



Unity in Diversity (Swansea2015) Annual Report. June 2018.

The last year has been difficult, eventful and our very existence has been put in danger but we have recovered and continue to provide a valuable service for asylum seekers and refugees in Swansea.. We have stabilised in terms of governance and the operation of the drop-in sessions. We are in a good position to manage the major challenges which we know will come in the year ahead.

Major changes have occurred with the sudden resignation of, Wayne Yare, our project co-ordinator in January and the departure of, Rosie Buxton, our Chairperson in March. We thank them both for the work they did for the group. We thank Neil Riches for temporarily taking the position of Chairperson and Ros Bellamy for becoming meetings and minutes secretary. Many thanks to all our volunteers who have kept the sessions going and especially to Terryl Lewis who, when needed, led the sessions.

Since January we have concentrated on maintaining and developing our core drop-in sessions and English classes.. Numbers of people coming to the drop-in sessions remained in the 50 -70 range until the onset of Ramadan. There has been a change in the makeup of the group with many more women and children and fewer men attending. Most weeks there have been six English classes. Mac has taught a IELTS support class on Tuesdays and the WLA class taught by Jasmine has proved to be very popular. This has involved a shift of learners from the 6.45pm classes to 4.15pm classes. The earlier time has led to more women attending classes. It is planned to start a women's only group at 4.15pm on Thursdays. It is anticipated that numbers in the 6.45pm classes will increase after Ramadan and the World Cup have finished.

Govinda's Restaurant has continued to support us by bringing food every Thursday. Rashid from Swansea Mosque has organised the donation of hot food from the Muslim community on Tuesdays. Thus has become a highlight of Tuesday evenings from September. At present they are taking a break around Ramadan and we hope they will recommence in July.

We have continued to be blessed with wonderful volunteers. University students have continued to come through Discovery and several of them have become very

committed. All our language teachers are qualified with at least a CELTA. We have recruited three new teachers this year. Special thanks go to Ana and Ben for their continued commitment and to Sam, who taught until he departed from Swansea in May. Thanks also to members of the group who have contributed to the smooth running of the sessions with special thanks to Guli and Lubna. We ran a training session in November and brief all new volunteers as they arrive.

Several group meetings were held during the year. Consultation was also held with our women members about the provision they would like. This has led to plans for an all women English group on Thursdays. Right to Remain are coming on July 5th to run a workshop on the asylum process for volunteers and members.

The football activity has been temporarily suspended following the resignation of our coach Julian Bradshaw in January and the completion of Benji Palmer's internship in March. We thank both of them for the work they did. Benji worked with us from September to March on an internship linked to his university course. Numbers coming to the practices over the winter were very low. It is hoped the football will recommence when the demand increases.

Liam from Red Cross has continued to provide First Aid training once a month, usually on the last Thursday of the month. Huw enables members to have access to the internet every Thursday.

We have maintained relations with HBTSR following Wayne's departure. Eight respite trips took place from June to December 2017 and trips continue to be organised through Wayne. HBTSR provided a grant which enabled us to extend Wayne's employment with us. Mac teaches the IELTS class weekly and brings donations of clothes, household items, toys etc. Jonathan and two of our members were able to stay near HAY volunteer at the Hay Festival for a few days this year. We thank HBTSR for their continuing support. We seek to organise better access for our members to the respite trips.

Members have accessed The Open University and Infomigrants.net project following eight workshops which were held in June 2017. Feedback questionnaires were collected by Florie and Maria. We need to revive this activity with the help of Huw who provides internet access on Thursdays.

Nine participants finished the Musical Routes learning modules and have received entry level 3 certificates in project planning/employability.

A speaker from BAWSO gave a talk on the Asylum Seeker process. We have organised for Right to Remain to lead an interactive workshop on the asylum seeker process in July.

We are in a sound financial position. The annual account shows a similar pattern of income and expenditure to 2016-17. HBTSR made a generous grant which enabled us to extend Wayne's employment. We received a generous donation from Emily

Hinshelwood who swam round the Pembrokeshire coast to raise money for SBASSG and UiD. We thank them and other donors some of whom give monthly through standing orders

It was disappointing that a bid to the Lindenleaf Trust for money to fund a project co-ordinator and support worker was turned down. We now need to make a bid for a grant to employ a project co-ordinator on a part time basis.

A bid to the People's Postcode Lottery fund to launch a women's group was successful. The failure of the Lindenleaf bid and Wayne's departure in January led to a delay in starting the group. Following consultation with the women members a women's only English class on Thursdays will start in June. A Saturday morning women's activity session will be launched in July. It is planned that this group will meet two or three times a month. We thank Sahira and Saba for their work in making this possible.

We are working to comply with the new Data Protection Regulation. It is proposed that we take part in the BME skills project organised by SCVS. It is a project aimed at strengthening the governance and capacity of groups by completing an organisational health check and providing ongoing support through a mentor drawn from the community.

It is important that we re-establish good working links with SASS. They have accepted an invitation from us to participate in the Right to Remain workshop.

A major challenge for the coming year is the planned closure of the Carmarthen Road URC in January. We will have enjoyed using this venue for nearly four years. The possibility of extending our use of the building by becoming custodians needs to be explored.

We continue to provide a valuable service for asylum seekers and refugees in Swansea. A big thank you to all the volunteers and trustees who make this possible.

Unity in Diversity (Swansea2015) Accounts 1st June 2017 to 31st May 2018

Opening Balance	8809.30
Income	17460.15
Expenditure	10238.48
Closing Balance.	16030.97
TSB Account	16270.86
Cash	-239.89
Closing Balance	16030.97

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

* to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act

and

* to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met or

2. to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature



Date

20 | 6 | 2018

Miss G. Jones
27.6.18