

DONCASTER CONVERSATION CLUB

Charity number: 1159775

DONCASTER CONVERSATION CLUB

(A registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

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DONCASTER CONVERSATION CLUB

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Governing Document

Doncaster Conversation Club is a charitable incorporated organisation (“CIO”) registered as a charity on 8 January 2015. The charity was established under a Foundation Model CIO constitution by which it is governed.

Trustees

The trustees of the CIO are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The trustees serving during the year were as follows:

Chair	Nic Burne
Other trustees	Annette Dews Jan Foster Akeela Mohammed Basil Nadeem Julie Stone Seema Jebabli (Deceased)

Principal Office

Quaker Meeting House
Shotton Walk
Doncaster
South Yorkshire DN1 3RH

Bankers

Co-Operative Bank Limited

DONCASTER CONVERSATION CLUB

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

Trustees' Induction and Training

Trustees are provided with key documents. The trustees are encouraged to attend and participate in appropriate training activities that will help them in their role.

The Trustees have the constitutional power to appoint new trustees and keep the composition of the Board under review.

Organisation Structure and Decision Making

The trustees manage the charity. The full Board of Trustees meets a minimum of five times a year, including general meetings. The full board is mainly concerned with policy matters and the strategic direction of the organisation while more detailed trustee management issues can be dealt with through sub committees.

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It is normally the case that sub committees can have delegated responsibility for:

- Finance, dealing with financial decisions and monitoring of income and expenditure
- HR related matters
- Audit, including local and regional government and external audits;
- Governance matters such as the continued relevance of the constitution and of other policy documents.

Individual members of the board also have input to the work of the charity by way of their individual skills and knowledge, which frequently leads them to take on projects to improve and extend the work of the charity. If important matters arise in between meetings the Chair and the board members communicate via email and telephone in order to reach a decision..

During the year the day to day management of the charity is in the hands of Nic Burne and Jan Foster.

Related parties

The charity rents the use of premises from the Balby (Doncaster) Local Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) (“the Meeting”). The Meeting forms part of the Sheffield and Balby Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (“the Area Meeting”) (Registered Charity number 1134536)..

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Risk Management

The trustees have examined the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate those risks. Areas reviewed included: governance and management, operational, financial, IT, data protection, environmental and compliance. During the year under review and the subsequent period, the Trustees have carried out a complete revision of the policies of the charity, including risk assessments.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the CIO are to relieve the needs of people in Doncaster who are seeking asylum or who have been granted refugee status for the public benefit by providing resources and services which will help them to adapt within a new community.

.How our activities deliver public benefit

Our main activities and a description of our client group are both described below. All our charitable activities focus on work with refugees and asylum seekers and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

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DONCASTER CONVERSATION CLUB

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

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Activities

The year 2023- 2024 has seen many changes in the national asylum system as well as in the DCC.

The biggest change was the punitive Illegal Migration Bill which received Royal Assent on 20 July 2023. In general terms it meant that all those arriving by an undocumented route (i.e. by boat or by lorry) would be treated as inadmissible. The effects of this were slow to manifest themselves in the DCC as most people had arrived before that date. However, as the year in question (2023-2024) dragged on, more and more people came through our doors with concerns that they would be deported to Rwanda. There was a noticeable increase in the distress and worry caused by this new Act. Subsequent amendments that expanded on the original Act enabled the DCC to calm some of these worries but still the label of “inadmissible” is an albatross asylum seekers have to carry around their necks.

The other issue that continues to make problems for the DCC is the dispersal of asylum seekers to the surrounding villages. This causes acute isolation and loneliness as a bus to town is the large part of a daily allowance. The DCC encourages new arrivals to attend our drop-in at least once so they know where to come for support. Transport for this initial visit is usually reimbursed.

The DCC runs a weekly drop-in on a Thursday afternoon. Beside this, volunteers are available by phone at all hours. When a resolution of the issue is not available by phone “home visits” or meet-ups in town are made. This is a very weighty responsibility which can overload volunteers. This is a vulnerability of the Charity.

The average weekly attendance at the Drop-in at the Quaker Meeting House is in the region of 70. This is lower than pre-pandemic attendance but that is because we do not offer a hot meal at lunch and so social visitors are not attending. Also people cannot afford a bus ticket to come in from outlying villages. Those who do attend are the ones who are seeking help.

The Thursday drop-in is also attended by a solicitor and representatives from the Doncaster Council Moving On team. The solicitor is employed by Parker, Rhodes and Hickmotts Solicitors in Rotherham to whom we are very grateful. Having in house legal advice is invaluable and she is happy to offer informal advice to both volunteers and asylum seekers. The Council Moving On team look

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after new refugees, people who have been granted leave to remain and have to move into the world of work and independence in a very short length of time. This service smoothes the transition to independence from the support offered by the DCC.

The Doncaster Hygiene bank generously supply the DCC with products to pass on to asylum seekers.

There were two asylum hotels in the area, one very remote. This was problematic for the residents as getting to town for socialising or asylum support used half their weekly allowance. The DCC ran a weekly ESOL lesson to help residents not to feel abandoned.

In one of the satellite villages with about 40 asylum seekers an enthusiastic volunteer has succeeded in setting up a weekly drop-in where people can get a simple meal, help with their asylum claim and social support. The volunteer also arranges low key outings for the asylum seeker in the village.

The retired doctor who volunteers for the DCC has arranged for the Health Bus (mobile clinic) to visit the DCC drop-in every fortnight. That, the commitment of her health volunteers, themselves asylum seekers, and her personal enthusiasm ensures that the best possible medical care for the asylum seekers is achieved.

There is an enthusiastic team of volunteers who provide ESOL lessons every week in the centre of Doncaster. They promote the use of English by linking with outside agencies like the local theatre and city library.

Football twice a week near the town centre hosted by Club Doncaster Foundation and sponsored by Amnesty's Football Welcomes programme makes a valuable contribution to the mental and physical health of those who participate. Up to fifty turn up in all sorts of weather. We appreciate very much the services of the volunteers who support this activity.

There is a bike recycling scheme also run by enthusiastic volunteers. This is an increasingly needed service as so many live out of town.

Different volunteers are involved in meetings and training events with other organisations, both health and asylum related. Relevant information and changes are passed on to all volunteers allowing the DCC team to keep up to date.

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Trips and activities organised by the DCC in 2023-24.

20 th May 2023	Conisbrough Castle
24 th June 2023	Epworth Music Festival.
9 th Aug 2023	Bridlington beach.
15 th Aug 2023	Annual trip to Lifewise centre.
30 th Sept 2003	Yorkshire Integration Festival. Sheffield.
4 th Oct 2023	Caphouse Colliery
18 th Nov 2023	York
27 th Jan 2024	Food and Fun at Stainforth.
Monthly	Village Dance. Barn dance with live music.

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Contribution of volunteers

DCC is run entirely by volunteers and the report above makes clear our reliance on them. We rely on grants and donations to keep going. We are extremely grateful to Doncaster Quakers for their continued support and for the use of their Meeting House for our Thursday drop-in.

Achievements & Performance

The charity continues to work for the benefit of refugees and asylum seekers in the area. Large numbers of individuals and families have been helped by our activities. As a side effect, many volunteers have acquired skills which they are able to use for the benefit of the community in all kinds of activities.

Funding

The local Council realises the benefits the DCC offer the community and have guaranteed to cover our running costs. It paid for our rent and the office support needs for the Thursday drop-in. The DCC also had a grant from the Southall Trust that sponsored outings and activities which are greatly appreciated by people who otherwise have nothing to look forward to or remember. The DCC is very grateful to our sponsors.

Public Benefit Statement

Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in planning its future activities, which is an annual process. Many examples of such public benefit have been described earlier in this report.

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Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Company and charity law require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the group for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems of control, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and charity, and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are not aware and as the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Doncaster Conversation Club

1159775

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DONCASTER CONVERSATION CLUB

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/04/2023	To	31/03/2024
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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					
DCC	430	-	-	430	3,503
J Hastings	-	-	-	-	500
Damian Allen / CAF	3,335	-	-	3,335	-
Bicycle	700	-	-	700	-
DMBC - Rent / Stainf/ESOL	-	13,198	-	13,198	-
DMBC - Lifewise	-	1,165	-	1,165	-
DMBC - HSF	-	4,860	-	4,860	-
Trips Fund	-	4,342	-	4,342	1,275
Rotary Club	-	750	-	750	-
Mr. Sears FootBall boots	-	60	-	60	-
Southall Trust	-	2,781	-	2,781	81
DoY Activity Grant	-	-	-	-	775
Creditor	-	1,426	-	1,426	-

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				-	-
				-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,465	28,582	-	33,047	6,134
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,465	28,582	-	33,047	6,134
	5	82	-		34
A3 Payments					
DCC	1,736	-	-	1,736	2,783
Gainsborough	-	-	-	-	288
Yvonne and S Hadley	-	-	-	-	100
J Hastings	-	-	-	-	500
Damian Allen / CAF	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Bicycle	174	-	-	174	-
DMBC - Rent / Stainf/ESOL	-	13,198	-	13,198	-
DMBC - Lifewise	-	1,165	-	1,165	-

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DMBC - HSF	-	4,770	-	4,770	-
Trips Fund	-	2,869	-	2,869	384
Rotary Club	-	744	-	744	
RAS Fund B Gillhan	-	260	-	260	-
Southall Trust	-	2,781	-	2,781	1,026
Lottery Fund	-	269	-	269	8,977
DoY Activity Grant	-	-	-	-	775
Mr. Sears FootBall boots		35		35	
Joan Brebner Mem	-	460	-	460	-
Sub total	3,410	26,551	-	29,961	14,834
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,410	26,551	-	29,961	14,834
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,055	2,030	-	3,086	-8,700
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,71	1,88	-		15,2

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	7	0		6,597	98
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	5,77	3,91	-	9,683	6,5
	2	0			98

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowme nt funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	DCC, Gainsborough, St George	5,772	-	-
	Restricted Funds	-	3,910	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,772	3,910	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowme nt funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

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

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		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Accounts approved by the Board on and signed on their behalf by

Nic Burne (Chair)