



Marlow Refugee Action: Trustees Annual Report for the period 24th October 2018 – 30th September 2019

Registration Number: 1180428

Address: FAIRLAWN, GOSSMORE CLOSE, MARLOW SL7 1QG

Trustees:

Vanessa Faulkner

Tom Doust

Tania Baldwin-Pask

Sian Herschel

Julie Purves

Sarah Jones

Introduction

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statement for the charity for the period 24th October 2018 – 30th September 2019. This is our first annual report, following the formation of the charity.

Charity Structure

The charity is constituted under our Governing Document registered 24th October 2018. The Trustees that were appointed at the formation of the charity remain in place, having been invited to become Trustees by the founders, Vanessa Faulkner and Tom Doust.

The Trustees meet quarterly to agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the Trust, including consideration of grant making, fund raising activities, awareness raising, recruitment of volunteers and the requirement for policies and procedures (such as Volunteer Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Procedures, Grievance Procedures, Safeguarding and GDPR).

Objectives

Our objectives for the year were as follows:

1. Raise awareness in the community of the problems facing refugees and asylum seekers with a particular focus on the projects we support. This includes working with local schools;



2. Provide funding for the projects we identify as relevant. We aim to fund projects where we have a connection to the project, for example our connections to Samos in Greece.

Achievements and Performance

Our key achievements over the period of this report are:

1. Financial support was given to provide a leased building for the Legal Centre on Samos. Samos is one of the Greek Islands, just 5km from Turkey, where over 4000 people are currently living in squalid conditions in a camp built for 700. Over the past six months we have donated more than £3000 towards the rent and running costs of a legal centre to provide free and independent legal counselling to assist refugees in navigating the Greek asylum procedure. The Centre provides a calm and professional space where lawyers from Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF-France) in collaboration with volunteers from the Berlin Refugee Law Clinic can work with clients.
2. We have focused on supporting refugees and asylum seekers locally. This includes assisting financially with language scholarships at the Marlow Language Centre (via RefuAid) and providing 1:1 informal conversational support to local refugees.
3. We have worked with local schools to raise awareness of the global refugee crisis and the work of Marlow Refugee Action amongst students, parents and teachers. We are also encouraging youth involvement in support of our work and refugee issues more broadly. We have completed assemblies in a number of schools in Marlow including Foxes Piece St Peter's and Holy Trinity.
4. We have worked with the churches in Marlow to build awareness, including a walk between the four Anglican churches in the Marlow area, focussing on refugee issues. We also had a creative installation installed in the Anglican church in the centre of Marlow, which represented the refugee crisis and gave an opportunity for reflection. This was visited by many individuals and local schools.
5. We have held events to both raise awareness and fundraise. This includes a number of 'Syrian Kitchens' held in a local restaurant where authentic Middle Eastern food was provided by Imad Alarnab. Imad and his family were one of the first refugee families to be settled by the Wycombe Refugee Partnership – a local charity who support families with legal refugee status in the UK and help them with housing, education, languages, job skills and friendships to aid integration with society. We have a close working relationship with Wycombe Refugee Partnership.

We have also held fundraising garden parties and a barn dance.



6. We have held a “World café” event to encourage volunteers to hear more about our work and to join us. We are currently in the process of defining specific roles that we believe will be needed to enable our next stage of growth as a charity.
7. We provide updates through a regular newsletter to a database of interested people (GDPR compliant).
8. We encourage people to travel to refugee areas to provide (short term) direct support and to increase their understanding of the refugee crisis. This has included Calais and Samos.

Financial Review

Bank

Current account @ 24 October 2018	£4390.75	
Current account @ 30 September 2019	£4540.35	
Difference		£149.60

	Expenditure	Income
Bank charges	£82.00	
Books	£1,080.00	£508.00
Donations		£6,664.67
Events	£6,098.00	£8,021.30
Expenses	£113.99	
Funding	£7,670.38	
	£15,044.37	£15,193.97

Balance of Income over Expenditure	£149.60
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Income

Books	£508.00
Donations	£6,664.67



Events (detail below) £8,021.30

Garden Party	£800.00
Marlow Carnival	£295.00
URC Carnival & lunch	£550.94
Imad pop-ups 2018	£6,375.36

Expenditure

Bank charges £82.00

Books £1080.00

Events £6098.00

Expenses £113.99

Funding (detail below) £7670.38

Sponsor legal centre Samos	£3,068.61
Donation for Greek shipping costs	£44.00
Out of the Wilderness, Lebanon	£500.00
Donate4 refugees 4 years on donation	£100.00
Underwear purchase, Samos	£178.57
Refuaid sponsorship payment	£3,750.00
Support Armany travel costs	£29.20