018
Bank and Cash in hand		
Bank Deposit Account	21,258	31,245
Bank Current Account	5,848	4,122
Cash in hand	943	(55)
	28,049	35,312
Debtors		
Gift Aid recoverable (December 2019)	443	347
	443	347
Liabilities	. 0	0
	0	0
Approved by the Trustees of Friends Without B	orders	
all of langer		

on 1/h /lanh 2020	and signed on their behalf by:-		
Chairperson Vertices	Punne Fr		
P			
Treasurer	Oly Ille.		

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	4	2018
Bank and Cash in hand		
Bank Deposit Account Bank Current Account Cash in hand	21,258 5,848 943	31,245 4,122 (55)
	28,049	35,312
Debtors		
Gift Aid recoverable (December 2019)	443	347
	443	347
Liabilities	0	0
	0	0
Approved by the Trustees of Friends Without Boro	lers	

on 9th Mank 2020 and signed on their behalf by:-

Treasurer WOULLL