

CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1170180

Details

Other names CAMCRAG

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-11-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address co Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum
16-18 Arbury Court
Cambridge
CB42JQ

Phone 07758628734

Email treasurer@camcrag.org.uk

Website www.camcrag.org.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT:1) THE RELIEF OF PEOPLE IN NEED BY REASON OF ILL HEALTH, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR OTHER SOCIAL AND/OR ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE IN PARTICULAR PEOPLE WHO ARE REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND OTHER MIGRANTS IN NEED BY PROVIDING AND ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES, FOOD, WATER, SHELTER AND CLOTHING.2) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AMONG PEOPLE LIVING IN REFUGEE CAMPS BY PROVIDING AND ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION.3) THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (AS SET OUT IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUBSEQUENT UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATIONS) IN PARTICULAR AMONG REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS BY ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MEANS:•MONITORING ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS;•OBTAINING REDRESS FOR THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE;•CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOUND ADMINISTRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAW; AND•RAISING AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.IN FURTHERANCE OF THAT OBJECT BUT NOT OTHERWISE, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE POWER TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY PROVIDED THAT THE TRUSTEES ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES WILL FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY TO AN EXTENT JUSTIFIED BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTED AND THE ACTIVITY IS NOT THE DOMINANT MEANS BY WHICH THE CHARITY CARRIED OUT ITS OBJECTS.

Activities: We organise volunteers who live in and around Cambridge working to help the refugees in Northern France and elsewhere. We send regular convoys of volunteers to Europe, and we carry out activities in UK to raise awareness of the situation. We raise funds and organise donations of clothing and other items. All the money we raise goes towards providing aid to the refugees or supporting our convoys.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- France
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£31,296	£26,404	-	-
2024-06-30	£34,330	£38,631	-	-
2023-06-30	£47,283	£56,573	-	-
2022-06-30	£52,586	£43,545	-	-
2021-06-30	£25,484	£9,647	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Ian Christopher Tod	Chair	2019-03-14
Birgit Federle		2024-06-27
Catharine Lucy Walston		2018-09-27
DR Tony Richard King		2018-09-27
Dr Elena Daniela Pascal		2024-06-27
Edward Thomas Sexton		2017-09-28
Elizabeth Stephan		2020-11-12
TERRY NEIL SPENCER MSc,MICE		2015-11-10

CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

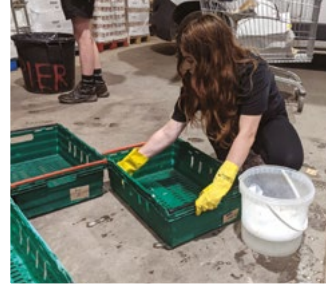
England & Wales - Charity number 1170180

Accounts

CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP



REMOVED KNIVES
EXTRAS
PREP
LEGS - 2L
HEADS - 2L
ARMED - 6M
CUTTING - 2L
FLAMMABLE - 5 TONS
GASOLINE
STORAGE



Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

Helping refugees in Europe since 2015

Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Published 20 October 2025

available online as a PDF at camcrag.org.uk/annualreport2025



CONTENTS

Introduction from the Chair	3
The Early Years of CamCrag	4
Volunteer Convoys to Calais	6
Material Donations	7
Fundraising Events	8
Winter Fair and Sleepout	9
Poncho Project	9
Financial Grants	10
Accounts	11

CamCrag Trustees (on 20 October 2025)

Ian Tod	Tugba Basaran	Catharine Walston
Birgit Federle	Elizabeth Stephan	Edward Sexton
Elena Pascal	Tony King	Terry Spencer

Published 20 October 2025

Small Company Charity Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) (effective 01/01/2016) and in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

Registered Charity Number 1170180

c/o Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum

16-18 Arbury Court

Cambridge

CB4 2JQ



contact@camcrag.org.uk

www.camcrag.org.uk



We arrange regular weekend volunteer convoys from Cambridge to France, helping local NGOs to help refugees.

We also fundraise and provide financial support to groups supporting refugees across Europe and beyond, while raising awareness of the crisis in the UK.

We have no employees, so all the money we raise goes towards providing aid to refugees and supporting our convoys.

Donate now at www.justgiving.com/camcrag JustGiving

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

Catharine, CamCrag Trustee and Chair of the Executive Committee, looks back on the 2024/2025 year

CamCrag's financial year began in July 2024 with a general election and a change of government which, we hoped, would usher in some less performative and more progressive policies towards asylum seekers and refugees.

Yvette Cooper, the new Home Secretary, had chaired the Home Affairs Select Committee for four years and appeared to understand the issues well. She had visited Lesbos at the height of the Syrian migration crisis in 2015, and at that time said "It makes me very angry we can't do better than this: We are failing refugees."

In 2016, she joined Choose Love (then called Help Refugees) in a visit to Calais to meet unaccompanied refugee children, accepting "an immediate responsibility to those children with family in Britain."

Sadly, since assuming office, and just like her predecessors, the rhetoric has all been about "smashing the gangs" and "stopping the boats". Meanwhile, people escaping the violence of civil wars and appalling regimes in Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Eritrea and Sudan, many with relatives in the UK, have no option but to put themselves in the hands of organised gangs because there are no safe routes open to them.

So, ten years on from the first volunteer trips from Cambridge to Calais which would become the heart of CamCrag, our fight for humane and decent treatment of people on the move goes on. As ever, we are sustained in our mission by the steadfast support of the community in Cambridge.

This year our donations have been kindly sorted by sixthformers from the Cambridge Maths School and Impington Village College. Cambridge University Amnesty Society have supported our efforts to reach students and encourage them to come on convoys. Local bands the Jumping Beans and Deep Blue played at our fundraising gigs for free. St Giles' church once again provided a beautiful venue for our ceilidh and the Winter Fair and Sleepout.

Historyworks invited us to speak and fundraise at their Refugee Week event for local schools, and Experience Cambridge created a special refugee-themed guided tour for Refugee Week and donated the proceeds. We were awe-struck by the incredible efforts of individual supporters as well, such as Charlie Lane, who ran the Barcelona marathon, Anna Gomori, who organised another successful disco, Lee Benbow, who fundraised for us from guests at his wedding, and Elspeth Owen for an incredible sponsorship effort at the Sleepout. Thank you to all of you.

This year saw the winding up of the long-running and much-loved poncho project: We are very grateful to Lara, Kirsten, Jane and Colin for their work coordinating it, and for the many volunteers over the years who have crafted ponchos, gloves, snoods and much more. We do still have lots of off-cuts and would be thrilled if any crafty volunteers would like to create some merchandise to sell on our regular fair stalls.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to one of our founding trustees, Dan Ellis, who died in March 2025 after a long battle with cancer. As a committed Quaker, Dan believed passionately in the good in others and campaigned against inhumanity towards asylum seekers on both sides of the Channel. His friends in the refugee support movement will remember him playing his flute at protests and organising cricket on the beach for young Afghans from the Calais Jungle.

FROM OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

CamCrag has no paid staff so all the achievements detailed below result from the enthusiasm, determination and dedication of our volunteers. We are a varied bunch with a wide range of skills and experience - from students to retirees, cooks to computer scientists, mechanics to artists.

We are particularly keen to hear from people with new ideas for fundraising and raising awareness of the charity. We also always need more car owners to drive from Cambridge to Calais on one (or more!) of our monthly(ish) volunteer convoys.

Whatever your skill set and interests, we have a way for you to help displaced people.

**Want to share your skills with us? Register at camcrag.org.uk/JoinOurVolunteers
Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at camcrag.org.uk/NewsletterSubscription**

THE EARLY YEARS OF CAMCRAG

A decade since a few people in Cambridge came together to help refugees in Calais, we look back at those early years, from the first volunteer convoy to the temporary shutdown due to the pandemic in 2020.

September 2015: Photo of Alan Kurdi and first steps

The photo of two year old Alan Kurdi lying dead on a Turkish beach is posted extensively in the media, causing a dramatic increasing in concern over the refugee crisis, and a surge in donations to refugee charities. People look for ways to link up with others and to become involved.

Using Facebook, approximately two dozen people in Cambridge meet up and agree, under the name Cambridge Calais Refugee Action Group, to focus on collecting donations, fundraising, and organising volunteer convoys to Calais.

Bank accounts are opened. Acronym is initially CCRAAG (Cambridge Calais Refugee Action Group), and subsequently turned into CamCRAAG. To improve communications a single group of the most active volunteers is formed and begins to meet fortnightly at the Friends Meeting House on Jesus Lane.

October 2015: First convoy to Calais

Co-ordinated with the UK umbrella group Cal-Aid, donations and volunteers go out to l'Auberge des Migrants – one of the main charities in Calais. Work at the warehouse includes sorting donations, making food parcels, and preparing frames for shelters. Work also takes place inside the informal camp which is rapidly growing in Calais, building shelters for families.

November 2015: Emergency second convoy

Five girls from St Matthews primary school organise a sleep out raising £1,000. This, plus money from a JustGiving Winter fundraiser, allows CamCRAAG to spend over £3,000 on sleeping bags, food, generators and other emergency equipment after a storm causes devastation in the Calais camp.

A convoy of eight cars takes the equipment out to Calais. The conditions are atrocious – fierce winds and thunderstorms. The camp is swampy and tents have been swept away in the gales or burned down from candles and stoves.



April 2016: The Guildhall Event

A fundraising and awareness event is held at the Cambridge Guildhall, raising £10,000, organised jointly by CamCRAAG, CRRC and Cambridge City of Sanctuary. Many prominent speakers were present including the then shadow Home Office Minister Keir Starmer.

October 2016: Final camp demolition and eviction

Not an official CamCRAAG convoy, but a few CamCRAAG volunteers witness the destruction of the Calais camp, while helping NGOs on the ground assist refugees with basic food packs, and ensuring children have phones with data. Nevertheless, Refugee Youth Service in Calais report that about 60 of the children in the camp have gone missing in the subsequent years.



November 2016: CamCRAAG earns charity status

The group becomes a charity and, considering the uncertainty around Calais following the eviction, changes its name to Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group.

December 2016 : One year anniversary appeal

The appeal raises £10,000 from our supporters.

April 2017: The La Linière refugee camp closes

The La Linière refugee camp was situated in Grande-Synthe, Dunkirk, and was frequented by CamCRAAG volunteers until it closed after fighting between Afghan and Kurdish residents resulted in a disastrous fire.

September 2017: John'O'Groats to Land's End bike ride

CamCRAAG committee member Terry and friends cycle 1,177 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End, and raise over £12,000 for CamCRAAG and several other charities.

THE EARLY YEARS OF CAMCRAG

October 2017: The Poncho project is born

The idea is to provide a cheap and easily fabricated, warm, and wearable garment for refugees to use, especially at night. Using a bulk purchase of IKEA fleece blankets, thirty volunteers make a trial batch of 127 ponchos that are sent to Calais. They prove popular with refugees and Help Refugees request further batches.

January 2018: The first sponsored sleepout and winter fair

The Mayor of Cambridge, George Pippas, MP Daniel Zeichner, and Jon Canessa give speeches. Twenty-five sponsored sleepers brave low temperatures and increasing winds, but everybody survives the night. Over £11,000 is raised in sponsorship.

April 2019: CamCRAG volunteer database goes live

Using the same management system developed by CamCRAG volunteers for other NGOs, CamCRAG launches a new volunteer database designed to allow easy matching of volunteers to specific roles or tasks, and manage the subsequent emails.

June 2019: Art exhibition

As part of Refugee Week CamCRAG organises a three-week long art exhibition on the theme of “Home” at the Michaelhouse Centre.

September 2019: Tentastic Tentfest

CamCRAG volunteers spent the summer retrieving tents and sleeping bags from music festivals, all of which need to be cleaned and/or checked before being sent to Calais.

Treated to a disco and buffet lunch, over seventy volunteers turned up and checked, repaired and processed 296 tents.

December 2019: A tale of two warehouses

Over the autumn some NGOs withdraw from Calais and two of the warehouses at L'Auberge close. Collective Aid, together with Project Play and the Refugee Women's Centre, move to a new warehouse about a mile away, leaving RCK and the Woodyard at l'Auberge.

February 2020: Third Sleepout and Winter Fair

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams is our guest speaker. During the night storm Dennis hits Cambridge with rain and high winds. The stewards who stay up overnight on safeguarding duty literally have to hang on to the tents with the volunteers inside to stop them blowing away!

March 2020: The Pandemic hits

All CamCRAG convoys are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

November 2020: First online auction of promises

The online auction proves a great way to raise funds during lockdowns, and becomes an annual feature.

October 2021: First post-COVID convoy

December 2021: First ceilidh fundraiser

The event almost doesn't happen due to pandemic prevention restrictions, but goes on to be another annual event.



Want to spend a weekend supporting refugees in Calais?

Provisional 2025 / 2026 Convoy Dates

28-30 November • 19-21 December • 30 January - 1 February • 27 February - 1 March • 20-22 March • 24-26 April • 15-17 May • 26-28 June

Registration for convoys usually opens 4 to 5 weeks before the convoy, and closes 2 to 3 weeks before the convoy.

See camcrag.org.uk/convoys for full details and how to apply online.

VOLUNTEER CONVOYS TO CALAIS

Convoy coordinator Maggie looks back on our tenth year of trips to Calais

Our regular convoys to Calais have continued to be productive, both in terms of what we do to support NGOs and the people they serve, and the wider impact on and by our convoy attendees, many of whom return on future convoys or become regular volunteers in other ways.

Between July 2024 to June 2025 CamCrag organised nine convoys to Calais and Dunkirk, attended by 156 volunteers, of which 61 were on their first volunteering trip

with the charity.

Over the past ten years we have often supported Refugee Community Kitchen (RCK), who work tirelessly to provide people with fresh nutritious food, and this year was no exception. For example, in March we chopped huge amounts of carrots, potatoes and coriander, made up ginger and garlic pastes, cut and individually wrapped flapjacks, as well as helping to cook and shred lamb ahead of Eid celebrations.

This year we have also volunteered with Care4Calais, assisting them to provide essential non-food items for distribution, notably clothing, tents, sleeping bags, and toiletries. Whilst preparing and supporting distributions, our volunteers also helped deliver services such as phone charging, sewing repair, bicycle repair, haircutting, hot drinks and games.

We also often worked with Roots, who operate in the Dunkirk area providing clean drinking water and more recently showering facilities. Dunkirk has a higher presence of women and children than the Calais area. As well as undertaking regular, hugely impactful litter picks (essential for hygiene and dignity), CamCrag volunteers got involved with packing nappies, doing laundry, cleaning gazebos, cutting up face cloths and replenishing toiletries.

A Roots coordinator commented on our impact: "We were thrilled to have CamCrag back with us, volunteering alongside our team for

Top to bottom:

Making flapjacks at RCK; Working in the Care4Calais warehouse; January 2025 convoy volunteers faced a wet weekend

" Volunteering with CamCrag is about choosing to show up for people who have been failed by systems and borders.

It can be emotional, often confronting, but absolutely necessary.

You don't need to come with experience, only with openness and willing hands.

You will be supported, briefed, and guided.

You'll meet people from all walks of life, volunteers and service users alike, and you'll return with a new perspective.

— Will

June 2025 convoy



VOLUNTEER CONVOYS TO CALAIS

the day. So much work was done on all fronts! The community hub was buzzing, the water points were cleaned, ensuring safe and accessible water for all, and toiletries were replaced. At the families' water point another massive litter pick took place – so much so that our large van was filled three times!"

As always, the situation in France and thus the nature of our convoys continues to evolve. In previous years CamCrag volunteers were almost always working 'behind the scenes' in warehouses or kitchens. Current convoy volunteers are much more likely to be 'in the field' on distributions, meeting the people they are supporting.

One regular volunteer said: "This transition marked a significant evolution in my own understanding. Being on site meant looking people in the eye, listening, and sometimes laughing. It meant standing present in the reality these individuals face daily - harsh conditions, hostile policy environments, and persistent uncertainty... but all with a resounding undertone of hope."

This will be my sixth year of arranging convoys and I have been ably supported by Maddy Green (accommodation and restaurant booking) and Silvia Giannini (data processing). I plan for this to be my last year.

If you are passionate about CamCrag's convoys and the difference we make and would be interested in taking on the organisational role we want to hear from you! It is very rewarding to be at the heart of what the charity does.

Do get in touch at convoys@camcrag.org.uk

MATERIAL DONATIONS

Over the year CamCrag organised three donation days, where we invited local residents to drop off tents, clothing and other useful items: St Andrew's Church in Girton (November 2024), St Mark's Church Community Centre in Newnham (April 2025), and St Andrew's Street Baptist Church in central Cambridge (July 2025).

We have also been supported by donations from many local businesses and organisations, such as Cambridge Mosque. These have been sorted by our volunteers, and then taken to Calais on our volunteer weekend convoys.

We are also grateful to the Argyle Street Housing Cooperative for collecting donations for us.

Thank you to everyone who's helped run these events, receiving and sorting donations, organising and delivering the many leaflets letting people know about the event, and a big thank you to those offering the venues.

If you have an idea for a venue for a donations day then please do get in touch: We prefer weekends and it needs at least one or two car parking spaces.

Email donations@camcrag.org.uk



FUNDRAISING EVENTS



This year CamCrag and our volunteers raised over £16,000 to support refugees in other countries and, through our sponsored sleepout, local homeless people. We would like to thank everyone who helped organise or attended these events.

Over £5,000 was raised through activities organised by our supporters:

- Searle Street Cake Club, organised by Arthur Hubble, raised a fantastic £325 in January.
- St Bene't's Church raised £124 for us in March and then another £1,280 in April.
- Charlie Lane, who ran the Barcelona marathon for us in March, raised over £1000.
- Students at Hills Road Sixth Form College gave us £561 in May.
- Anna Gomori organised yet another very successful fundraising disco in Coton village hall in May, raising £1,030. This was the fifth disco that Anna has organised for CamCrag since 2022, and they have together raised almost £5,500.
- Experience Cambridge ran three town tours as part of Refugee Week in June, raising £125 for CamCrag.
- Attendees at HistoryWorks' refugee week event featuring Michael Rosen gave £700.



In December 2024 we organised a ceilidh for Calais at St Giles' Church. The event was a huge success, with 170 tickets sold, raising nearly £2,200.

We would like to thank St Giles' Church for hosting us free of charge, the Jumping Beans ceilidh band, caller Keith, and all the volunteers who prepared and served food and drink, and who set up and cleared away in record time.

December also saw the conclusion of our third annual Auction of Promises, which raised £1,780: Thank you to all Auction of Promises donors and bidders.

We are delighted to announce that the online auction and ceilidh are back this autumn - full details can be found on our website.



Top to bottom:

December Ceilidh at St Giles' Church; Disco in Coton Village Hall; Open Mic night at The Blue Moon; Michael Rosen speaking at HistoryWorks

Autumn 2025 fundraising events

**15 November Online Auction of Promises opens
(closes 15 December)**

22 November Ceilidh at St Giles' Church

28 November Deep Blue fundraiser at The Blue Moon

see camcrag.org.uk/events for more info on all our upcoming fundraisers

WINTER FAIR AND SLEEPOUT

The biggest event organised by the charity this year was the annual winter fair and sleepout, on Saturday 8 February 2025 at St Giles' Church in collaboration with Cambridge-based Women's Homelessness Action Group (WHAG).

An exciting new connection with the Cambridge Photography Society added photographic prints to our stock, alongside the cakes, books, and clothes kindly donated by CamCrag supporters.

Despite the cold and fairly dismal weather, six sponsored sleepers struggled through the night. Champion fundraiser was Elspeth Owen, the 84 year-old Greenham Common veteran and local ceramicist. Local MP Daniel Zeichner dropped by and Cameron Holloway, the City Councillor with responsibility for refugees, gave a short talk.

Together the fair and sleepout raised a fantastic £8,300 for CamCrag and WHAG. Special thanks of course go to St Giles' Church, Cambridge Jazz Choir for providing entertainment, and everyone who volunteered, donated, or otherwise supported the event.

In May a cheque for £1,500 was handed over by Cameron Holloway, Cambridge City councillor, to WHAG.

If you have a fundraising idea, or would like to be part of the fundraising team, we would love to hear from you:

Email fundraising@camcrag.org.uk



PONCHO PROJECT

After running for more than seven years, we're sorry to announce that the Poncho Project has wound down.

We're hugely grateful to the Poncho Project team and the hundreds of people who've volunteered with them over the years. Between 2017 and 2022, the group sent out thousands of handsewn ponchos to be distributed to refugees in northern France.

In February 2018, a forum of refugee agencies in the UK and Northern France voted the Poncho Project as the best out of 11 initiatives for impact and feasibility, which was a huge achievement!



In autumn 2022 when ponchos became less feasible, the group turned their attention to snoods instead. They distributed hundreds from 2022 and 2023.

Recently a decline in both the number of volunteers available to coordinate the project, and demand from the NGOs in Calais, have led to the decision to end the project.

Could you spend a night outside to help refugees?

We are already planning our Spring Fair and Sleepout on 7 March 2026.

More details will be published on our website in the autumn of 2025.

If you would like to get involved with the planning and running of the Fair or Sleepout email fundraising@camcrag.org.uk

FINANCIAL GRANTS

The fundraising team does an amazing job under increasingly challenging circumstances. This means we often have sufficient funds to make grants to partner refugee organisations in Europe.

In August 2024, we were able to respond positively to a request from Offene Arme, a group we have known for many years which provides support on the Greek island of Chios. We funded tickets from Chios to Athens for a disabled 2 year-old and an elderly woman with a heart condition, so that they could attend hospital.

Around the same time we agreed to match £1,000 in funding from forRefugees for a mobile play service run by Project Play in Dunkirk. This created spaces for refugee children to process trauma, develop key skills and make positive memories.

After the welcome news of the fall of the Assad regime in Syria in December 2024, movement across the border to and from Lebanon increased. In response, Free Shop Lebanon set up a foodbank and community food project, supplying meals on both sides of the border. We contributed £2,500 to this project.

Another Greece-based NGO, Samos Volunteers, got in touch in February to tell us they had no more underwear to distribute, so we helped to buy €2,000 of much-needed pants! At the same time, we gave a substantial grant to a new organisation in Calais, formed by a group of experienced, long-term volunteers. Named La Capuche Mobilisée, they are focused on providing non-food items and recycling discarded clothing, using the washing machines at the Auberge des Migrants warehouse.

Getting and retaining long-term volunteers is very important to the consistency of service in Calais, so we were happy to sponsor CamCrag volunteer Nan to spend a month with Refugee Community Kitchen in March. We also gave a grant to Youth Kaleidoscope to pay an assistant coordinator for a six-month period to help run their psychosocial sessions for teenagers in Calais.

For a full and up to date list of financial grants made by the charity see camcrag.org.uk/grants

ARE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO THE CAMCRAG NEWSLETTER?

Subscribers to our monthly newsletter are up from 625 last year to 642.

Our open rate of almost 53% (the percentage of people who open the email) is well above the 40% average for the non-profit sector, according to data from Mailchimp.

SUBSCRIBE NOW AT CAMCRAG.ORG.UK/NEWSLETTERSUBSCRIPTION

We are always looking for people to join our comms and outreach teams and help with the website, social media, e-newsletter, coordinating campaigns with other organisations, press relations, designing flyers and posters, and publicising our events.

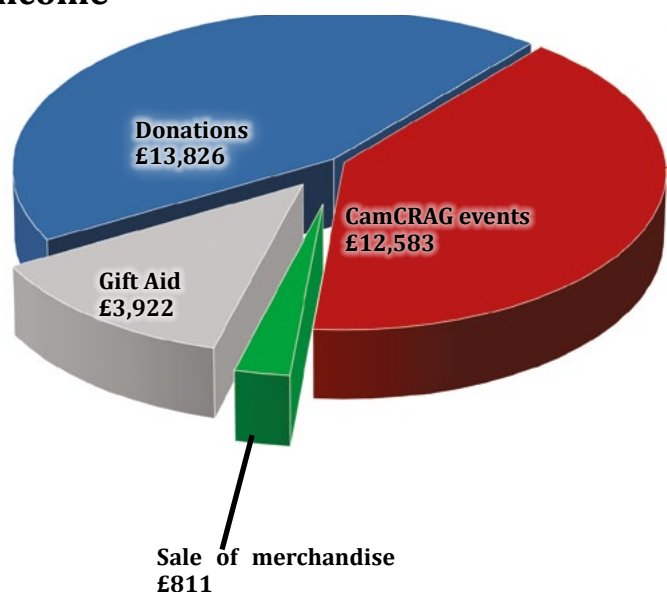
Email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk

Want us to let you know when we have volunteering opportunities that suit your interests and skills?

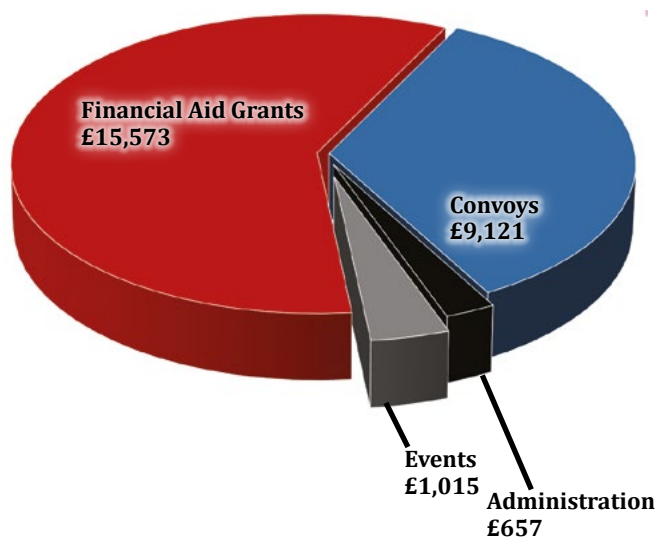
**Join 150 other volunteers
on our volunteer database at
camcrag.org.uk/JoinOurVolunteers**

ACCOUNTS

Income



Payments



For the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. All figures to the nearest £

	Total Funds	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Income						
Donations (cash and bank transfers)	13,826	13,833	21,577	16,431	8,474	11,416
Fundraising events	12,583	15,173	19,294	26,750	6,880	11,034
Shipping refunds fr. other charities	-	700	-	120	970	-
Sale of merchandise	811	823	1,035	1,159	611	895
Ponchos Project	-	195	122	2,376	560	306
Gift Aid	3,922	3,497	5,246	5,721	7,989	253
Administration	-	111	10	30	5	5
Total Receipts	31,142	34,330	47,283	52,586	25,484	23,909
Payments						
Cost of fundraising & outreach events	1,015	1,430	1,387	819	108	1,167
Collecting & shipping material aid	-	804	158	4,598	3,533	-
Cost of merchandise	-	136	413	480	593	1,438
Financial Aid Grants	15,573	19,152	37,716	24,767	3,326	18,909
Convoy costs	9,121	13,952	13,962	8,047	-	4,684
Ponchos Project	-	2,006	1,726	3,626	1,754	3,111
Administration	657	1,151	1,212	1,209	334	1,072
Total Payments	26,366	38,631	56,573	43,545	9,647	30,381
Net increase or decrease in funds	4,776	- 4,300	-9,290	9,041	15,837	- 6,472
Cash funds last year end	18,828	23,128	32,418	23,377	7,540	14,012
Cash funds this year end	23,696	18,828	23,128	32,418	23,377	7,540

All funds shown are unrestricted. The charity has no assets besides cash funds, and no liabilities.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

registered charity number 1170180

Annual Report 20 October 2025



contact@camcrag.org.uk

www.camcrag.org.uk



We arrange regular weekend volunteer convoys from Cambridge to France, helping local NGOs to help refugees.

We also fundraise and provide financial support to groups supporting refugees across Europe and beyond, while raising awareness of the crisis in the UK.

We have no employees, so all the money we raise goes towards providing aid to refugees and supporting our convoys.

CamCrag accounts for 2024-

	2024-25	2024-25	2023-24		2023-24
Income	Totals	Restricted Funds	Totals		Totals
Donations	£13,856		£13,833		£13,833
Fundraising events	£12,706		£15,173		£15,173
Shipping refunds				£700	£700
Sale of merchandise	£811		£823		£823
Ponchos				£195	£195
Project	£3,922		£3,497		£3,497
Admin	£1		£111		£111
Total	£31,296		£33,435	£895	£34,330
Payments					
Cost of fundraising & collection	£1,015		£1,430		£1,430
Shipping of merchandise			£104	£700	£804
Purchases of items for Convoys			£136		£136
Ponchos	£15,601		£19,152		£19,152
Project	£9,124		£13,952		£13,952
Admin				£2,006	£2,006
	£664		£1,151		£1,151
Total	£26,404		£35,925		£38,631
Net of receipt	£4,892	£0	-£2,490	£895	-£4,300
Cash funds at start	£18,828				£23,128
Cash funds at end	£23,720	£0	-£2,490	£895	£18,828

Note: For the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. All funds are unrestricted. All figures are in pounds sterling.

25 annual report

2022-23 Totals	2021-22 Totals	2020-21 Totals	2019-20 Totals	
£21,577	£16,431	£8,474	£11,416	
£19,294	£26,750	£6,880	£11,034	
	£120	£970		
£1,035	£1,159	£611	£895	
£122	£2,376	£560	£306	
£5,246	£5,721	£7,989	£253	
£10	£30		£5	
£47,283	£52,586	£25,484	£23,909	
£1,387	£819	£108	£1,167	
£158	£4,598	£3,533		
£413	£480	£593	£1,438	
£37,716	£24,767	£3,326	£18,909	
£13,962	£8,047		£4,684	
£1,726	£3,626	£1,754	£3,111	
£1,212	£1,209	£334	£1,072	
£56,573	£43,545	£9,647	£30,381	
-£9,290	£9,041	£15,837	-£6,472	
£32,418	£23,377	£7,540	£14,012	
£23,128	£32,418	£23,377	£7,540	

figures to the nearest £.



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

On accounts for the year ended

30 June 2025

Charity no (if any)

1170180

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Hilary Seaward

Signed:

13 October 2025

Date:

HILARY SEAWARD

Name:

Chartered Accountant (retired)

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

IER

1

October 2018

Address:

9 Sherlock Road

Cambridge

CB3 0HR

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1170180

Accounts

CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP



Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Published 23 October 2024

available online as a PDF at camcrag.org.uk/annualreport2024



CONTENTS

Introduction from the Chair	<u>3</u>
From our Volunteer Coordinator	<u>3</u>
Convoys	<u>4</u>
Material Donations	<u>5</u>
Fundraising and Events	<u>6</u>
The Winter Fair and Sleepout	<u>7</u>
Communications and Outreach	<u>8</u>
Financial Grants	<u>10</u>
Accounts	<u>11</u>

CamCrag Trustees (on 23 October 2024)

Ian Tod	Almudena Cano	Edward Sexton
Birgit Federle	Elizabeth Stephan	Terry Spencer
Elena Pascal	Tony King	
Tugba Basaran	Catharine Walston	

Published 23 October 2024

Small Company Charity Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) (effective 01/01/2016) and in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group
Registered Charity Number 1170180
c/o Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum
16-18 Arbury Court
Cambridge
CB4 2JQ



www.camcrag.org.uk



We arrange regular weekend volunteer convoys from Cambridge to France, helping local NGOs to help refugees.

We also fundraise and provide financial support to groups supporting refugees across Europe and beyond, while raising awareness of the crisis in the UK.

We have no employees, so all the money we raise goes towards providing aid to refugees or supporting our convoys.

Donate now at www.justgiving.com/camcrag JustGiving

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

The past year has been a challenging period for everyone in the refugee support sector as the populist right achieved greater influence over policy on both sides of the Channel, while media attention turned away from the situation at our borders to focus on conflict zones in Gaza and Eastern Ukraine. Meanwhile, as we learned from Sahar, one of our speakers at last year's AGM, the conflict in Sudan has been getting steadily worse, explaining the big influx of young Sudanese men to Calais, hoping to reach friends and family in the UK.

This rather bleak picture was made worse by the continuing efforts of three Home Secretaries in a row to weaponise the issue of Channel crossings and bring in ever more punitive legislation. Optimism that sanity would prevail after the Supreme Court ruled the Rwanda 'deal' unlawful in November 2023 was soon quashed by the introduction of the Safety of Rwanda Bill. This Bill allowed Parliament to simply deem Rwanda safe for people seeking asylum, regardless of the judgment of the Supreme Court, and strained the loyalty of even Government supporters, because, as former Conservative Lord Chancellor Ken Clarke said, "parliament apparently, claiming the sovereignty of parliament, can claim that the colour black is the same as the colour white, or dogs are cats." Despite its absurdity, the Bill passed in April, ironically on the same day as another mass drowning was reported off the coast of Northern France.

Yet there has been a lot of light in the gloom: We have received wonderful support from local businesses who donated to our online auction or provided free pizzas for our ceilidh; from Anna Gomori, who organised fundraising discos for us; from Deep Blue and The Jumping Beans; and from St Giles' Church and Downing Place URC, to highlight just a few examples. We were especially touched to receive a donation in memory of Simon Gibson of Simon's Ciders, who died last year.

Adversity also produces solidarity and we have been very happy to establish and maintain warm relations with Emmaus Cambridge, with Herts for Refugees (with whom we went festival salvaging again locally) and with the University of Cambridge's STAR group.

We were delighted to be invited to a conference at Pembroke College where we met Lord Dubs and we have contributed to national campaigns, Stop the Flights (launched by Freedom from Torture) and Together with Refugees. Most of all, we are grateful for the support of so many different sections of the local community and to our amazing volunteers. Your support enables us to offer practical help as well as morale-boosting encouragement to our partner NGOs in France and elsewhere in their efforts to ensure a minimum standard of human dignity for desperate people.

FROM OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

CamCrag's volunteers are a wonderful group. Aged anywhere between 18 and 80+ and with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills and interests they can usually cover the wide range of tasks requested by our Convoy, Fundraising, Outreach and Donations Teams.

But we can always use more help and we welcome new drivers and passengers to come on our weekend convoys to Calais, new volunteers with ideas for fundraising events, people with media experience, organisational, IT and/or presentational skills, people who can bake cakes, deliver flyers, carry heavy boxes, mend sleeping bags, check tents, sort clothing, play an instrument or people willing to turn their hands to anything and everything. Whatever your skill set and interests, we can probably find a job for you.

If you register your skills, interests and the times when you are available on our volunteer database, we will contact you when we have a volunteering opportunity that we think you might like. You can do this via our website.

Currently we have vacancies in two key areas:

- **Joining our Fundraising Team**
- **Organising our storage facility and arranging regular donations sorting sessions for small groups of volunteers.**

If you are interested in either of these roles, or want to know more about what's involved, we'd love to hear from you. Email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk and we'll arrange to talk.

**Want to share your skills with us? Register at camcrag.org.uk/JoinOurVolunteers
Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at camcrag.org.uk/NewsletterSubscription**

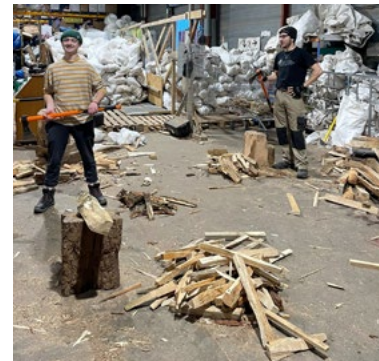
CONVOYS

The NGOs operating in northern France have become used to the need to shift and adapt their approach in response to an ever-changing situation. This inevitably brings with it a complex set of challenges in meeting the needs of their service-users effectively. Securing funds and a stable workforce have become significant challenges requiring some downsizing, refocus and closer collaboration between NGOs to avoid duplication of effort. CamCrag has always been keen to review and evaluate what we are offering to ensure that we are meeting needs and using funds raised and donated monies in the best way possible.

This past year has seen significant changes to our longest established convoy format in response to the changes on the ground in Calais. We are still finding our way, but will endeavour to ensure smooth and effective processes so that our monthly convoys provide a ready workforce to boost NGOs on the ground.

During this past year we have continued our engagement with Collective Aid on a much smaller scale as they wound down their warehouse operations and established The Wash Centre to offer laundry and personal hygiene facilities. They also continue to need tents and sleeping bags and offer links with local French groups with whom we have worked on litter picks.

Refugee Community Kitchen continue to provide healthy nutritious meals for distribution and we support them with mass food preparation and deep cleaning jobs.



Refugee Women's Centre focus operations on women and children and request our support with donation sorting and tent checking.

The Woodyard, a winter project run by the Auberge des Migrants, always appreciate extra hands on deck to support their mission to provide firewood for distribution for heating and cooking.

The Calais Food Collective deliver dry food goods, offering the dignity of agency to cook, and we support them by donating and delivering approximately 17,000 teabags a month, cleaning their IBCs (water containers) and joining the litter picks they organise.

Roots in Dunkirk have welcomed regular input from our volunteers who have cleared an absolute mass of litter, making a huge difference to the well-being and dignity of those living rough. Litter picking around water and food distribution points is crucial for maintaining cleanliness and preventing the spread of diseases. We have also supported Roots with making bins and cleaning water containers and portable showers.

Care4Calais is a large, well established NGO who are the biggest distributor of material aid; namely clothing, tents, sleeping bags and hygiene items. We have sent groups of volunteers to join them in warehouse sorting and morning preparation ahead of going out on distribution. Their distributions of clothing and non-food items also involve the provision of services such as bicycle repairs, a hairdressing station, hot drinks, English lessons, games, football, phone charging, music and sewing repairs.

Want to spend a weekend supporting refugees in Calais?

Provisional 2024 / 2025 Convoy Dates

22-24 November • 13-15 December • 24-26 January • 28-30 March
25-27 April • 16-18 May • 27-29 June

Registration for convoys usually opens 4 to 5 weeks before the convoy, and closes 2 to 3 weeks before the convoy.

See camcrag.org.uk/convoys for full details and how to apply online.

"it did feel that we made some difference to the day to day lives of some people. I will, without a shadow of a doubt, be coming back"

— Nicky

June 2024 convoy

CONVOYS

During the period of September 23 to June 24 we ran ten convoys with approximately 185 volunteers of whom 73 were volunteering with us for the first time.

As an organisation we value the importance of introducing new people and raising awareness of refugee issues. We continue to enjoy a diverse volunteer sign up. It is very important to CamCrag to provide a positive volunteering experience and our feedback speaks highly of the camaraderie, shared purpose and satisfaction of being able to meaningfully engage with this situation just 26 miles from our own shores .

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Maddy who works in the background to manage accommodation and restaurant bookings and Silvia who helps with organisation of the data .

You can read more about our convoys, including reports from previous volunteers, at camcrag.org.uk/convoys.

If you have any questions please email Maggie, our Convoy Coordinator, at convoys@camcrag.org.uk



MATERIAL DONATIONS

In March, we waved goodbye to Olivia Ronna as she left Cambridge. Olivia had been very efficiently running operations in CamCrag's shed, where all our material aid donations are sorted and stored. We would like to thank her for a great deal of hard work and for keeping donations flowing so smoothly.

Since Olivia's departure, we have been seeking three new volunteers to take over the three different aspects of our Donations Operation – organising donations collections, sorting donations in the shed and organising the onward transfer of the donations going to refugees in the eastern Mediterranean. Happily, Rachel Blunt has just taken over donations collections and Daniel Kam is now organising onward transfer. A very warm welcome to Rachel and Daniel! We are still looking for someone to take over organisation of the shed. If you might be interested and would like to know more about this role, please contact volunteer@camcrag.org.uk.

Despite all these changes, we have still managed to collect lots of tents, sleeping bags, blankets and clothing, both through regular collections in and around Cambridge and through some generous gifts - for example, one hundred sleeping bags from Emmaus Cambridge. Thank you to everyone who has helped with our donations collections and with sorting in the shed and to everyone who has given us donations, however large or small. They all contribute to making life a little more tolerable for refugees surviving in very challenging circumstances.

We would also like to thank The Wakeham Trust for a grant of £700 we received in January 2024, which paid for the storage of material aid scheduled for shipping to Lebanon. Our shipments have faced persistent customs delays in Beirut, but we are pleased to learn this summer that they are now all on their way to their intended recipients.

Find out for about material donations at camcrag.org.uk/donating

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

This year CamCrag raised over £15,000 from our own events, with thousands more coming through the amazing efforts of our supporters.

This includes £600 from the Deep Blue dance night in September, £1,040 from Anna Gomori who organised discos in Coton, and £168 from Emma Caroe's half marathon in April.

At the end of June we raised over £1,400 at Voices of Hope and Compassion, organised by Historyworks, at which Michael Rosen performed some of his poetry.

Our biggest event this year was the annual winter fair and sleepout in early February. This raised over £8,500 for CamCrag funds, plus a donation of £2,833 to our partner charity Emmaus Cambridge.

In December, we organised a very successful ceilidh for Calais at St Giles' Church, with ceilidh band The Jumping Beans, which raised nearly £2,000.

We held our usual stall at the Mill Road Winter Fair in December where we got to speak to many people about the charity and received a small amount in donations. The month also saw the conclusion of our third annual Auction of Promises, which raised £2,000.

In June we raised £250 in donations at Strawberry Fair. Also in June, as part of Refugee Week, we supported the Cambridge Refugee Hub in organising a summer arts fair at Cambridge University's Alison Richard building. This comprised music and poetry performances, pottery and other workshops, sales of artwork, and Syrian refreshments, and raised over £1,000 for CamCrag funds.

If you have a fundraising idea, or would like to be part of the fundraising team, we would love to hear from you:

Email fundraising@camcrag.org.uk

Top to bottom:

Soul and funk band Deep Blue; Voices of Hope and Compassion;

Eritrean pottery workshop; Ceilidh at St Giles' Church



THE WINTER FAIR AND SLEEPOUT

This year was our sixth annual Winter Fair and Sponsored Sleepout since 2018, and was held once again at St Giles' Church, on 10 February 2024. This was organised with our partner charity Emmaus Cambridge. Over 65 CamCrag and Emmaus volunteers helped with the event, with Rotary Club support on the day.

Visitors approaching the church for the Winter Fair on Saturday afternoon were welcomed by our guest bagpiper Neill. Inside the church we had stalls selling soup, hot drinks, cakes and other homemade produce, vintage clothes and books, and crafts made locally.

There were several musical performances, including a pop-up performance by members of the ReSound Acapella choir, a raffle, and guest speakers from CamCrag and local homeless support group Emmaus Cambridge, our partner charity.

After the end of the Fair, the sleepers enjoyed a meal together in the church before facing a wet night in tents or under tarpaulins.

After expenses, we made over £1,600 from sales and donations at the Fair, plus £9,700 of sponsorship for the people sleeping out.

In April, a cheque for £2,833 was presented by Cambridge mayor Jenny Gawthrop to Emmaus Cambridge CEO Donna Talbot. All other proceeds went towards funding CamCrag's support for refugees.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Winter Fair, to the Sleepout Team for organising the Fair and for running such a safe and successful event, to Emmaus Cambridge for their hard work and cooperation, to everyone who prepared food for the fair and sleepout, and to the many hundreds of members of the public who came to the fair and supported the event, but most of all to the sleepers and their sponsors for their amazing fundraising efforts.

Special thanks are also due to St Giles' Church, for allowing us to hold the event once again.



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The CamCrag Comms and Outreach team has seen some changes this year. In January, Hannah took over editing our monthly newsletter and Mimi has taken charge of Instagram, supporting Lucy, who runs our Twitter/X feed. Olivia joined Ed in managing our website and began work on an overhaul. Our Outreach Coordinator, Ella, left in April to set off across Central Asia and is replaced by Kate.

The team has used our social media outlets to promote convoys, encourage volunteering and advertise job opportunities and events, both our own and those of partner organisations, including the University's Refugee Hub, Solidaritee, RCK, Vents Contraires, Convoy4Ukraine and other Ukraine-focused groups, and Herts for Refugees. We have avoided comment on the Israel/Gaza crisis ourselves as this is not within the scope of our charitable activities but have advertised fundraisers to help people trapped in Gaza.

Tragically, we have seen a big increase this year in the number of HelloAsso pages set up to fundraise for funeral costs for people drowned in the Channel. The only way to stop these fatalities is to offer asylum seekers safe alternatives so we continue to join campaigns aimed at changing policy: Fair Begins Here campaign for a better deal for refugees from Together with Refugees, Safe Passage's Rally with Refugees, Stop Rwanda, Water for All in Northern France, and JCWI's Not in Our Name against the Illegal Migration Act.

Our Facebook group has 2,700 members and our page is followed by 1800 accounts. Our Instagram feed is followed by 1543 accounts and attracts around 130 likes a month. Our most popular post is about volunteering in Calais. We are seeing a drift towards Instagram and away from Twitter/X as many groups are abandoning it due to its lack of regulation and perceived promotion of extremism. Over 600 people subscribe to and received the monthly newsletter, with an average open rate of 52.3% across the last 12 month period. According to Mailchimp's own data, the average open rate in our sector (non-profit) is 40%, so we're performing strongly against the average.

Our two major outreach events were the Mill Road Winter Fair and Strawberry Fair. We also held information stalls at fundraising events for the new CALM stage at Strawberry Fair. In March, Ella went to talk to an enthusiastic cub scout group in Trumpington who sent us a beautiful 'thank you' card afterwards and we are very happy to have established a positive



Thank you for visiting 1st Trumpington
Wednesday Cubs

We really enjoyed learning about the great
work that CamCrag does to help refugees in
Calais.

Thank you!



relationship with Emmaus Cambridge as a result of our work together on the annual sponsored sleepout.

In March Catharine attended a conference at Pembroke College called Migration, Identity and Memory, where she was able to hand out leaflets and discuss the Safety of Rwanda Bill with Lord Dubs and Chris Smith.

We are always looking for people to join our comms and outreach teams and help with the website, social media, e-newsletter, coordinating campaigns with other organisations, press relations, designing flyers and posters, and publicising our events: Email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk

See links to press coverage at camcrag.org.uk/mediacoverage

For press enquiries please email publicity@camcrag.org.uk

Subscribe to our e-newsletter at camcrag.org.uk/newslettersubscription

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Autumn 2024 events

16 November Ceilidh at St Giles' Church

28 November Open Mic Night at The Blue Moon

ticket details will be published on our website by November

see camcrag.org.uk/events for all our upcoming events

Do you know WordPress?

The CamCrag website team always welcome new people to help keep camcrag.org.uk updated.

Could you write and post news articles, update our events section, and other pages as required?

Email ed@camcrag.org.uk

Could you spend a night outside in winter to raise funds for refugees and the homeless?

Plans are already underway for our Winter Fair and Sleepout on 8 February 2025.

More details will be published on our website in the autumn of 2024.

If you would like to get involved with the planning and running of the Fair or Sleepout we would love to hear from you!

Email fundraising@camcrag.org.uk



www.camcrag.org.uk



We would like to thank all of our volunteers and supporters. In particular we extend a special thank you to the following individuals and organisations who have helped us this year, organised fundraisers, made large donations, or with whom we have collaborated.

Please note that we no longer take donations at the Daily Bread Co-operative.

Find out more about donating goods and money at camcrag.org.uk/donating

Want us to let you know when we have volunteering opportunities that suit your interests and skills?

Join 150 other volunteers on our volunteer database at camcrag.org.uk/JoinOurVolunteers

CU Amnesty
STAR
Just Love
Freedom from Torture
HistoryWorks
Deep Blue
The Jumping Beans
Emma Caroe
Anna Gomori
Grill House Restaurant
Downing Place United Reform Church
Emmaus Cambridge
St Giles' Church
Jesus Lane Quaker Meeting House
Herts for Refugees
Collective Aid
Care4Calais
Roots
Refugee Community Kitchen
The Calais Food Collective
Simon's Ciders

A list of recent donors to the charity is available at camcrag.org.uk/donors

FINANCIAL GRANTS

Demand for grants remains strong as all refugee charities face the same fundraising challenges, but thanks to our fabulous fundraising team and a couple of productive years during and after the pandemic, we have been able to sponsor more volunteers, contribute to The Big Give matchfunding drive, and support important projects run by partner groups in France, Greece and Lebanon.

We sponsored two volunteers with Offene Arme to alleviate a workforce crisis on Chios in January, an Arabic-speaking volunteer to work with Collective Aid in France for a month in December, and a volunteer to work with Roots on water and wash services in Dunkirk in March.

We donated £1025 to forRefugee's Big Give matchfunding in December and £450 to an appeal by Mobile Refugee Support to buy warm coats in Dunkerque. A dedicated grant from the Wakeham Trust enabled us to pay for a lock-up storage container to store boxed donations for Free Shop Lebanon.

We were also able to contribute to shipping costs to Lebanon and electricity costs for Free Shop Lebanon's premises there. Grants were made in Greece to One Happy Family in Athens for volunteers on an employability programme, to Mobile Info Team in Greece for advocacy at detention centres on Kos and on the mainland, and to Refugee Legal Support for rent for its Athens Human Rights Project. In Calais and Dunkirk, we always ensure a supply of teabags goes with each convoy for Calais Food Collective and washing liquid for the Wash centre.

We also contributed £750 to the purchase of a new van for Roots, £1000 to Collective Aid to pay for alterations to the Wash centre to bring it up to standard for fire regulations and £1000 to Youth Kaleidoscope to buy materials for their psychosocial art and music sessions.

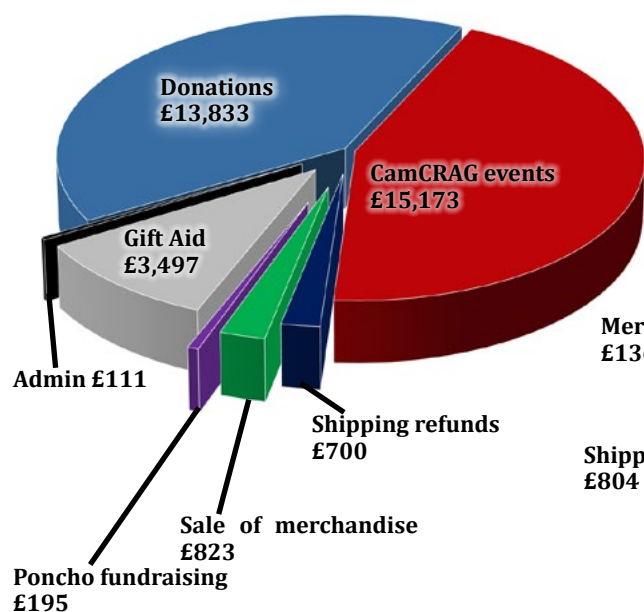
Summary of grants made in the financial year 2023/24

Calais Food Collective	£1,731	Calais, France	Tea bags and washing powder
	£306	Calais, France	2 Intermediate Bulk Containers
Collective Aid	£1,000	Calais, France	Support for WASH project
	£500	Calais, France	Volunteer sponsorship
Charitable Roots	£724	Dunkirk, France	Support for new van
	£500	Dunkirk, France	Volunteer sponsorship
forRefugees	£1,025	France	The Big Give matchfunding
Refugee Womens Centre	£1,000	France	Tents
Free Shop Lebanon	£1,500	Lebanon	Shipping costs
	£3,500	Lebanon	Electricity costs
One Happy Family	£1,000	Greece	Volunteer sponsorship
Mobile Refugee Services	£450	France	Clothing
Mobile Info Team	£2,987	Greece	Support for legal advice
Refugee Legal Support	£1,500	Greece	Support for rent
Youth Kaleidoscope	£1,000	France	Materials for youth activities
Offene Arme	£430	Greece	Volunteer sponsorship

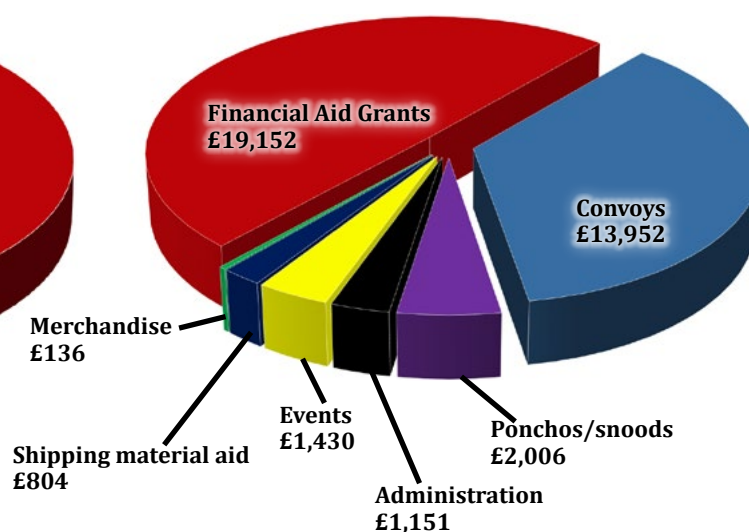
For a full and up to date list of financial grants made by the charity see camcrag.org.uk/grants

ACCOUNTS

Receipts



Payments



For the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. All figures to the nearest £

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Receipts								
Donations (cash and bank transfers)	13,833	-	13,833	21,577	16,431	8,474	11,416	16,895
Fundraising events (organised by us)	15,173	-	15,173	19,294	26,750	6,880	11,034	6,248
Shipping refunds fr. other charities	-	700	700	-	120	970	-	-
Sale of cards & merchandise	823	-	823	1,035	1,159	611	895	87
Sale of ponchos & poncho fundraising	-	195	195	122	2,376	560	306	1,799
Gift Aid	3,497	-	3,497	5,246	5,721	7,989	253	2,134
Administration	111	-	111	10	30	5	5	3
Total Receipts	33,435	895	34,330	47,283	52,586	25,484	23,909	27,166
Payments								
Cost of fundraising & outreach events	1,430	-	1,430	1,387	819	108	1,167	895
Collecting & shipping material aid	104	700	804	158	4,598	3,533	-	-
Cost of cards & merchandise	136	-	136	413	480	593	1,438	131
Financial Aid Grants	19,152	-	19,152	37,716	24,767	3,326	18,909	12,132
Convoy costs	13,952	-	13,952	13,962	8,047	-	4,684	4,171
Production costs for ponchos/snoods	-	2,006	2,006	1,726	3,626	1,754	3,111	5,709
Administration	1,151	-	1,151	1,212	1,209	334	1,072	957
Total Payments	35,925	2,706	38,631	56,573	43,545	9,647	30,381	23,995
Net increase or decrease in funds			- 4,300	-9,290	9,041	15,837	- 6,472	3,171
Cash funds last year end			23,128	32,418	23,377	7,540	14,012	10,841
Cash funds this year end			18,828	23,128	32,418	23,377	7,540	14,012

The charity has no assets besides cash funds, and no liabilities.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group
registered charity number 1170180
Annual Report 23 October 2024



www.camcrag.org.uk



We arrange regular weekend volunteer convoys from Cambridge to France, helping local NGOs to help refugees.

We also fundraise and provide financial support to groups supporting refugees across Europe and beyond, while raising awareness of the crisis in the UK.

We have no employees, so all the money we raise goes towards providing aid to refugees or supporting our convoys.



Charity Name Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group	No (if any) 1170180
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/07/2023	To	Period end date 30/06/2024
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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					
Donations (cash and bank transfer)	13,833	-	-	13,833	21,577
Fundraising events (organised by us)	15,173	-	-	15,173	19,294
Shipping income from other charities	-	700	-	700	-
Sale of cards & merchandise	823	-	-	823	1,034.90
Sale of ponchos/poncho fundraising	-	195	-	195	122
Gift Aid	3,497	-	-	3,497	5,246
Admin	111	-	-	111	10
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	33,435	895	-	34,330	47,283
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	33,435	895	-	34,330	47,283
A3 Payments					
Cost of events	1,430	-	-	1,430.27	1,387
Collection & shipping of material aid	104	700	-	803.97	158
Purchase of cards and merchandise for sale	136	-	-	135.61	413
Purchases of items for refugees	19,152	-	-	19,152.37	37,716
Convoy costs	13,952	-	-	13,952.13	13,962
Production cost for ponchos	-	2,006	-	2,005.63	1,726
Admin	1,151	-	-	1,150.67	1,212
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	35,925	2,706	-	38,631	56,573
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	35,925	2,706	-	38,631	56,573
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,490	- 1,810	-	- 4,300	- 9,290
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	25,981	2,853	-	23,128	32,418
Cash funds this year end	23,492	4,664	-	18,828	23,128

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	In Unity Trust current account	23,492	- 4,664	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	23,492	- 4,664	-

OK	OK	OK
Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £

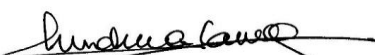
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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	Amount due	When due
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ALMUDENA CANO	24/10/2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

**On accounts for the year
ended**

30/06/2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1170180

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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 the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed: *C E Wilson*

Date: 30/10/2024

Name: Charlotte Wilson

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACA, ICAEW Qualified

Address:

112, New Cheveley Road, Newmarket, Suffolk

CB8 8BY

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1170180

Accounts

CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP



Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Published 20 October 2023

available online at camcrag.org.uk/docs/annualreport2023.pdf



CONTENTS

Introduction from the Chair	3
From our Volunteer Coordinator	3
Convoys	4
Donations	5
Poncho / Snoods Project	5
Fundraising and Events	6
The Winter Fair and Sleepout	7
Communications and Outreach	8
Financial Report and Financial Aid Grants	10
Accounts	11

CamCrag Trustees (on 20 October 2023)

Marissa Green (Chair)	Catharine Walston	Almudena Cano
Elizabeth Stephan	Ian Tod	David Adamson
Terry Spencer	Ed Sexton	Tugba Basaran
Tony King	Karam Alkatlabe	

Published 20 October 2023

Small Company Charity Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) (effective 01/01/2016) and in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group
Registered Charity Number 1170180
c/o Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum
16-18 Arbury Court
Cambridge
CB4 2JQ



www.camcrag.org.uk

   [camb4calais](#)

We arrange regular weekend volunteer convoys from Cambridge to France, helping local NGOs to help refugees.

We also fundraise and provide financial support to groups supporting refugees across Europe and beyond, while raising awareness of the crisis in the UK.

We have no employees, so all the money we raise goes towards providing aid to refugees or supporting our convoys.

Donate now at www.justgiving.com/camcrag JustGiving™

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

During CamCrag's last financial year, the UK saw an undeniable increase in the anti-refugee narrative, both in our mainstream media and, more worryingly and impactfully, in our current government.

The proposal of sending refugees to Rwanda, the Illegal Migration Act further diminishing access to safe routes of passage, and the act of placing refugees, many of whom are traumatised by journeys at sea, on to barges not fit for human habitation, are the most prominent examples of what I perceive to be a lack of basic empathy and human compassion from our government.

The recent homophobic statements from the Home Secretary, stating that anti-gay discrimination should not confer a right to claim asylum, also highlight this sentiment. Pair this with her consistent votes against gay rights in the UK and we begin to see a strong intersectional discrimination which can only be combatted by promoting equality for all marginalised groups, including refugees.

In response to this growing national hostility, CamCrag has increased its outreach work within the community, and refocused on our values and mission to identify how we can better support refugees in Calais, Dunkirk, and elsewhere overseas.

Whilst we only reach a limited number of refugees, we hope to continue to show human compassion and empathy by providing grassroots support. Alongside our pre-existing functions, such as our convoys, fundraising, and material aid donations, we hope our continued commitment to human empathy only enhances our work and the quality of support we can offer.

This year we have begun to campaign more in Cambridge, to raise awareness and garner support to combat discriminatory views, whilst partnering more with the University of Cambridge to try and build connections with academics who may be influential in policy making and activism. Our partnerships with the University have also led to an increase in student involvement in our organisation which we can only hope will encourage increased activism in the future.

Thank you to all of the compassionate people who have been involved in CamCrag throughout the last financial year. Please visit www.camcrag.org.uk to find out more about our future events and opportunities to get involved.

Marissa Green

FROM OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Now that the restrictions in our activities during and after the pandemic are behind us, the last year has seen CamCrag make up for the lost time with a range of well attended events and projects.

Convoys are going to Calais monthly, Donation Drops are happening again and we are sending much needed donations to Calais and the eastern Mediterranean. We have run a series of highly successful fundraising events (see page 6) and we are sending funds to NGOs on the ground to help them to provide for refugees living rough or in camps.

CamCrag has no paid employees so we are completely dependent on our army of nearly 250 volunteers to make everything described in this report happen: But we always welcome more help. We need people with ideas for fundraising events, people with organisational skills, people with IT skills, people to come on our weekend convoys to Calais, people with media experience, people who can bake cakes, deliver flyers, mend sleeping bags, sort clothing and people willing to turn their hands to anything and everything. Whatever you want to do, we can probably find a job to fit, and usually it's a lot of fun.

If you register your skills, interests and the times when you are available on our volunteer database (see link below), we will contact you when we have a volunteering opportunity that we think you might like.

Currently we have vacancies in three key areas:

- **Producing our monthly e-newsletter using Mailchimp**
- **Organising donation collection days every two months or so**
- **Arranging the onward transfer of donations to our partners overseas every few months.**

If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks, or want to know more about what's involved, please email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk.

**Want to share your skills with us? Register at camcrag.org.uk/JoinOurVolunteers
Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at camcrag.org.uk/NewsletterSubscription**

CONVOYS

CamCrag Convoys have continued to go from strength to strength: We ended the financial year with an extra large convoy in June 2023 of 36 participants!

We continue to regularly attract first time volunteers — a key objective in order to raise awareness — whilst also enjoying a high return rate of volunteers: From July 2022 to June 2023 we organised 10 convoys, attended by 236 people of which 95 were first time volunteers.

Our work in Calais has diversified. We continue to support the warehouse operations of Collective Aid and Refugee Community Kitchen (RCK). We have also been able to support Calais Food Collective distributing food items, the Calais Woodyard and the Refugee Women's Centre.

In Dunkirk we have assisted Roots and Mobile Refugee Support (MRS): Roots provides WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) facilities and phone charging, while MRS distribute non-food items.

Our teams have been out on litter picks in the camps at Grande Synthe and in Calais, and we have helped with reorganising and improving the l'Auberge des Migrants warehouse by building hoppers and shelving, and creating a mural as part of a livestreamed fundraiser.

Our convoy in September 2022 was focused on tent checking, cleaning and sorting: Over the weekend we prepared 672 tents for distribution. In January 2023 we spent £670 on new knives for RCK.

Our volunteers continue to engage in whatever tasks are needed: NGOs in Northern France have difficulty attracting long term volunteers, and our efforts to support them continue to be much appreciated and invaluable in keeping the relief effort going.

"We're not there to make ourselves feel better about the awful situation that continues over there.

We're there to make an impact, and we'll jump right into whatever they need us to do."

***— Anna
March 2023 convoy***

The current convoy team consists of Maggie and Sara, our convoy coordinators, Maddy, who supports all French communications, manages accommodation and restaurant bookings, and Silvia who provides IT support.

We are also aided by psychologists Nina, Dani and Wendy, who are willing to offer one to one or group support to anyone wanting it following their volunteer experience.

Please do contact our convoy coordinators with any questions or suggestions you may have by emailing convoys@camcrag.org.uk



Want to spend a weekend supporting refugees in Calais?

Provisional 2023 / 24 Convoy Dates

10-12 November • 15-17 December • 12-14 January • 2-4 February
15-17 March • 19-21 April • 17-19 May • 28-30 June

Registration for convoys usually opens 4 to 5 weeks before the convoy, and closes 2 to 3 weeks before the convoy.

See camcrag.org.uk/convoys for full details and how to apply online.

DONATIONS & PONCHO/SNOODS PROJECT

Over the financial year we held two donation drop off days, where our supporters can drop off physical donations that our volunteers then take to Calais, or which we ship to other NGOs in Europe or the Middle East. The first was in January 2023 at City Church, off Newmarket Road, and the second was at St Mark's Community Centre in Newnham. We would like to thank both for letting us use their space, the many people who turned up and donated their clothes and other items, and to all our volunteers who helped sort and pack the donations.

We held sorting days throughout the year to process donated items, the largest of which was in November 2022 when we filled a van with boxed donations to go to the Free Shop in Lebanon: Thank you to Tanya for organising this, and to Alice for arranging the complicated shipment process. Unfortunately the goods were held up by Lebanese customs for several months, but they did eventually reach their destination in the summer of 2023.

Over the summer of 2022 we took part in two festival salvages, in which NGOs go around music festivals the day after the event ends to collect tents and any other items that have been left behind and are still usable. One was in conjunction with Herts4Refugees at Standon Calling, and the other at We Out Here festival at Abbots Ripton, near Huntingdon.

We will be holding more donation drop off days as and when required: In the meantime donations can be dropped off, by arrangement, at the Argyle Street Coop near the railway bridge on Mill Road. Please go to our website at camcrag.org.uk/donating to check that what you are donating is suitable, and email their office on office@ash.coop to arrange a suitable time. Please note that we no longer collect donations at the Daily Bread Cooperative or at the regional hubs we operated during the pandemic.

If you have a possible location for a future donation drop off day, or any questions about physical donations, please email donations@camcrag.org.uk.



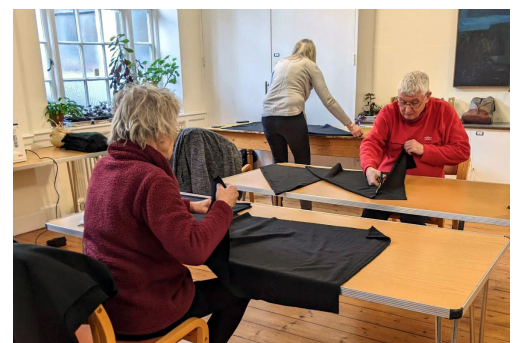
THE PONCHO / SNOODS PROJECT

The poncho team faced a challenge in early 2022/23 when IKEA stopped selling the blankets we normally use to create our ponchos. An exhaustive search of other stores failed to find a similar product but, after some creative thinking, we came up with a partial solution: Thanks to the support of the Cambridge Fabric Company on Peas Hill, we were able to buy 500 metres of black polar fleece direct from the manufacturer.

This enabled us to make nearly 1500 snoods, which have been well received by the NGOs in France. Sadly, the material was not suitable for poncho-making, but we did manage to make many gloves, and some craft items which are sold at CamCrag events to raise money for the project.

We are fortunate to have a large number of volunteers from a range of backgrounds helping with the project. Our sewing sessions were held at two venues this year, the Friends Meeting House on Jesus Lane and also in Hardwick. We also have what seems to be a small army of home sewers, who get on with the work in their own time.

Going forward we are facing two problems. Firstly, we need to find a new venue in central Cambridge as the Friends Meeting House is unavailable on the times and days we need it. Secondly, we need more people to help coordinate and manage the project. Despite these issues, we are confident that we can continue to make garments for refugees as we approach winter.



Find out more about the poncho project at camcrag.org.uk/ponchos or email ponchos@camcrag.org.uk

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

This has been another busy but successful year for the CamCrag fundraising team. We would like to thank everyone who helped organise or attended our events, and to the many fundraisers organised by other groups and individuals.

Our biggest event was the fifth annual winter fair and sleepout in February 2023 (see opposite), which raised over £16,000 for CamCrag and over £4,500 for our partner homeless charity, Cambridge Cyrenians.

In October 2022 we held an amazing dance night at the NCI Club, which raised almost £600: We would like to thank Deep Blue for performing for free.

Our ceilidh for Calais at St Giles' Church in December 2022 proved to be very popular, and raised £1,250: Thanks to The Jumping Beans for the music. Also in December, we had our regular stall at Mill Road Winter Fair, which raised over £370 from donations and the sale of greeting cards and crafts.

In the run up to Christmas we ran our second annual Auction of Promises, which raised £1,260 and included a huge variety of gifts and promises, from cakes and artwork to private language lessons and exclusive tours.

We had a great deal of interest in the charity at our stall at Strawberry Fair, held in June, and also raised some money from gift and card sales.

Fundraisers run by others included £2,520 by John Beresford at his 18th beer festival, £2,095 by Anna Gomori at two discos in Coton last June and October, £7,808 from the University Catering Managers Charity Ball in January, £440 from the Searle Street Cake Club, £828 raised by students of Hills Road Sixth Form College in June, and £323 from a cake sale at St Giles church.

If you have a fundraising idea, or would like to be part of the fundraising team, we would love to hear from you: Email fundraising@camcrag.org.uk

Autumn 2023 events

9 November - 10 December Online Auction of Promises

Do you have a gift or promise you could offer?
more info at camcrag.org.uk/auction

7.30pm, 18 November Ceilidh at St Giles' Church
advance tickets available from camcrag.org.uk/ceilidh

Could you spend a night outside in winter to raise funds for refugees and the homeless?

Plans are already underway for our Winter Fair and Sleepout on 10 February 2024.

More details will be published on our website in the autumn of 2023.



Top to bottom:

*Deep Blue playing at the NCI Club;
Ceilidh at St Giles' Church;
Stall at Strawberry Fair*

THE WINTER FAIR AND SLEEPOUT

The winter fair and sleepout, our fifth since 2018, was held on 4 February 2023: Every year it keeps getting bigger and better.

On the Saturday afternoon everyone was invited to warm up at the winter fair inside the church, with stalls selling soup, hot drinks, cake, work by local artists, second hand clothes and books, and crafts made locally and by refugees in Europe. All proceeds went towards CamCrag's support for refugees.

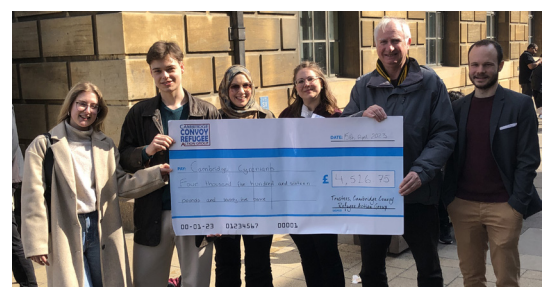
There was also a performance by the ReSound Acapella choir, a raffle, and guest speakers from CamCrag and local homeless support group Cambridge Cyrenians, our partner charity.

Then, after sunset and the end of the public fair, the sleepers enjoyed a meal together in the church before facing the night in tents or under tarpaulins.

After expenses, we made over £2,600 from sales and donations at the fair, and more than £18,000 was donated by sponsors of the people sleeping out.

On 15 April, a cheque for £4,516.75 was presented by CamCrag Chair of Trustees Marissa Green to two Cambridge Cyrenians volunteers, Emma Richter and Kevin Majewski, in the company of Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner and sleepout participants, Shifaa Kweider and Peter Zahemszky.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the winter fair, to the sleepout team for running such a safe and successful event, to everyone who prepared food for the fair and sleepout, and to the many hundreds of members of the public who came to the fair and supported the event, but most of all to the sleepers and their sponsors for their amazing fundraising efforts. Special thanks are also due to St Giles church, for allowing us to hold the event once again.



Top to bottom:

Tents and tarpaulins ready for the sponsored sleepers; volunteers enjoy an evening meal before the sleepout; cheque presentation in April with Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner; the Winter Fair inside the church

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

For the Communications team, the toxic public discourse around ‘illegal’ migration has meant more campaigns and more opportunities for collaboration with other groups. Against the backdrop of huge sympathy for the Ukrainian people, we have joined with many groups from across civil society highlighting misinformation and challenging the legality of Government proposals in an effort to turn the tide of public opinion on refugees and asylum-seekers.

We continue to point out that neither last year’s Nationality and Borders Bill, nor this year’s Illegal Migration Bill, nor the scheme to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda, will make any significant impact to Channel crossings. The principal effect is to punish vulnerable people seeking sanctuary, while the people-smuggling gangs they are supposed to stop will continue to operate.

We supported a campaign to instigate a Sudanese Family Scheme so that those fleeing the civil war in Sudan could be offered a safe route to claim asylum in the UK, in the same way as is offered to Ukrainians. The majority of the population in the Calais camps is Sudanese, so we know alternatives have to be offered if more young people are not to drown in the Channel or die on French roads.

We also supported a campaign initiated by our friends at Reclaim the Sea to stop asylum-seekers who have made terrifying sea journeys being housed on what are effectively prison barges. In November 2022 we joined with 65 other cross-border groups to write to *Le Monde* about failings in search and rescue systems, on the anniversary of the drowning of over 30 people in the Channel in 2021.

Our social media presence continues to be strong, with over 1800 followers of our Facebook Page, 2700 members of our Facebook group, 1300 followers on Instagram and 1400 on Twitter (X). Our e-newsletter has continued to go out every month to over 600 recipients.

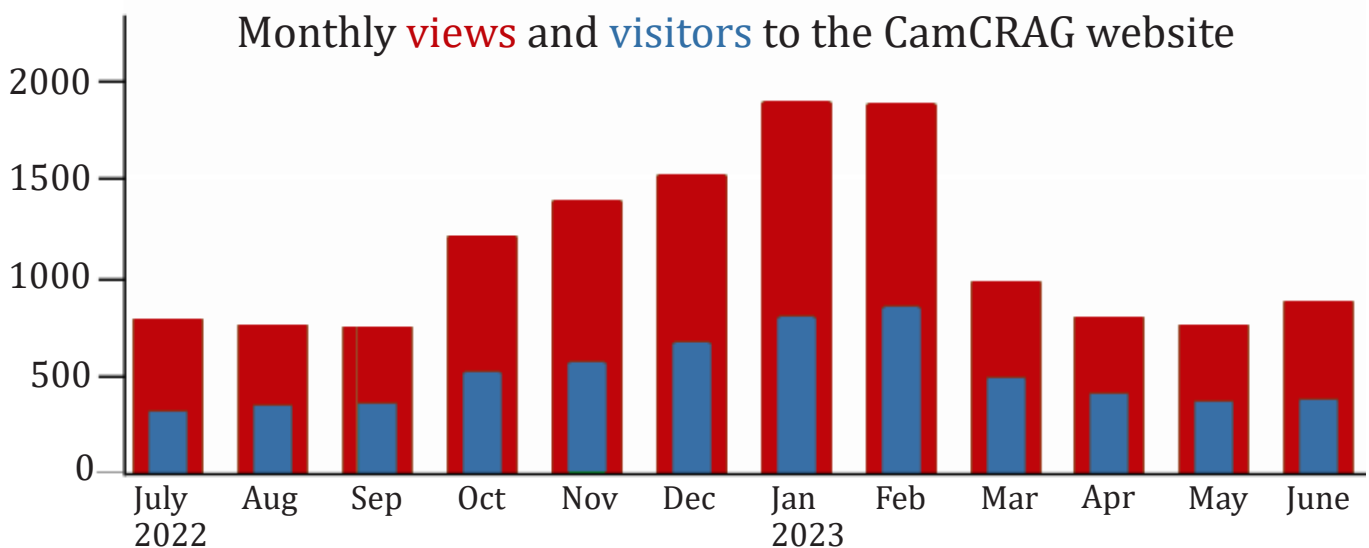
Locally, we have been delighted to establish closer links over the past year with student groups. Cambridge University (CU) Amnesty International Group kindly allowed us to join them on their stall at the Freshers Fair in October 2022, and we have got to know the newly formed CU Freedom From Torture group and, more recently, the re-constituted Student Action for Refugees (STAR) group.

Lexi Netty, who works for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and is CEO of student-led charity Solidaritee, spoke at our AGM in October 2022 and has since come on a convoy with us.

Our second AGM speaker was Steven Martin, founder of Channel Rescue, a humanitarian group monitoring small boat arrivals.



Cheque presentation from the Catering Managers' Charity Ball



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Outreach coordinator Ella gave a talk to Cambridge University group Freedom From Torture in the Lent term and several members of the group have joined us on a convoy.

We held stalls at Mill Road Winter Fair in December and at Strawberry Fair in June, as well as the Haymakers pub in Chesterton in April. Other committee members gave talks at the Catering Managers Charity Ball and at a Continuing Professional Development day for an urban design company in January.

Refugee Week in June saw CamCrag members participate in round-table discussions and forums throughout the week, before our own film and concert evening on Saturday 24 June at Downing Place United Reform Church. We were proud to screen a film made on Samos by Cambridge journalist Fareid Atta when he was volunteering as a translator there. His film focussed on musicians he met among the refugee community so it seemed appropriate to round off the evening with a concert by West African musicians Bakk Lamp Fall, some of whose members are also refugees.

We are always looking for people to join our comms and outreach teams and help with the website, social media, e-newsletter, coordinating campaigns with other organisations, press relations, designing flyers and posters, and publicising our events: Email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk

See links to press coverage at camcrag.org.uk/mediacoverage

For press enquiries please email publicity@camcrag.org.uk

Subscribe to our e-newsletter at camcrag.org.uk/newslettersubscription



www.camcrag.org.uk

   [camb4calais](https://www.instagram.com/camb4calais)

We would like to thank all of our volunteers and supporters. In particular we extend a special thank you to the following individuals and organisations who have helped us this year, organised fundraisers, made large donations, or with whom we have collaborated.

Please note that we no longer take donations at the Daily Bread Co-operative. Find out more about donating goods and money at camcrag.org.uk/donating

Want us to let you know when we have volunteering opportunities that suit your interests and skills?

Join 150 other volunteers on our volunteer database at camcrag.org.uk/JoinOurVolunteers

Family of Simon Gibson
Hills Road Sixth Form College
LDA Design
Searle Street Cake Club
St Giles Church
The MathWorks Ltd
Quaker Lane Meeting House
Sara Wood
Anna Gomori
John Beresford
Amber Bauer from ForRefugees
Distribute Aid
Collective Aid
Refugee Community Kitchen
The Calais Food Collective
Alexa Netty
SolidariTEE
Cambridge Colleges Catering Managers Charity Ball

A list of recent donors to the charity is available at camcrag.org.uk/donors

Links to NGOs and other groups we have worked with can be found at camcrag.org.uk/links

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the financial year 2022-23 donations were over £21,000, thanks to the generosity of our regular donors, individuals and groups who organised fundraising events for us, and also organisations who chose CamCrag as their charity of the year. We were able to claim over £5,000 on Gift Aid.

Our fundraising team managed to raise an amazing £19,000, bringing the total income for the year to £47,161, only slightly less than the previous year and an amazing achievement bearing in mind the current economic climate.

We successfully ran ten convoys at a cost of £13,962. We anticipated that convoy costs would increase dramatically compared to previous years, thanks to the increased cost of channel crossings and general inflation. However the increase in overall convoy costs is partly because of the high attendance on most of the year's convoys: The average cost per convoy participant across the year was about £60, which still represents good value for two days' work with our partner NGOs.

Over the year we have reduced our surplus cash funds by giving grants to small grass root organisations in France and Greece, focusing on projects where our money could have the most impact, totalling over £36,000 in financial aid.

Our administration costs continue to be low at about 2% of total outgoings.

We always keep £4,500 in reserves, to finance at least two convoys, as well as administration costs, should for some reason all donation ceases.

From CRIBS International:

"Thank you to the wonderful people at CamCrag for their grant of £4,000.

"This grant will cover five months' rent and utility bills for flats housing six women and their new-born babies.

"This support makes a huge, life-changing difference to mums and babies at this difficult time."

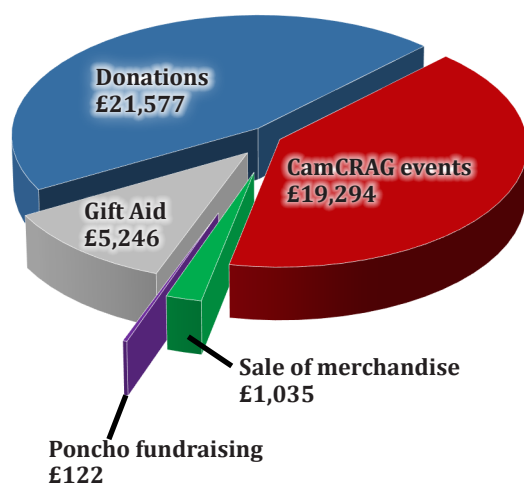
Summary of grants made in the financial year 2022/23

Calais Food Collective	£1,321	Calais, France	Food
	£1,196	Calais, France	Tea bags
	£500	Calais, France	Volunteer sponsorship
Collective Aid	£2,030	Calais, France	New underwear
	£1,000	Calais, France	Van repairs
	£2,800	Bosnia	Various non food items
Charitable Roots	£500	Dunkirk, France	Volunteer sponsorship
	£2,000	Dunkirk, France	Electricity
Donate4Refugees	£2,500	France	The Big Give matchfunding
Chamomile Housing	£2,000	Athens, Greece	Food and telephone vouchers
	£1,200	Athens, Greece	Apartment repairs
Refugee Community Kitchen	£671	France	Knives
CRIBS International	£4,000	Athens, Greece	Rent for two apartments for refugees
Fenix Legal Aid	£3,000	Lesvos, Greece	Legal aid to support asylum claims
Habibi Center	£3,000	Athens, Greece	Workshops for young people
Vents Contraire	£4,000	France	WASH services for refugees in Caen and Ouisthreham
Assist Chios	£3,000	Chios, Greece	Legal aid to support asylum claims
Project Play	£500	France	Volunteer sponsorship
Refugee Womens Centre	£500	France	Volunteer sponsorship
Free Shop Lebanon	£2,000	Lebanon	Family food packs

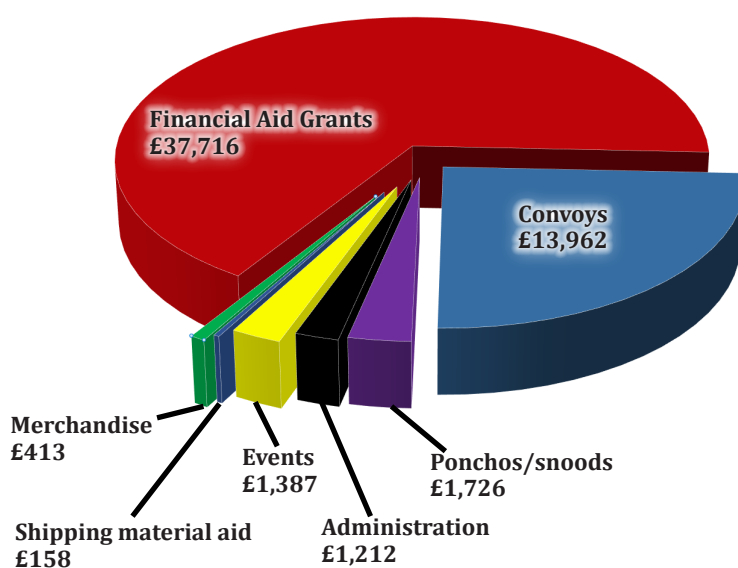
For a full and up to date list of financial grants made by the charity see camcrag.org.uk/grants

ACCOUNTS

Receipts



Payments



For the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. All figures to the nearest £

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Receipts								
Donations (cash and bank transfers)	21,577	-	21,577	16,431	8,474	11,416	16,895	16,303
Fundraising events (organised by us)	19,294	-	19,294	26,750	6,880	11,034	6,248	14,090
Shipping refunds fr. other charities	-	-	-	120	970	-	-	-
Sale of cards & merchandise	1,035	-	1,035	1,159	611	895	87	157
Sale of ponchos & poncho fundraising	-	122	122	2,376	560	306	1,799	890
Gift Aid	5,246	-	5,246	5,721	7,989	253	2,134	-
Administration	10	-	10	30	5	5	3	-
Total Receipts	47,161	122	47,283	52,586	25,484	23,909	27,166	31,480
Payments								
Cost of fundraising & outreach events	1,387	-	1,387	819	108	1,167	895	25
Collecting & shipping material aid	158	-	158	4,598	3,533	-	-	-
Cost of cards & merchandise	413	-	413	480	593	1,438	131	71
Financial Aid Grants	36,396	1,321	37,716	24,767	3,326	18,909	12,132	22,692
Convoy costs	13,962	-	13,962	8,047	-	4,684	4,171	2,908
Production costs for ponchos/snoods	-	1,726	1,726	3,626	1,754	3,111	5,709	5,272
Administration	1,212	-	1,212	1,209	334	1,072	957	927
Total Payments	53,527	3,046	56,573	43,545	9,647	30,381	23,995	31,894
Net increase or decrease in funds			- 9,290	9,041	15,837	- 6,472	3,171	-415
Cash funds last year end			32,418	23,377	7,540	14,012	10,841	11,256
Cash funds this year end			23,128	32,418	23,377	7,540	14,012	10,841

The charity has no assets besides cash funds, and no liabilities.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group
registered charity number 1170180
Annual Report 20 October 2023



www.camcrag.org.uk



We arrange regular weekend volunteer convoys from Cambridge to France, helping local NGOs to help refugees.

We also fundraise and provide financial support to groups supporting refugees across Europe and beyond, while raising awareness of the crisis in the UK.

We have no employees, so all the money we raise goes towards providing aid to refugees or supporting our convoys.



Charity Name Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group	No (if any) 1170180
---	------------------------

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 7/1/2022	To	Period end date 6/30/2023
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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 £
A1 Receipts				
Donations (cash and bank transfer)	21,577	-	-	21,577
Fundraising events (organised by us)	19,294	-	-	19,294
Shipping refunds from other charities	-	-	-	-
Sale of cards & merchandise	1,034.90	-	-	1,035
Sale of ponchos/poncho fundraising	-	122	-	122
Gift Aid	5,246	-	-	5,246
Admin	10	-	-	10
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	47,161	122	-	47,283
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	47,161	122	-	47,283.47
A3 Payments				
Cost of events	1,387	-	-	1,387
Collection & shipping of material aid	158	-	-	158
Purchase of cards and merchandise for sale	413	-	-	413
Purchases of items for refugees	36,396	1,321	-	37,716
Convoy costs	13,962	-	-	13,962
Production cost for ponchos	-	1,726	-	1,726
Admin	1,212	-	-	1,212
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	53,527	3,046	-	56,573
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	53,527	3,046	-	56,573
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 6,366	- 2,924	-	- 9,290
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	32,347 #	71	-	32,418
Cash funds this year end	25,981	- 2,853	-	23,128

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	In Unity Trust current account	25,981	- 2,853
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	25,981	- 2,853
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

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

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

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

	Details	Fund to which	Amount due
B5 Liabilities			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

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

Signature

Print Name



ALMUDENA CANO

CC16a

Last year

to the nearest £

16,431
26,750
120
1,159
2,376
5,721
30
52,586

-
-

52,586

819
4,598
480
24,767
1,209
8,047
3,626
-
43,545

-
-

43,545

9,041
-
23,377
32,418

32,418

**Endowment funds
to nearest £**

-
-
-
-

OK

**Endowment funds
to nearest £**

-
-
-
-
-
-

**Current value
(optional)**

-
-
-
-
-

**Current value
(optional)**

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due

Date of approval

10/24/2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

On accounts for the year
ended

30/06/2023

Charity no
(if any)

1170180

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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 the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed: 

Date: 20/11/2023

Name: Charlotte Wilson

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACA, ICAEW Qualified

Address:

112, New Cheveley Road, Newmarket, Suffolk

CB8 8BY

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1170180

Accounts

CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP



Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

Annual Report 2021 - 2022

Published 19 October 2022

available online at camcrag.org.uk/docs/annualreport2022.pdf



CONTENTS

Introduction from the Chair of Trustees	3
Convoys	4
Donations	5
Poncho Project	5
Fundraising and Events	6
The Winter Fair and Sleepout	7
Communications and Outreach	8
Financial Aid	10
Financial Accounts	11

CamCrag Trustees (on 19 October 2022)

Marissa Green (Chair)

Catharine Walston

Almudena Cano

Elizabeth Stephan

Ian Tod

David Adamson

Terry Spencer

Ed Sexton

Tugba Basaran

Tony King

Karam Alkatlabe

Published 19 October 2022

Small Company Charity Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) (effective 01/01/2016) and in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

Registered Charity Number 1170180

c/o Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum

16-18 Arbury Court

Cambridge

CB4 2JQ



www.camcrag.org.uk

   [camb4calais](#)

We arrange regular weekend volunteer convoys from Cambridge to France, helping local NGOs to help refugees.

We also fundraise and provide financial support to groups supporting refugees across Europe and beyond, while raising awareness of the crisis in the UK.

We have no employees, so all the money we raise goes towards providing aid to refugees or supporting our convoys.

Donate now at www.justgiving.com/camcrag JustGiving™

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

We are delighted to be back running convoys, fundraising events, and new outreach initiatives now that pandemic restrictions have been relaxed. In 2021 and this year the situation for refugees in Europe has worsened, with anti-refugee rhetoric and policies from the UK Government and a new wave of refugees from Ukraine pushing Europe's compassion and coping ability to breaking point. CamCrag ran 8 weekend convoys to Calais over the 2021/22 year, giving people a chance to volunteer directly with NGOs working with refugees in the area.

Our community projects, such as our Ponchos Project, continue to run and we also initiated and held our first Outreach event, inviting members of other refugee organisations and charities to connect with us. We hope to make more connections going forward and encourage even more dialogue between groups with different expertise.

Whether it's campaigning against the Government's new harsher initiatives, providing funds for NGOs on the ground, or collecting donations for distribution to refugees, our work is now more vital than ever. Whilst we saw a receptive nationwide response to welcoming Ukrainian refugees, we need to continue to ensure all refugees receive the support they need.

The Trustee Board and Executive Committee have begun a process of assessing CamCrag's Values and Missions. Our activities around material donations and financial aid increased while convoys were not possible during lockdown: Now that we are running successful and regular convoys again we need to rebalance our priorities.

A future planning working group was set up to lead this initiative and more information will be shared with our donors, volunteers, and beneficiaries in due course. In the meantime, we are looking to grow our outreach initiative and continue to be successful in our fundraising, volunteering, and donations efforts.

I would like to thank everyone involved in and associated with CamCrag for their continuous dedication and hard-work fighting for the dignity, justice, and provision of basic needs for refugees. Keep in touch and get involved by signing up to our newsletter on our website and following us on social media. We have volunteering opportunities suitable for everyone!

Marissa Green

A WORD FROM OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

CamCrag has no paid employees, so none of the achievements detailed in this annual report would have been possible without our army of volunteers. They give up their weekends to go on convoys to Calais; they arrange and run our fundraising events; they collect, sort and pack donations of tents, sleeping bags and clothing; they sew ponchos for refugees; they salvage tents and sleeping bags after summer festivals; they bake cakes, hand out flyers, do all our admin, manage our communications and even do our accounts. We could not exist without them!

CamCrag now has over 200 registered volunteers, and we always welcome more help. We need people with ideas for fundraising events, people to make those events happen, people to come on our weekend convoys to Calais, people with experience of and contacts in the media, people who love spreadsheets and websites, people willing to turn their hands to anything and everything.

If you register your skills and interests on our volunteer database (link on the website), we'll contact you when we have a volunteering opportunity that we think you may like. Or you can email us directly at volunteer@camcrag.org.uk.



***Volunteers on our April 2022 convoy to Calais:
Register for the next one at camcrag.org.uk/convoys***

CONVOYS

2021 saw the welcome return of our regular weekend volunteer convoys to Calais, after the enforced break due to the pandemic the previous year. In the year to June 2022 we organised eight convoys, taking 113 volunteers to work with NGOs in Calais for two days – almost equivalent to one extra full time volunteer across the year. As one of our key objectives is to raise awareness of the refugee situation in Europe we were particularly pleased that for 39 volunteers it was their first CamCrag convoy.

They were not, however, without challenges. In October 2021 our volunteers helped wind down operations at the former base in Calais and assisted Collective Aid in moving back into l'Auberge des Migrants' warehouse, the site of many NGOs in Calais since 2015. Since then CamCrag has helped re-establish the warehouse's infrastructure, systems and processes.

On December's convoy our usual accommodation plans fell through and the team had to find a suitable alternative at the last minute. In addition the convoy team crossed the border shortly before new more restrictive measures were put in place on the channel crossing. Thankfully the convoy went ahead and all volunteers were able to help in the warehouse for Saturday and Sunday.

The March 2022 convoy coincided with the P&O scandal, resulting in much disruption and long delays: Some of our volunteers didn't arrive in Calais until 1am on the Friday night.

Whenever possible we take boxes and bags of sorted donations to Calais in our convoy vehicles. This year we have also delivered hundreds of ponchos from CamCrag's Poncho Project, as well as 22,000 tea bags bought by the charity.

Volunteers on our convoy usually work with either Refugee Community Kitchen or Collective Aid. Mary, Collective Aid's Warehouse Manager, is clear about the value our convoys bring:

"The presence of CamCrag gives validation, through your constant support, to our efforts in the field. I personally came to know and appreciate so many brilliant individuals during these intense long weekends together, and it is always comforting to know that the situation in Calais is something that people deeply care about."

After each convoy we invite volunteers to send us any reflections on their experience. These give great insight into the work and social aspects of the convoy. We publish some of these accounts on the news and convoys pages of the website, and in the e-newsletter.

We used to hold post convoy reflective meetings, but these have not been well attended since the pandemic so we are currently rethinking how to best provide post-convoy support. All our volunteers are encouraged to contact us with any concerns or queries after each convoy by emailing convoys@camcrag.org.uk

The amazing convoy team consists of Maggie and Sara, supported by Silvia (IT) and Maddy (accommodation booking). We would also like to thank Nina Brauner, Wendy Croft and Daniela Fernandez-Catherall, who helped run the post convoy reflective meetings.

Most of all we would like to thank all our convoy volunteers, and especially our drivers, without whom the trips would not be possible.

**Want to spend a weekend helping refugees in Calais?
See camcrag.org.uk/convoys for details of the next convoy
and how to apply online.**

We look forward to seeing you across the Channel!



DONATIONS AND PONCHO PROJECT

During the pandemic we ran a hub system for donations, with volunteers around the region collecting aid in their houses and then bringing it to our Cambridge store for sorting. Over the past year we have been moving back to a system of targeted donation drop off days, as and when particular items are required by our partner NGOs.

In July 2021 we were still not able to run convoys and indoor group activities were discouraged, but we were able to hold an outdoor sorting party to process some of the donations received during the pandemic, resulting in two pallets' worth of banana boxes of clothes for Calais.

In August we were able to run a very successful salvage operation at the We Out Here festival: We had to briefly hire a shipping container to store all the sleeping bags and tents! Storage for donations is always limited so we were very grateful to be loaned a garage in Great Eversden for this purpose. If you have a garage, shed or lock up in the Cambridge area that can be accessed without persons on site, please do email donations@camcrag.org.uk

As convoys restarted in September the turnover of donations increased, and so too did the workload, as we formed a new partnership with Free Shop Lebanon to send them clothing unsuitable for Calais, particularly women and children's clothes. Over the Christmas period we transported 278 banana boxes of clothing to the Aid Hub in Coventry, from where they were shipped to Lebanon. We also made a donation to the Free Shop for them to buy stock locally.

In addition to aid transported in volunteer convoy vehicles, we also sent four pallets of donations to Calais via Distribute Aid. After the last Covid restrictions were lifted in the new year, we decided to return to the pre-pandemic system of accepting donations only on donation days.

We were pleased to receive a large donation of clothing after the Cambridge Half Marathon in March, and ran our first revitalised donation drop day in May at St Andrew's Church in Girton, to whom we are very grateful. We would also like to thank those who gave up their front rooms, garages and sheds to collect donations during the pandemic, and to those who spent hours in the shed sorting them into boxes.



Please note that we are not currently taking donations at the Daily Bread Coop. Find out more about donating goods and money at camcrag.org.uk/donating

THE PONCHO PROJECT

Last year our team of 20 volunteers made 800 ponchos for refugees stranded in Calais. The ponchos were delivered to the Calais warehouse by volunteers on our convoys.

Cutting blankets took place at communal day events at Jesus Lane Friends Meeting House, and volunteers sewed at home. This system has continued to work well since the pandemic.

COVID affected the project, both in terms of deliveries to Calais and the availability of blankets to purchase, as supply chain issues meant our usual grey IKEA blankets were in very short supply.

We have made ponchos from blue and black blankets, with the latter proving popular with refugees, but neither's fabric is as warm and robust as the grey blankets.



Over the year around two thirds of the Poncho Project's funds came from our own fundraising activities and sales of ponchos and craft items made from blanket offcuts. The remaining costs came from CamCrag's main funds.

Find out more about the poncho project at camcrag.org.uk/ponchos

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

With the end of Covid lockdown restrictions, our fundraising team were able to get active again and have done an amazing job over the past year, raising a record amount for the charity.

Our biggest event was the fourth annual winter fair and sleepout in early February. This raised an incredible £17,000 for CamCrag, and £4,600 for our partner charity Cambridge Street Aid. Thank you to the many people who made the day and night possible, and to our sponsored sleepers.

Back in October and December 2021, we held stalls at Mill Road Saturdays, which generated interest in our work and raised nearly £600. In December we organised a Ceilidh for Calais at St Giles Church, featuring brilliant band The Jumping Beans, which raised over £500, as well as giving everyone an opportunity to dance and have fun together as part of the CamCrag community.

On the following day we concluded a very successful online Auction of Promises, in which over 40 promises raised nearly £3,000.

In June we were delighted to be back at Strawberry Fair, a great chance to engage with the Cambridge community, and it also brought in over £300 in donations. Later in June we held our first ever Arts Fair at the Alison Richard Building, at which over 100 artists donated work for sale. Former Arts Minister Lord Chris Smith opened the event, and visitors were treated to stalls selling cakes, drinks and vintage clothes. In total we raised almost £4,000.

We would like to thank all the people who helped in many different ways with these events. We also receive donations from wonderful people who organise their own fundraisers: This year we would especially like to thank Gareth Heaney for £600 from his October half-marathon, Ank Rigelsford and Margaret Comer for £400 from two birthdays, and Searle Street Cake Club for £500 from sales.

If you have a fundraising idea, we would love to hear from you: Email fundraising@camcrag.org.uk

Clockwise from top: stall at Mill Road Saturday; vintage clothes sale at Strawberry Fair; refreshments at the Summer Arts Fair; the Winter Fair before the Sleepout



THE WINTER FAIR AND SLEEPOUT

The fourth CamCRAg winter fair and sleepout on 5 and 6 February was an amazing success, raising record totals for the charity and our partner Cambridge Street Aid. Over £3,500 came from sales and donations at the fair, surpassing previous years' totals, and over £18,000 was donated by supporters of the sponsored sleepout.

The fair began at 1pm with a jazz band in the church grounds, thankfully with mild weather, which also encouraged a constant stream of visitors to the fair throughout the afternoon. Along with information about the charity and our partner organisations student society Solidaritee and homeless support group Cambridge Street Aid, visitors were greeted with stalls selling soup, cake and tea, art, vintage clothes, books, and bags and crafts made by refugees in Greece.

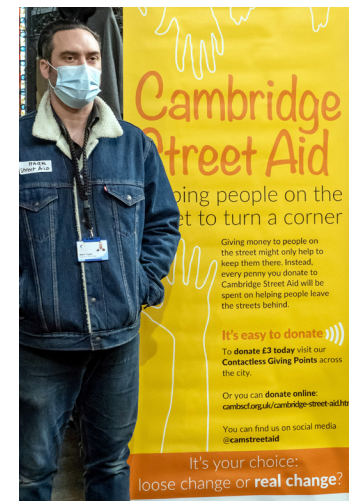
At about 3pm visitors were treated to a performance from the choir, before the raffle prizes were drawn and the fair closed at 5pm.

Later in the evening Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner joined the sponsored sleepers for their group meal, before the sleepers settled down to a fairly noisy Saturday night in the front grounds of St Giles'. Thankfully the weather was mild, if windy, and both sleepers and tents survived unscathed to enjoy a 6am breakfast in the church before heading home.

We would like to extend a massive thank you to Liz, to the sleepout team for organising the fair and for running such a safe and successful event, to the many hundreds of members of the public who came to the fair and supported the event, but most of all to the sleepers and their sponsors for their amazing fundraising efforts. Special thanks are also due to St Giles church, for allowing us to hold the event once again.

In early March, a cheque for £4,600 was presented by CamCRAg Chair Catharine Walston and Trustee Liz Stephan to Cambridge Street Aid representative Sarah Steggle, in the company of Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner, Councillor Jenni Gawthrop Wood and Elaine Brown, who raised the most funds in sponsorship as one of the sleepers.

Could you spend a night outside in winter to raise funds for refugees and the homeless? Plans are already underway for our next Winter Fair and Sleepout in February 2023 - more details will be published on the website later this autumn.



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Our campaigning focus over the past year was on opposing the Nationality and Borders Bill, now sadly Act, which threatens the dismantling of our asylum system. Aimed at stopping channel crossings, deterring and punishing anyone seeking asylum, and breaking up people smuggling gangs by targeting their victims, this Bill provoked outrage among refugee support groups, legal experts, church leaders and those working in the field of human rights and asylum.

We worked with national and local groups on actions to combat the Bill up to and after its first reading in the House of Commons in July 2021. Members of CamCrag attended the Together with Refugees Rally on Parliament Square in October, and we joined over 200 other organisations in signing a Joint Statement on Channel Crossings in November, in the wake of a mass drowning when the coast guard failed to assist thirty people in the water for two hours.

CamCrag Executive Committee Chair, Catharine, spoke at a rally against the Bill outside Cambridge Guildhall in March 2022, ahead of its reading in the House of Lords. Despite being sent back by the House of Lords, the Bill passed into law in April. CamCrag then signed a joint pledge to fight the new laws, developed by Asylum Matters and Refugee Action in partnership with a number of other organisations working on asylum and refugee issues, including: City of Sanctuary, Helen Bamber Foundation, Medical Justice, NACCOM, One Strong Voice, Rainbow Migration, Safe Passage, Student Action for Refugees, and Women for Refugee Women.

One of the worst products of the new legislation is the plan to send anyone who arrives by small boat, regardless of their reasons, to Rwanda. In June 2022 we joined the Rwanda protest on King's Parade in Cambridge as the first flight was due to leave. Fortunately, the flight, which initially included Syrians and Afghans, was stopped after a last-minute legal challenge and the scheme has been paused pending a judicial review.

Since last year's takeover by the Taliban, the number of Afghans attempting to cross the Channel has grown. The shocking scenes at Kabul airport last August led to a surge in interest in volunteering to help Afghan evacuees. One of our trustees took part in a public meeting in September 2021 aimed at explaining what the different refugee support groups in Cambridge do, and how people could help.

We have actively worked to foster cooperation between refugee support groups based in our area and organised a major networking event in April, hosted by Julian Huppert, Director of the Intellectual Forum at Jesus College and a former Cambridge MP. Thirty groups attended to talk about their work and get to know each other.

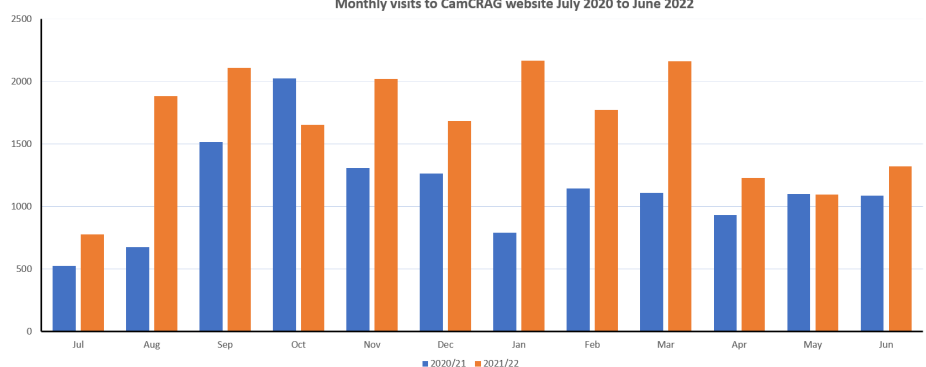
We were also delighted to be able to hold a stall at Strawberry Fair again in June for the first time in three years. Like Mill Road Winter Saturdays, this offered a great opportunity to talk to people about what we do.

Our newsletter continues to be emailed to over 600 subscribers each month, a number that has remained more or less constant over the past two years.

Our social media presence has remained strong. The Facebook page – the official page for charity



Monthly visits to CamCrag website July 2020 to June 2022



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

announcements and news – has gained about 200 followers over the year and now has 1,750 followers. Engagement and activity on the Facebook group, a forum for a wider discussion of refugee news and events, has also been good, and the group currently has about 2,750 members. Our Instagram and Twitter accounts have 1,100 and 1,400 followers respectively, the latter an increase of over 100 from last year. Traffic to the website picked up after the pandemic, and is now back to between 1,000 and 2,000 visits per month.

The communications team have also helped advertise and produce printed material for CamCrag's fundraising events, and we would like to especially thank Lucy for designing our posters and flyers.

We are always looking for people to join our comms team and help with the website, social media, coordinating campaigns with other organisations, press relations, designing flyers and posters, and publicising our events: Email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk

See links to press coverage at camcrag.org.uk/mediacoverage

For press enquiries please email publicity@camcrag.org.uk

Subscribe to our e-newsletter at camcrag.org.uk/newsletter



www.camcrag.org.uk

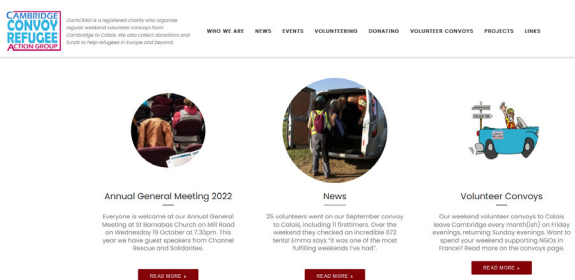


Please note that we are not currently taking donations at the Daily Bread Co-operative. Find out more about donating goods and money at camcrag.org.uk/donating

We would like to thank all of our volunteers and supporters. In particular we extend A special thank you to the following individuals and organisations who have helped us this year or with whom we have collaborated:

- Nina Brauner, Wendy Croft and Daniela Fernandez-Catherall
- Livia Bennett
- Amber Bauer from forRefugees
- Judith Weik
- Distribute Aid
- Collective Aid
- Refugee Community Kitchen
- The Calais Food Collective
- The Daily Bread Co-Operative
- Charitable Roots
- SolidariTEE
- 500 reasons
- Herts for Refugees
- Diana Kazemi
- Resound Choir
- Revd Ank Rigelsford, Sheila and all at St Giles' Church
- The Jumping Beans
- Elliot Harris and everyone at The Aid Hub UK

Do you visit the CamCrag website?
Have you ideas for how we can make it better?



Over the autumn of 2022 we are conducting an online survey to find out how our supporters use the website, and what we can do to increase its content and use.

See camcrag.org.uk/websitesurvey

FINANCIAL AID

When the UK's exit from the EU stopped us sending clothes to Greece or taking food to Calais, we realised we could still help by giving grants to specific projects, particularly as our fundraising team have been so successful. We therefore set up a financial aid working group in July 2021 to research projects to support.

Our first grant was to Calais Food Collective for £3,000 to buy food locally. In October 2021 we supported LE Solidarity in Leicester in a bulk purchase of tents for Calais, which was sent with Distribute Aid. In December, we gave Collective Aid £2,000 to help with their running costs.

In January 2022 we sent £1,100 to Free Shop Lebanon to buy second-hand winter clothes for refugees in the Bekaa valley. We also sent £2,500 to support the reopening and equipping of a dignity centre in Ioannina, Greece, by Refugee Support Europe.

All the NGOs in Calais previously supported by Choose Love had their funding removed over the summer of 2021, and this was extended to many small projects in Greece at the end of the year. One such was CheerING's football health project for Afghan girls in Malakasa camp. We were happy to support this project, which uses engagement in football as a starting point for general health education, encompassing menstrual health, sex education and learning the English words for fruit and vegetables.

In February we donated funds to Collective Aid to buy underwear for three months of distributions, and also donated more generally to the Calais Appeal, with funds being divided between the groups operating out of L'Auberge des Migrants.

Calais Food Collective launched their annual Ramadan appeal in March to buy culturally appropriate foods, to which we contributed £1,000. We were particularly interested in supporting legal aid for those trapped in Greece by the EU-Turkey agreement, and donated €3,000 to Fenix Legal Aid on Lesbos.

In May, we made our largest single donation of £3,300 to Chamomile Housing in Athens, which offers accommodation to vulnerable male asylum-seekers. This was to pay for food vouchers and phone credit. We were able to send money for two new wheelbarrows for Calais Food Collective in June, and our final donation of the financial year was to Charitable Roots in Dunkirk to help them with their warehouse costs.

Our response to the Ukraine crisis was to run an online fundraiser to send cooking oil and sugar to Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, a poor country hosting the largest per capita Ukrainian refugee population. We were able to send £1,300 to the Refugee Support Europe Dignity Centre in Chisinau, the Moldovan capital, after food shortages made it impossible to source cooking oil in the UK. We then sent a matching amount to Calais Food Collective for food items in Calais.

Summary of grants made in the financial year 2021/22

July 2021	L'Auberge des Migrants	£3,000	Food (locally purchased)
October 2021	LE Solidarity	£300	Bulk tent purchase
December 2021	Collective Aid (via forRefugees)	£2,000	Running costs
December 2021	forRefugees	£1,000	The Big Give matchfunding
January 2022	The Free Shop Lebanon	£1,100	Winter clothing
January 2022	Ioannina Dignity Centre (Greece)	£2,500	Office and kitchen equipment
January 2022	Malakasa CHEERING Girls (Greece)	£1,000	Running costs
February 2022	Collective Aid	£1,150	New underwear
February 2022	Calais Appeal	£1,000	General donation
March 2022	Calais Food Collective	£1,000	Ramadan foods
March 2022	Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid (Lesvos)	€3,000	Running costs
May 2022	Calais Food Collective	€150	New wheelbarrows
May 2022	Chamomile Housing (Athens)	£3,300	Food vouchers
June 2022	Charitable Roots (Dunkirk)	£3,000	Running costs

FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Donations fell during the pandemic years of 2019/20 and 2020/21, but we were pleased that in the year to the end of June 2022 donations returned to 2018/19 levels, at £16,431. Approximately half of this amount came through our JustGiving page and other online platforms such as Facebook, Amazon and Donr. The remainder consisted of direct donations from generous individuals and organisations.

We also raised £1,300 through our fifty/fifty campaign to provide food for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova and those in Calais, and almost £2,400 in direct funding for the Poncho Project. This year we were able to claim back £5,721 in Gift Aid.

Thanks to this and the amazing work of the fundraising and events team we had a record income of £52,586, which allowed us to not only finance our convoys but also spend over £23,000 on direct aid for refugees, also a new record (see page 10 for more details on how this was spent). We also spent over £4,500 on shipping donations to France and Lebanon, and we are looking at ways to continue financing this operation.

While convoy costs for the year were relatively low (just over £8,000 for 8 convoys), it should be noted that they are now considerably more expensive than before the pandemic, a trend which is likely to continue given current economic conditions.

For this reason the Trustees set aside £5,000 at all times, to finance at least two future convoys already advertised and planned, as well as any administration costs, should for some reason donations cease.

As CamCrag volunteers spent a total of over 1,000 hours working in Calais during the year, convoys remain not only vital for engaging people in the refugee crisis, but also a cost effective source of labour for the NGOs operating there.

For the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. All figures to the nearest £

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Receipts								
Donations (cash and bank transfers)	16,431	-	16,431	8,474	11,416	16,895	16,303	23,435
Fundraising events (organised by us)	24,130	2,621	26,750	6,880	11,034	6,248	14,090	11,754
Shipping refunds fr. other charities	120	-	120	970	-	-	-	-
Sale of cards & merchandise	1,159	-	1,159	611	895	87	157	307
Sale of ponchos & poncho fundraising	-	2,376	2,376	560	306	1,799	890	-
Gift Aid	5,721	-	5,721	7,989	253	2,134	-	-
Administration	30	-	30	5	5	3	-	-
Total Receipts	47,590	4,996	52,586	25,484	23,909	27,166	31,480	35,630
Payments								
Cost of fundraising & outreach events	819	-	819	108	1,167	895	25	627
Collecting & shipping material aid	4,598	-	4,598	3,533	-	-	-	-
Cost of cards & merchandise	480	-	480	593	1,438	131	71	101
Purchases of items for refugees	23,467	1,300	24,767	3,326	18,909	12,132	22,692	20,139
Convoy costs	8,047	-	8,047	-	4,684	4,171	2,908	5,043
Production costs for ponchos	-	3,626	3,626	1,754	3,111	5,709	5,272	-
Administration	1,209	-	1,209	334	1,072	957	927	168
Total Payments	38,620	4,926	43,545	9,647	30,381	23,995	31,894	26,078
Net of receipts / (payments)			9,041	15,837	- 6,472	3,171	-415	9,552
Cash funds last year end			23,377	7,540	14,012	10,841	11,256	1,704
Cash funds this year end			32,418	23,377	7,540	14,012	10,841	11,256

The charity has no assets besides cash funds, and no liabilities.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group
registered charity number 1170180
Annual Report 19 October 2022



www.camcrag.org.uk



We arrange regular weekend volunteer convoys from Cambridge to France, helping local NGOs to help refugees.

We also fundraise and provide financial support to groups supporting refugees across Europe and beyond, while raising awareness of the crisis in the UK.

We have no employees, so all the money we raise goes towards providing aid to refugees or supporting our convoys.



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/07/2021	To	Period end date 30/06/2022
---------------------	---------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

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					
Donations (cash and bank transfer)	16.431	-	-	16.431	8.474
Fundraising Events (organised by us)	24.130	2.621	-	26.750	6.880
Shipping refunds from other charities	120	-	-	120	970
Sale of external merchandise	1.159	-	-	1.159	611
Sale of ponchos	-	2.376	-	2.376	560
Gift Aid	5.721	-	-	5.721	7.989
Admin	30	-	-	30	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	47.590	4.996	-	52.586	25.484
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	47.590	4.996	-	52.586	25.484
A3 Payments					
Cost of events	819	-	-	819	108
Collection & shipping of material aid	4.598	-	-	4.598	3.533
Purchase of merchandise for sale	480	-	-	480	593
Purchases of items for refugees	23.467	1.300	-	24.767	3.326
Ponchos	-	3.626	-	3.626	1.754
Convoy Costs	8.047	-	-	8.047	-
Admin	1.209	-	-	1.209	334
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	38.620	4.926	-	43.545	9.647
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	38.620	4.926	-	43.545	9.647
Net of receipts/(payments)	8.971	71	-	9.041	15.837

A5 Transfers between funds
A6 Cash funds last year end

	-	-	-	-	-
	23.377	-	-	23.377	7.540
Cash funds this year end	32.347	71	-	32.418	23.377

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

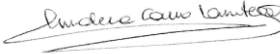
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	In Unity Trust current account	32.347	71	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	32.347	71	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

B5 Liabilities

		-	-
		-	-

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

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ALMUDENA CANO	19/10/2022



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

**On accounts for the year
ended**

30/06/2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1170180

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").


I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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 the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed: 

Date: 03/11/2022

Name: Charlotte Wilson

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACA, ICAEW Qualified

Address:

112, New Cheveley Road, Newmarket, Suffolk

CB8 8BY

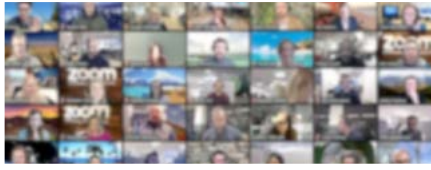
Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

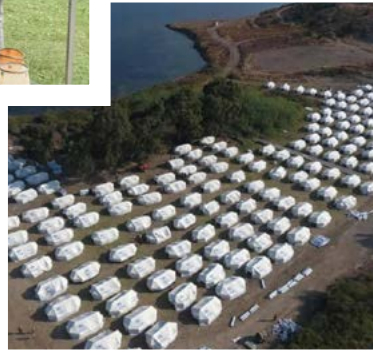
CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1170180

Accounts



CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP



Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Published 21 October 2021

available online at camcrag.org.uk/docs/annualreport2021.pdf

CONTENTS

Introduction from the Chair of Trustees	3
What is CamCrag?	4
Convoys	5
Volunteers	6
Fundraising and Events	7
Donations of Aid	9
Poncho Project	9
Communications	10
Financial Accounts	11

CamCrag Trustees (on 21 October 2021)

David Adamson

Terry Spencer

Elizabeth Stephan

Ian Tod

Karam Alkatlabe

Catharine Walston

Tony King

Marissa Green (Chair)

Ed Sexton

Published 21 October 2021

Small Company Charity Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) (effective 01/01/2016) and in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

Registered Charity Number 1170180

c/o Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum

16-18 Arbury Court

Cambridge

CB4 2JQ



JustGiving™

www.camcrag.org.uk

   camb4calais

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

I would like to begin by acknowledging the dedication, commitment, and energy of Elliot Harris who stepped down as Chair of Trustees and as a Trustee this year. Elliot's work with CamCrag has guided the charity over the past five years to the position it is in today. CamCrag work tirelessly to make a difference to the lives of refugees and Elliot was a huge driver in igniting and maintaining the passion we continue to nurture. Elliot stepped down so that he can focus on logistics through the Aid Hub and CamCrag wish him the absolute best of luck with all of his endeavours and look forward to moving forwards with him as an active and valued volunteer.

The unprecedented events of 2020-21 impacted all charitable organisations in ways we couldn't even imagine, and we had to adapt our way of supporting refugees with convoys becoming impossible. During the pandemic CamCrag formed a logistical network with other NGOs in the UK and overseas, which has enabled us to send donations in bulk to where they are needed (see the Donations section).

We intend to continue collecting and packing donations, and have funds allocated for shipment. Much of this aid will be sent to the eastern Mediterranean, where there are large numbers of refugees stuck in Greece, Lebanon and elsewhere. We also built up reserve funds during the pandemic due to decreased spending, and have formed a financial aid working group to investigate how to distribute these funds with the greatest impact. For example, we are planning on sending funds to legal aid charities in Greece.

As we recover from the pandemic, CamCrag is ready to face the challenges of the future, both the predictable and the unknown. We are resuming our convoys to Calais, giving people a direct way to help refugees on our doorstep and experience how volunteer NGOs operate. Coming on a convoy is the best way to directly understand the impacts of the refugee crisis and what lies at the heart of CamCrag. We will continue to ensure that convoys remain a priority over the next financial year.

Even with this encouraging update, it is vital that we remember the refugee crisis has not gone away. There are still refugees in Calais, Dunkirk and throughout Europe. Some are in camps, some sleep where they can but no matter where they are sleeping they are most likely traumatised, scared, and uncertain of their futures. No human deserves to live this way. Recent events in Afghanistan has once again brought the issue into media focus and has drawn attention to anti-refugee rhetoric in both the general public and governments in countries poised to accept even more displaced populations. This only highlights how vital the support of our volunteers and donors really is.

Next month CamCrag celebrates five years as a registered charity, and five years since the Calais Jungle was evicted. Since then a lot has happened, both in the world and at CamCrag. We have taken hundreds of volunteers to Calais on over 30 convoys, and they have worked for thousands of hours with the NGOs helping refugees on the ground. The wonderful people of Cambridge and beyond have donated over £150,000, the majority of which we have spent on direct aid for refugees. We have also had small policy successes. For example, last November Cambridge City Council agreed to resettle 200 more refugees in and around the city following an online petition.

Now it is time to look forward and, with your help, refocus our efforts on the lives of refugees who have risked so much to seek security, safety, and a life free from fear and terror.

Marissa Green

WHAT IS CAMCRAG?

We organise volunteers who live in and around Cambridge to help refugees in Northern France and elsewhere.

We send regular convoys of volunteers to Europe, and we carry out activities in the UK to raise awareness.

We raise funds and organise donations of clothing and other items.

All the money we raise goes towards providing aid to the refugees or supporting our convoys.

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group grew out of a FaceBook group set up in 2015 in response to the growing refugee crisis, and in particular the large number of migrants in Calais. Volunteers began to combine resources to organise trips to Calais to deliver aid they collected in and around Cambridge, and spend a day or weekend helping the NGOs working in the area.

Originally called 'Cambridge Calais Refugee Action Group', we changed our name in 2016 as our focus widened to the refugee crisis throughout Europe. In November of that year we became a charity and have continued to follow our founding aim of helping people to help others. We've run convoys, collected and sorted donations, and taken part in numerous fundraising and one-off projects, such as our sponsored sleepouts in Cambridge, or buying winter clothing and sleeping bags for Paris.

We fundraise not only to finance our convoys but also to provide direct funding to frontline organisations, such as Refugee Community Kitchen and WaterShed, particularly in response to crises when we can release funds faster than many organisations.

As a charity we are overseen by a board of trustees (see the inside front cover or the charity commission website for a list of our trustees). The trustees are responsible for the conduct and finances of the charity, and meet every three months. They oversee an executive committee, drawn from our volunteers, which runs the day to day operations of the charity, and usually meets monthly. Roles on the executive committee include the various coordinators of donations, fundraising, convoys and communications.

None of our trustees or volunteers are paid or receive benefits from the charity.

We are always interested in hearing from anyone who may want to become a trustee, or become involved in the administration of the charity in other ways: In the first instance please email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk

We would like to thank all of our supporters and supporters. In particular we extend a special thank you to the following who have helped us this year...

Revd Ank Rigelsford, Sheila & all at St Giles' Church

Beth from Safe Passage

Avalon from Distribute Aid

Craig from Refugees4Refugees

Adrian Matthews and Alexa Netty

The Shak Shack

Care4Humanity

People in Motion

Our World Collective

The Jumping Beans

...and thank you to these organisations for their continued collaboration, we look forward to working with you in the year ahead!

Distribute Aid

Collective Aid

Refugee Community Kitchen

The Aid Hub

The Calais Food Collective

The Daily Bread Co-Operative

The Daily Bread Co-Operative are once again able to receive small quantities of donations - find out more about donating goods and money at camcrag.org.uk/donating

CONVOYS

As we write this we are three days away from our first volunteer convoy to Calais since March 2020 when Covid brought an abrupt change to, well, most things. We hope this marks the start of us returning to our regular schedule of organising weekend trips every six weeks or so.

Our convoys leave Cambridge on Friday evenings and return Sunday evenings, usually made up of two dozen volunteers between a few cars. CamCrag arranges the car share and the youth hostel in Calais, and we pay for the ferry or train crossing, leaving volunteers to just pay for accommodation, a contribution to petrol, and food - though we often get an excellent lunch from Refugee Community Kitchen (RCK).

We usually work with either RCK or Collective Aid in Calais, and volunteers could be asked to do anything from chopping onions to fixing tents or sorting donations. Aid charities in Calais and Dunkirk continue to support about refugees and migrants and have been doing so in very challenging and restrictive conditions: So we are very pleased to be starting up convoys again to offer our much needed help.

Coming on a convoy is an excellent way of providing direct support to refugees, as well as understanding more about the crisis and how volunteer NGOs are responding to it. Charlie has been to Calais over three times and intends to keep going when he can:

"I know how rewarding on a personal level the experience is. My most personal reflection would be how difficult it must be for the thousands who risk everything to flee from situations we cannot comprehend, suffer deprivation and despair continually on their journey only to be met and treated with next to no compassion when they arrive. Anything that organisations such as CamCrag do to help alleviate these difficulties is incredibly important. Being able to offer assistance to the long term volunteers who selflessly give up everything to spend months helping others feels very rewarding."

"We were really impressed by the scale of what's being achieved by a small number of people and limited resources."



Volunteers on our March 2020 convoy, the last one we were able to hold until September of this year

It can be daunting if you are considering coming for the first time, but Maggie and Sara, our Convoy Coordinators, will answer any questions you may have and guide you through the application process.

Adrian and Claire reflected on their first convoy:

"We were both really impressed by the scale of what's being achieved by a small number of people and limited resources. Even though we were first timers we were kept busy and felt as though we were contributing for the short time we were there."

Maddy also thinks it is a valuable experience for learning more about the crisis:

"Being in Calais makes you realise what an amazing difference people working together can make, providing hot meals and clothing to people in need. I loved being a part of it and everyone should go so they can understand what is behind the news."

You can find out more information, including the dates of future convoys, on our website at camcrag.org.uk/convoys

If you have any questions please do email us on convoys@camcrag.org.uk

STOP PRESS! Registration for our next convoy on 12 to 14 November is now open via the website. We have one more provisional convoy weekend planned for 2021 on 17 to 19 December.

VOLUNTEERS

All our volunteer activities during the year July 2020 to June 2021 were severely limited by COVID restrictions. We were prevented from sending any convoys to Calais and we managed only two face-to-face fundraising events. However, it takes more than a pandemic to stop our wonderful volunteers and, be it online or in the virtual world, they have continued to support us throughout.

The one consistent activity throughout the year has been the collection, sorting, washing, mending and parcelling up of donations, ready for transport to Calais, Greece and Lebanon. During the summer and autumn of 2020 our supporters held fortnightly collection days in various churches in Cambridge. The November lockdown prevented us from working together indoors and ended collection days: So, early in 2021, we set up the new local collection hub system.

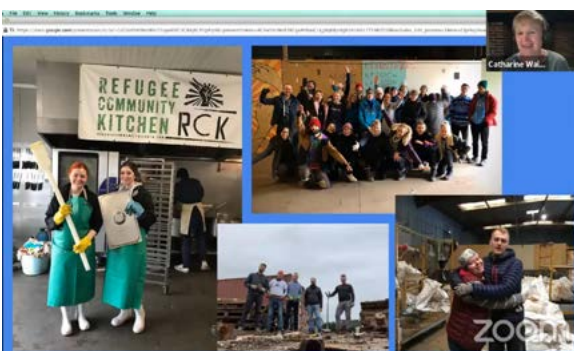
Throughout we were amazed how many were prepared to collect donations in their sheds and spare rooms, and how many of our volunteers came to help transport, sort and pack them. A very special thank you is due to the small but determined group of volunteers who, right through the worst of the winter lockdown, spent hours in a cold shed either alone or with someone from their household bubble packing donations.

Now that COVID restrictions have relaxed, we are planning more varied fundraising activities and are resuming our convoys to Calais. Refugees in Europe have had a particularly tough time during the past year, and they need our help, and so CamCrag needs your help. We need people with ideas for fundraising events, and people to help them come to life. We need people to come on our weekend convoys to Calais, particularly if you have a car. People with experience of and contacts in the media, activists, IT fans who love spreadsheets and websites. People with sheds.

You can register your skills and interests on our volunteer database, so we can contact you when we have an opportunity that we think you may be interested in: The link is on the front page of our website, or email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk.

You will be joining over 160 other volunteers who give their time to help refugees through CamCrag.

You can also contact the various coordinators (convoys, fundraising, donations etc) to find out more about what is involved, their email addresses are throughout this report and on the website.



Without volunteers, none of what we achieve is possible. They collect, sort and pack pallets of banana boxes full of donations, arrange and run our fundraisers, do our admin, manage our website and other communications.. We always welcome more help: Every hour you can give helps us to help more refugees!

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

INTRODUCTION FROM OUR GIVING COORDINATOR

Throughout 2020, Covid-19 has made already unbearable conditions worse for refugees. With the inability to run convoys, CamCrag volunteers and supporters have pulled together to support refugees from their home towns. This has included individual donations, especially on Facebook and online through our website. We also raised a substantial amount through our 'Pallet of Fish' fundraiser, providing refugees with vital immune boosting food.

Thank you to all our fantastic donors, and, of course, to those who have been supporting us continuously through either regular or single donations.

We have now moved from using KindLink to JustGiving: You can donate online at www.justgiving.com/camcrag. If you had a repeat donation to us through KindLink, please cancel it and set one up on JustGiving.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

The last year has obviously been very quiet, due to restrictions and lockdowns during the coronavirus pandemic. Despite this, we managed to organise fundraising events, both online and offline, which raised over £8,300 (excluding gift aid).

We are extremely grateful to everyone who supported these events, and especially to the large number of volunteers who helped with the organisation. The fundraising team is always looking for new ideas, and for new people to get involved: Email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk to get in touch.

Thank you also to all those who organise their own events or sponsorship and give the proceeds to us, in particular we would like to thank Ank Rigelsford and all at St Giles' Church for donating the proceeds of a collection after their Thanksgiving Concert last year.

Auction of Promises, November & December 2020

As the country (and most of our operations) were locked down, we held an online auction of gifts and promises. Thank you to the two dozen people who offered their items and time, everything from artwork, pottery and cakes to language lessons and dog-walking time. In total we raised £2,008.

Winter Fair, December 2020

By December we could meet again and, despite covid restrictions and a rainy start to the morning, we saw a good turnout for our winter fair at St Giles Church. The sun did eventually break through, and visitors enjoyed stalls selling hot drinks, homemade cakes, crafts made by refugees in Greece, Christmas cards and CamCrag ponchos. We also held a raffle for a magnificent hamper, and in total raised £1,256. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talents, crafts and cakes.



The Winter Fair was our first time real world event since the pandemic began

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

Pallet of fish fundraiser, Winter 2020/21

In December, Calais Food Collective (CFC) reached out to CamCrag to fund the purchase of sardines, as they were concerned about the standard of nutrition among the refugees they support in northern France. Our online appeal raised £1,500 to buy a pallet of 4,000 tins of sardines. We went on to fund the purchase of a similar amount of sardines for CFC later in the winter. A big thank you to Deb and everyone at Care4Humanity who arranged the purchases and helped with the logistics.



Scavenger hunt, April 2021

With people beginning to go outside once again, we arranged a scavenger hunt around Cambridge, taking in sites that highlight facts about the history of Cambridge and refugees in the UK. Contributions from participants came to £120.

Summer party, Ceilidh and camp out, June 2021

June wasn't the weather we wanted for our first gathering in several months, but around two dozen people aged four to 70 came to our ceilidh and camp out held as part of Refugee Week. Attendees were treated to some excellent music from The Jumping Beans and an outdoor meal cooked on site (with food based on Refugee Community Kitchen's delicious recipes). Half the attendees camped out for the night, and we managed to check several tents bound for refugees sleeping rough in France as well as raising £200 for the charity.



Details of future events and fundraising drives are published on the [news](#) and [events](#) pages of our website.

Music, food, fun... and some unpleasant camping conditions at our summer party and ceilidh

*We have
switched
from using
kindlink to*

JustGiving™

www.justgiving.com/camcrag

to ebay or not to ebay...

We get some brilliant donations – but some are a bit strange, and some are definitely more valuable as re-sale items than they would be in camps.

Donations have included wedding dresses, designer handbags, glamorous high-heeled shoes, impractical leather jackets and cool street wear with inappropriate slogans.

So donations co-ordinator Izzie put the best items up for sale on ebay in March, raising some cash for the charity.

Much as we will happily sell similar items in the future, we would prefer if people only donated what is on our needs list on the website. If you have questions, email donations@camcrag.org.uk

DONATIONS OF AID / PONCHO PROJECT

DONATIONS OF AID

Despite the logistical difficulties of the past year, CamCrag sent over 700 boxes of aid to Europe and beyond, and we will be sending more in the months ahead.

At first the pandemic made it almost impossible to collect donations (from our drop off locations or donation drop off days), or get them to refugees, as there were no convoys to Calais. Over the year we have adapted our operations and, thanks to numerous individuals and several aid organisations, we are now part of a logistical web extending from the UK across the continent.

Throughout last autumn and winter our brilliant volunteers sorted and boxed donations before putting them onto pallets and lorries. Working with Distribute Aid we sent aid to Greece in October 2020, and in December contributed donations to a truck heading from Scotland to Calais. More aid was sent to Calais in the spring of 2021, and to Lebanon in the summer. We intend to continue sending aid this way to wherever it is needed, working with partners such as Distribute Aid and the Aid Hub.

In January 2021, with no immediate possibility of holding donation drop off days, our volunteers once again stepped up and agreed to act as local collection points. Working with Our World Collective we now have a network of collection points that covers not only the city but most of South Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. The donations are then transferred to our storage shed for sorting and boxing, before being loaded onto trucks as and when our partner organisations can provide them.

Recently we have teamed up with the Lebanon Free Shop and Feed the Hungry Coventry to transport aid to Lebanon. The Free Shop currently has around 2800 beneficiaries per month and are looking to double that so there is plenty of need for our donations. By the end of October we hope to have as many as 9 pallets of clothes, shoes and hygiene items on their way to Lebanon.

Although we sadly cannot currently collect donations at the Argyle Street Housing Co-op, the Daily Bread Co-Operative is once again collecting both physical donations and loose change, for which we are very grateful. Or you can take your donations to your local collection point: Email donations@camcrag.org.uk to find out where it is. Rest assured, you should not have to travel far, even around the villages, to donate any tents, sleeping bags, toiletries or warm clothes.

Before you bring your items please check camcrag.org.uk/donating to see what we are (and are not) accepting.

THE PONCHO PROJECT

By November 2020 we had adapted the Poncho Project to make the production line covid safe, with people working on different stages of the process in their own homes or small bubbles.

We had a great team, with people taking on all sorts of different jobs, including cutting out, pinning, sewing, delivering and collecting blankets, and there was a lovely community feel on our chat group with people sharing photos and encouraging each other. Our new ponchos for refugees are a lovely deep blue colour and very soft and warm!

Huge thanks to Kirsten who hosted a pick-up and drop-off point, and to all the volunteers who took on a role: We managed to make 400 ponchos which have since been distributed to the refugees living in and around Calais.

We have a very limited supply remaining of our ponchos for sale through our Ponchos4All project: See camcrag.org.uk/ponchos for all the details.



Our wonderful new blue ponchos! If you want to get involved with the Poncho Project email

ponchos@camcrag.org.uk

COMMUNICATIONS

One silver lining of the pandemic has been a huge increase in interest in volunteering, which has been reflected in social media traffic to our accounts and subscribers to our newsletter.

The Facebook group now has 2,700 members, mostly from Cambridge, but many from all over the world. Significant numbers come from the USA, France, Germany, Italy and Spain and even a few from Australia! The number of followers of the official CamCrag Facebook page continues to increase by about 200 each year, and is now over 1,500.

Our monthly newsletter goes out to over 700 subscribers, which is particularly encouraging as most of our new sign-ups happen at the University's Freshers Fair when we usually recruit some eager first-year students, something we were not able to do in 2020. Our Instagram and Twitter feeds have continued to be updated regularly. Traffic to our website remained reasonably constant through the pandemic at about 1,000 visitors each month.

When we didn't have events to publicise, we advertised online fundraisers, reported on developments in Calais and Greece, and encouraged everyone to volunteer with RCK, Collective Aid and Calais Food Collective, who really struggled to keep going over lockdown as the local authorities in Calais took the opportunity offered by the pandemic to impose new restrictions on distributions and even access to water and sanitation.

CamCrag members were involved in the Cambridge Must Act campaign in August and September of last year. This was part of a broader Europe Must Act movement to focus the attention of politicians on the conditions in the Greek camps, a disgraceful situation highlighted by the fire in Moria camp in September 2020.

The local campaign and online petition of over 500 signatures resulted in a pledge by Cambridge City Council to resettle more refugees in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, and an expression of support for the relocation of refugees from the Aegean islands if a legal mechanism ever makes this feasible.

The public consultation on Priti Patel's New Plan for Immigration was launched in March 2021 with a very brief 6 week period for groups and individuals to respond. We organised a webinar with Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign and Solidaritee, the Cambridge-based student-run group which specialises in funding legal aid for refugees, on how to answer the complicated and misleading questions in the consultation questionnaire.

There have been strong objections from a wide range of expert groups, including UNHCR, legal firms, service providers and volunteer charities, to these discriminatory proposals. The results of the public consultation were only published after the unaltered proposals had become the Nationality and Borders Bill and had reached the second reading stage in Parliament. In June 2021, CamCrag joined the coalition campaign, Together with Refugees, to fight the Bill.

We are always looking for people to join our comms team and help with the website, social media, coordinating campaigns with other organisations, press relations, designing flyers and posters, and publicising our events: Email volunteer@camcrag.org.uk

See links to press coverage at [camcrag.org.uk/mediacoverage](https://www.camcrag.org.uk/mediacoverage)

For press enquiries please email publicity@camcrag.org.uk

Subscribe to our e-newsletter at [camcrag.org.uk/newsletter](https://www.camcrag.org.uk/newsletter)

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

Although the amount of money donated to refugee charities has fallen since the refugee crisis was at its height in Europe (and the media) in 2015 and 2016, and despite the pandemic, we received over £8,000 in donations last year. We also raised almost £7,000 from online and 'real world' events which, given restrictions over the last 18 months, represents a fantastic effort from the fundraising and events team. After much work we also finally tracked down, processed and reclaimed almost £8,000 in gift aid from HMRC, meaning in total we received just over £25,000 for the financial year 2020/21, comparable to previous years.

The lack of convoys and reduced poncho project activity reduced our outgoings. It was also very difficult during the pandemic to make effective well audited purchases for refugees, and indeed to get them delivered. We have, however, spent over £3,500 on the logistics of moving material donations and aid, and we expect to continue spending similar amounts of money on this over the year ahead. We are actively looking for NGOs that could make best use of our funds over the next year and this, along with the resumption of convoys and other activities, means we expect to reduce our surplus cash funds over the year ahead.

We do, however, always keep a £4,000* contingency so we can respond to emergency situations quickly, such as the fire at Moria in September 2020, and to ensure costs for already planned convoys are covered.

ACCOUNTS

For the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. All figures to the nearest £

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Receipts							
Donations (cash and bank transfers)	8,474	-	8,474	11,416	16,895	16,303	23,435
Fundraising events (organised by us)	1,805	5,075	6,880	11,034	6,248	14,090	11,754
Sale of cards & external merchandise	611	-	611	895	87	157	307
Sale of ponchos	560	-	560	306	1,799	890	-
Gift Aid	7,989	-	7,989	253	2,134	-	-
Shipping refunds fr. other charities	970	-	970	-	-	-	-
Administration	-	-	5	5	3	-	-
Total Receipts			25,484	23,909	27,166	31,480	35,630
Payments							
Cost of events	108	-	108	1,167	895	25	627
Cost of cards & external merchandise	593	-	593	1,438	131	71	101
Purchases of items for refugees	1,348	1,978	3,326	18,909	12,132	22,692	20,139
Convoy costs	-	-	-	4,684	4,171	2,908	5,043
Collecting & shipping material aid	537	2,996	3,533	-	-	-	-
Production costs for ponchos	1,754	-	1,754	3,111	5,709	5,272	-
Administration	334	-	334	1,072	957	927	168
Total Payments			9,647	30,381	23,995	31,894	26,078
Net of receipts / (payments)			15,837	- 6,472	3,171	-415	9,552
Cash funds last year end			7,540	14,012	10,841	11,256	1,704
Cash funds this year end			23,377	7,540	14,012	10,841	11,256

*The charity has no assets besides cash funds, and no liabilities. * in some printed copies this figure is incorrectly given as £5,000*



Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group
registered charity number 1170180
Annual Report 21 October 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group

No (if any)
1170180

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/07/20	To	Period end date 30/06/21
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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					
Donations (cash and bank transfer)	8,474	-	-	8,474	11,416
Fundraising Events (organised by us)	1,805	5,075	-	6,880	11,034
Shipping refunds from other charities	970	-	-	970	
Sale of cards		-	-	-	
Sale of external merchandise	611	-	-	611	895
Sale of ponchos	560	-	-	560	306
Gift Aid	7,989	-	-	7,989	253
Admin	-	-	-	-	5
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	20,409	5,075	-	25,484	23,909
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	20,409	5,075	-	25,484	23,909
A3 Payments					
Outreach events	108	-	-	108	1,167
Collection & shipping of material aid	537	2,996	-	3,533	
Printing of cards			-	-	
Purchase of merchandise for sale	593	-	-	593	1,438
Purchases of items for refugees	1,348	1,978	-	3,326	18,909
Convoy Costs		-	-	-	4,684
Admin	334	-	-	334	1,072
Ponchos	1,754	-	-	1,754	3,111
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,674	4,973	-	9,647	30,381
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,674	4,973	-	9,647	30,381
Net of receipts/(payments)	15,734	102	-	15,837	- 6,472
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,540	-	-	7,540	14,012
Cash funds this year end	23,274	102	-	23,377	7,540

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	In Unity Trust current bank account	23,274	102	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	23,274	102	-
	(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
	Terry Spencer		



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
CAMBRIDGE CONVOY REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

**On accounts for the year
ended**

30 JUNE 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1170180

Set out on pages

1 AND 2 OF THE ATTACHED CC16a

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 /06 / 2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

26/10/2021

Name:

ALMUDENA CANO

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACCA – ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER 0698203

Address:

75 LONG ROAD

CAMBRIDGE

CB2 8HE

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.