

Midlands Migrant Support

England & Wales · Charity number 1174056

Details

Other names	MORTON HALL DETAINEE VISITORS GROUP, Morton Hall Visitors Group
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2017-08-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Midlands Migrant Support, c/o Transform Lincoln, Bridge Central, Portland Street, Lincoln
Phone	07758604293
Email	beth@mhdetentionvisitors.org
Website	https://midsmigrantsupport.org/

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS WHO ARE, OR WHO HAVE BEEN, DETAINED UNDER UK LAW AT THE MORTON HALL IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE, OR ELSEWHERE, WHO ARE SUFFERING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, DISTRESS OR ARE OTHERWISE IN NEED BY THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT, GOODS, ITEMS, ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY THROUGH, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE PROVISION OF A TRAINED VISITING NETWORK.

Activities: 1. Through a network of trained volunteers, we visit and support migrants in the Midlands who are in detention, whether they are detained under immigration powers or serving custodial sentences. 2. We advocate for the rights of migrants and detained people, while raising public awareness about their plight and the broader situation they face in the UK.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Lincolnshire
- Nottingham City
- Nottinghamshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£27,310	£14,169	-	-
2023-12-31	£15,569	£17,041	-	-
2022-12-31	£7,007	£8,213	-	-
2021-12-31	£21,052	£18,033	-	-
2020-12-31	£7,050	£18,545	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bethan Ellen Godley		2022-07-11
Cassandra Anne Taylor		2022-08-17
Dr Anas Hashim Yaghi		2024-07-08
Dr Maria Clara Pirani Della Croce		2022-08-18
Gemma Louise Goodwin		2025-02-01

Midlands Migrant Support

England & Wales - Charity number 1174056

Accounts



Midlands Migrant Support Annual Report 2024

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ending 31st December 2024**

Registered Charity no: 1174056

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1. A brief history of Midlands Migrant Support

Midlands Migrant Support (MMS) - formerly Morton Hall Visitor's Group - has provided crucial friendship and practical support to people in immigration detention across the East Midlands for the last thirteen years.

Being in immigration detention almost always has a detrimental impact on a person's mental health and wellbeing. But through our network of volunteer visitors, MMS aims to:

- ease the isolation and anxiety experienced by people in detention by providing emotional and practical support;
- signpost to services that offer specialist advice and guidance;
- act as unofficial human rights monitors by observing the conditions in immigration detention and highlighting these realities to the public.

At the same time, we advocate for the rights of detained people and raise public awareness about their plight, as well as the broader legal situation for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. By raising awareness of these issues, we aim to promote more tolerance and understanding in our local communities.

MMS was first formed in 2011 following the conversion of Morton Hall prison in Swinderby, Lincolnshire, to an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC). Our visits continued - supporting hundreds of people at a deeply distressing time in their lives - until Morton Hall closed its doors in August 2021.

Following Morton Hall's closure, its grounds were repurposed into the Swinderby residential short-term holding facility (RSTHF) and HMP Morton Hall, a prison exclusively for 'foreign nationals.'

Swinderby can hold up to 37 men at a time, for a maximum of seven days each. People are normally held in RSTHF facilities for two main reasons: for screening, or as a staging post before removal from the UK. Both of these situations can be extremely stressful for the detained person. The quick turnaround in the facility also marks a departure from the type of befriending services we provided at the IRC, where volunteers built relationships with their clients over a sustained period of time.

We first began offering drop-in sessions at the Swinderby RSTHF shortly after its October 2022 opening. Since then, we have supported over 300 clients as they navigate these challenging circumstances.

In 2024, we were thrilled to finally begin offering our befriending services at HMP Morton Hall. So far, we have supported four clients at the prison and have had one-to-one conversations with more than 15 men serving a sentence at the prison. We look forward to growing our presence at HMP Morton Hall - and providing crucial emotional and practical

support to our clients as they navigate challenging circumstances - in the months and years to come.

Although much has changed in recent years, our group's mission remains constant. MMS will keep doing everything we can to support migrants experiencing detention in the East Midlands, whatever form that might take.



2. Chair's Report

2024 has been another year of progress and perseverance for Midlands Migrant Support.

Our focus remained on continuing to build our visiting presence at Swinderby Short-Term Holding Facility and HMP Morton Hall. Fortunately, our determination at HMP Morton Hall has paid off. We officially began offering our visiting service in HMP Morton Hall in July. Already we are seeing our presence grow, as our word-of-mouth reputation leads to an increasing number of referrals into our service.

At the same time, 2024 was not without its challenges. Home Office rules mean we are no longer able to access the common spaces at Swinderby - creating a new layer of difficulty with advertising our services. Our group has been working hard alongside centre management to adapt to these changes and find new ways to spread the word to prospective clients.

The wider national landscape has brought a mixed picture, too. Positively, the government laid legislation to repeal some of the most inhumane elements of the Conservative's assault on our asylum system. More locally, we are thrilled that the local former RAF base Scampton is no longer going to be repurposed as quasi-detention accommodation for asylum seekers.

Yet still, there is work to be done. That same legislation includes provisions to make it easier to put people in immigration detention - making clear the need for groups like ours continue.

As always, the trustees are extremely grateful to the team behind MMS. Gemma Goodwin has continued to be the driving force behind much of our success. We were thrilled to welcome a new Project Coordinator, Mima Alayej, to the team this Autumn as Gemma's job share partner. Mima has gotten off to a flying start, and we are so excited to see what she achieves in the years to come.

Our volunteer visitors remain the heart of our group, and I would like to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you. Your dedication and hard work never goes unnoticed. We are equally thankful to our bookkeeper Cassie, and our examiner of accounts, Carly Bell. Similarly, we were lucky to welcome long-time volunteer Anas Yaghi to our trustee board this year.

Throughout the change, Midlands Migrant Support will continue adapting to meet whatever need presents itself in our community. And we will do whatever we can to provide friendship, solidarity and support to those who need it.

Carey Roach
Chair, Midlands Migrant Support

3. Coordinator's Report

It's been a full and eventful year—rich with new experiences, valuable learning, meaningful connections, and the inevitable challenges that come with growth.

Our volunteer team has continued to expand, bringing with it a broader range of skills, languages, and personalities which will enrich our group and the visits we carry out. We're incredibly fortunate to work alongside such committed and passionate individuals. Their dedication to supporting people facing the hardship of detention is nothing short of inspiring.

Being a volunteer visitor is no easy task. It often involves emotionally demanding situations and complex dynamics, yet our volunteers show up time and time again—with empathy, resilience, and unwavering commitment. They not only give their time to visit those in detention, but also actively participate in group meetings and embrace both internal and external training opportunities to grow in their roles. Their willingness to support one another and continually develop as a team is a testament to the strength and spirit of this community. We want to take this opportunity to say a really big thank you to each and every one of them.

As always, our trustee board has been an incredible source of support. We're deeply grateful for their guidance, expertise, and patience—they continue to play a vital role in helping us navigate challenges and grow as an organisation. Thank you!

After much back and forth, we were finally able to launch our visits to HMP Morton Hall, beginning with a mix of large group sessions and one-to-one conversations with potential clients. This marks an exciting milestone for us, made possible by a great deal of behind-the-scenes work and coordination.

Although changes at Swinderby meant we were no longer able to run our drop-in sessions within the communal areas, we remain committed to finding meaningful ways to offer support within the centre. Rather than stepping back, we've adapted our approach - delivering staff training sessions to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the men in detention and to highlight the ways we can offer support. We've also worked to maintain our visibility within the centre by displaying posters and key information throughout the site. We're continuing to explore new and meaningful ways to stay connected and provide support wherever possible.

We were pleased to learn that the proposed open detention facility for asylum seekers at Scampton, which we had been preparing for, will no longer be going ahead following the change in government. While this marks a significant shift, our commitment to supporting people in our community remains unchanged. We're now looking forward to exploring new opportunities to provide support beyond detention settings and continue advocating for more compassionate and community-based approaches.

Gemma Goodwin & Mima Alayej
Project Coordinators, Midlands Migrant Support

4. Activities, Achievement and Performance

Responding to Change

This year, MMS continued with the strategy agreed by the Trustees in 2022 to focus on delivering our services at two local centres: the Swinderby RSTHF and HMP Morton Hall.

In the first half of 2024, our visiting network at Swinderby RSTHF continued to grow. On average, we offered drop-in sessions for Swinderby residents twice weekly. However, significant change came in May when Home Office rules meant we could no longer access the communal spaces at Swinderby.

Traditionally, we hosted our drop-in sessions in the communal living areas where residents were more likely to already be spending time, allowing potential clients to organically interact with our services. However, following the rule changes our drop-in sessions now take place in visiting rooms separate from these communal areas. Centre staff now enter the communal areas on our behalf to ask prospective clients if they wanted a visitor.

This has created new challenges with advertising our services to potential clients. As a result, we have seen take-up of our sessions sadly fall.

In response, we spent the second half of 2024 working with the centre management and staff to overcome these barriers. Our actions included:

- Lobbying centre and Home Office management to reconsider their decision, explaining the impact it was having on our service. This included writing a letter and attending a meeting with a Home Office representative in September 2024;
- Designing new posters advertising our services to be provided in every bedroom at Swinderby; and
- Developing training to be provided to all Swinderby staff explaining our services, with the aim of enabling them to raise awareness of MSS amongst potential clients on our behalf. This will continue to be delivered in early 2025.

We are hopeful that with these new measures, MMS will be able to continue making a positive impact at Swinderby RSTHF.

Meanwhile, our presence in HMP Morton Hall has grown significantly. In January, following several years of negotiations regarding access, we received the go-ahead from management to begin offering our services.

HMP Morton Hall is a prison exclusively for ‘foreign nationals’, which includes people detained both under immigration powers and those serving custodial sentences. Preparing to deliver our services included lengthy security vetting processes for our volunteers, as well as upskilling to understand the nuances of visiting in a prison environment and ensure we are offering the best possible, tailored support.

MMS were delighted to make our first visit at Morton Hall in April. We have been working hard since then to grow awareness of our group and build a positive word-of-mouth reputation. We continue to enjoy a productive relationship with prison management and look forward to expanding our presence at the prison in the coming year.

At the same time, we also continued to respond to evolving needs in our local area - whether preparing for a possible asylum accommodation site at the former RAF station Scampton, or exploring other opportunities to support migrants living in our community.

Volunteers

Our volunteers - visitors, trustees and people who support with essential administrative activities - remain the key to MMS' success. We extend our thanks for their continued commitment to our cause.

In 2024, we had a dedicated network of 9 active volunteer visitors who regularly facilitated our visiting sessions at Swinderby and HMP Morton Hall. We were also delighted to welcome three new volunteers to our group this year.

However, keeping our existing volunteers engaged remained a priority throughout 2024 - particularly in light of reduced visiting opportunities at Swinderby. This has been facilitated by our Project Coordinators, who ran three volunteer meetings to share best practice and provide peer support to visitors.



A highlight of this was a special event in September which brought together MMS volunteers, trustees and staff in-person for the first time in over a year. At the event, we celebrated our achievements, shared learnings from the year, built closer partnerships across the organisations and fostered a shared sense of purpose. We also took part in training exercises delivered by our esteemed trustee colleague, Dr Clara Della Croce, who shared her expertise on visiting in prisons.

Volunteers are also kept engaged through our regular newsletters, which brings together important news and contributions from members.

Our trustee board remains strong, with 5 active trustees who help out with day-to-day activities alongside their strategic responsibilities.

We also recruited a new volunteer administrator this summer, who has helped to ensure that MMS' day-to-day operations keep running smoothly, from triaging referrals to managing our volunteer inbox. She is also responsible for responding to new volunteer applications.

Visits

MMS ran 53 drop-in sessions at Swinderby RSTHF this year, supporting 149 clients in total from a range of nationalities. We recorded visiting people from over 22 nationalities, with Albanian and Romanian making up the majority of our clients.

The support we provided at these visits took a variety of forms - ranging from a friendly chat, offering more specific emotional support, to providing money for mobile phone top-ups. We also assisted with communications with centre management, and made referrals to other charities for further support.

At each visit, we sought to offer our services to every individual detained at the centre. However, this became challenging in May 2024 when informed by centre management that our access would be limited to the reception area due to Home Office rules.

We will continue to monitor visit requests and work with management to ensure that people held at Swinderby RSTHF are able to access our services.

Alongside our work at Swinderby RSTHF, we are delighted to report that we have established a visitor service at HMP Morton Hall for both people detained under immigration powers and for other non British nationals serving custodial sentences. This required volunteers to undertake security vettings and attend the prison to verify their identity.

As a result, in 2024, we visited the prison on 8 occasions - supporting one client with regular visits and running drop-in style clinics, where we supported 14 other individuals. We also distributed promotional materials to raise awareness of our service and generate referrals.

Since establishing our visiting service at HMP Morton Hall, we have also been working tirelessly with other visitor groups and NGOs across the UK to ensure relevant organisations are aware of our agreement with HMP Morton Hall and are able to easily refer their clients detained at the prison to us, should they wish to receive visits from our volunteers. In 2024, we received referrals from Lincolnshire Action Trust and Medical Justice.

Training

As we continued to adjust to visiting in a short-term holding facility and prison - as opposed to an IRC where MMS have traditionally operated - training to ensure that our visitors were equipped to properly support our clients remained a priority.

For Morton Hall, we developed and delivered specific training for our volunteers that helped

them understand the nuances of prison regimes and how this differs to IRCs and RSTHFs.

We continue to offer full induction training for new volunteers alongside the opportunity to shadow visits. We delivered this training for 3 new volunteers throughout the year.

In addition to the training designed and delivered by our team, in 2024 members of MMS also participated in:

- Safeguarding training;
- Legal training delivered by AVID and Wilson's Solicitors;
- Deep Dive on Lived Experience Reimbursement & Recruitment;
- Understanding Trauma training;
- Safeguarding and Self Harm online training via 'Me Learning' platform; and
- Training delivered by Right to Remain on 'Thinking with our communities - detention and beyond detention'.



The learnings from these training sessions were then shared throughout our organisation.

Partnership Work

Much of our partnership work has continued to occur through the AVID network, who act as a consortium for visitor groups across the immigration detention NGO community in the UK. Highlights of this work include:

- Attending AVID's monthly member calls and regular deep dives learning sessions into specific topics;
- Sharing best practice with other visitor groups that work in prison environments;
- Taking advantage of training opportunities offered by AVID; and
- Collaborating with AVID's team of experts to respond to the specific tasks and challenges facing MMS.

Beyond AVID, we have continued membership of Clinks.

Our new work at HMP Morton Hall has also proven a fantastic opportunity to re-establish ties with NGOs such as Medical Justice and Bail for Immigration Detention. These ties have allowed us to raise awareness of MMS' offering and cultivate a strong referral network that is enabling our service to better reach those who need it.

In the first half of the year, we continued to work with other community organisations via the Scampton Alliance to prepare for the possibility of a local RAF station being repurposed to

house asylum seekers. This included attending meetings and mapping out plans for a befriending service we could offer to residents at Scampton.

However, further change came this summer when we received the positive news that the new Labour government has scrapped these plans.

As a result, we spent the last few months of 2024 exploring other opportunities to expand MMS' presence and ability to make a positive impact in our local community. This centred around the possibility of supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

We have been working alongside partners such as a local college to begin the early stages of planning what this could look like - including through brainstorming what services we could offer and holding consultation meetings to better understand the local need.

Organisational Profile

This year, we continued working to raise MMS' profile across our local area with the aim of raising awareness of our projects, forging new local partnerships, and drumming up interest from potential volunteers.

In November, we gave a presentation to the local Women's Institute about our organisation, which was received positively.



Fundraising

Grants received in 2024 comprised £650 from the Marsh Charitable Trust, £2,000 from Yapp Charitable Trust, £5,000 from 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, and £19,580 from the National Lottery Fund. The National Lottery Fund grant is for a two-year period.

5. Trustees' report

The trustees for the year ending 31st December 2024 and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Carey Roach	Chair	Appointed March 2022
Cassandra Taylor	Treasurer	Co-Opted September 2022
Bethan Godley	Trustee	Co-Opted July 2022
Clara Della Croce	Trustee	Co-Opted August 2022
Erika Loggin	Trustee	Co-Opted October 2022 Resigned May 2024
Anas Yaghi	Trustee	Co-Opted July 2024

Charity number

Charity number 1174056. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 1 August 2017.

Registered and principal address

Transform Lincoln
Bridge Central, Portland Street
Lincoln
LN5 7NN

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Structure, governance and management

MMS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation that is governed by a constitution adopted on the 1 August 2017

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM, or co-opted by the rest of the trustee board.

Our objectives

For the public benefit, to relieve the needs of people in detention in the East Midlands who are suffering financial hardship, distress or are otherwise in need by providing emotional support, advocacy and practical support, particularly through - but not limited to - the provision of a trained visiting network.

Our main activities

1. Through a network of trained volunteers, we visit and support people in detention in the Midlands, whether held indefinitely under immigration powers or non-British nationals who are serving custodial sentences.
2. We advocate for the rights of detained people and raise public awareness about their plight, as well as the broader legal situation for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Public Benefit Statement

Our main activities and who we aim to help are described above. All our charitable activities are focused on supporting people in detention and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the prevention and relief of need.

Achievements and performance

Please see Section 4 for a summary of our achievements and performance in 2024.

Financial Review

We started the year with £4,758.20 in the bank. The net receipts for the year were £27,310.36 and the net payments were £14,168.62 - as well as £426.80 in liabilities, which were payments due following the end of the 2024 calendar year that have now all been made.

Grants received in 2024 comprised £650 from The Marsh Charitable Trust, £2,000 from The Yapp Charitable Trust, £5,000 from the 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust and £19,580 from the National Lottery Fund. We also received £19.16 in interest from our bank account. At the end of the year, our closing balance was £18,757.26, with a further £112 in petty cash.

The main item of expenditure was staff wages, which totalled £10,094.13. For the first half of the year, we employed one part-time member of staff, but hired a second member of staff in September.

Other significant items of expenditure were travel and expenses for both staff and volunteers, which came to £1079.37. We continued to employ a bookkeeper to handle our accounts and

pay for a monthly payroll service, totalling £1,059.80 in professional fees.

Reserves Policy

Last year, we adopted a 'reserves policy' which sought to ensure sufficient reserves are maintained to cover the winding up costs should it be desirable or necessary to cease activity. These will be sufficient to cover staff redundancies, utility costs and any professional fees likely to be incurred. The reserves target has been met for 2024.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carey Roach', written in a cursive style.

Carey Roach
Chair
Signed: 8th April 2025

6. Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of: Midlands Migrant Support
Registered Charity number: 1174056
The Sycamore Centre, 33A Hungerhill Road, St Anns, Nottingham NG3 4NB

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Midlands Migrant Support, for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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').

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible but not required, to be subject to an independent examination, it is my responsibility to examine the accounts 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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with those records; or
3. 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:

Carly Bell
XEMPL0000019288
Simpson Accounting and Payroll Services
Antrim Road
Lincoln
LN5 8TF

7. Receipts and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

				2024			2023
Receipts							
	Donations			61.20			0
	Grants			27,230			15,548
		Marsh Charitable Trust	650		Evan Cornish Foundation	5,000	
		Yapp Charitable Trust	2,000		National Lottery Fund	9,998	
		29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	5,000		Marsh Charitable Trust	550	
		National Lottery Fund	19,580				
	Interest received			19.16			21.47
Total receipts				27,310.36			15,569.47
Payments							
	Wages, NI, Pensions & Payroll		10,094.13			11,303.32	
	Bank charges		126.83			60	
	Insurance		432.25			409.37	
	Office/Admin		450.76			78.25	
	Visitors Travel/Expenses		262.15			321.29	
	Staff Travel/Expenses		817.22			1,538.21	
	Membership/Subscriptions		229.60			104.39	
	Advertising		695.88			1,077.63	
	Equipment		0			0	
	Events		0			35	

	Professional fees		1,059.80			1,020.40	
Total payments				14,168.62			15,912.86
Surplus				12,714.94			-343.39
Statement of Assets and Liabilities				2024			2023
	Cash in bank			18,757.26			4,758.20
	Cash in hand			112			112
	Less liabilities due in year			426.80			
Total				18,442.46			4870.20
	Represented by bank balance b/f			5,188.72			6229.37
	Cash in hand b/f			112			112
	Surplus income over expenditure			18,330.46			-1471.17

Notes

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Midlands Migrant Support

England & Wales - Charity number 1174056

Accounts



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1. A brief history of Midlands Migrant Support

Midlands Migrant Support (MMS) - formerly Morton Hall Visitor's Group - has provided crucial friendship and practical support to people in immigration detention across the East Midlands for the last 12 years.

Being in immigration detention almost always has a detrimental impact on a person's mental health and wellbeing. But through our network of volunteer visitors, MMS aims to:

- ease the isolation and anxiety experienced by people in detention by providing emotional and practical support;
- signpost to services that offer specialist advice and guidance;
- act as unofficial human rights monitors by observing the conditions in immigration detention and highlighting these realities to the public.

At the same time, we advocate for the rights of detained people and raise public awareness about their plight, as well as the broader legal situation for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. By raising awareness of these issues, we aim to promote more tolerance and understanding in our local communities.

MMS was first formed in 2011 following the conversion of Morton Hall prison in Swinderby, Lincolnshire, to an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC). Our visits continued - supporting hundreds of people at a deeply distressing time in their lives - until Morton Hall closed its doors in August 2021.

Following Morton Hall's closure, its grounds were repurposed into the Swinderby residential short-term holding facility (RSTHF) and HMP Morton Hall, a prison exclusively for 'foreign nationals.'

Swinderby can hold up to 37 men at a time, for a maximum of seven days each. People are normally held in RSTHF facilities for two main reasons: for screening, or as a staging post before removal from the UK. Both of these situations are often extremely stressful for the detained person. The quick turnaround in the facility also marks a departure from the type of befriending services we provided at the IRC, where volunteers built relationships with their clients over a sustained period of time.

We first began offering drop-in sessions at the Swinderby RSTHF shortly after its October 2022 opening. Since then, we have supported more than 160 clients as they navigate these challenging circumstances.

In the near future, we hope to begin offering our services at HMP Morton Hall. And we are exploring how we might be able to support residents at the local RAF Scampton base, which is due to be repurposed as a quasi-detention site for asylum seekers at any time now.

Of course, these developments meant that our group's remit has expanded beyond Morton Hall. It is the new phase that prompted us to relaunch with a new name - one that accurately summarises our work, while giving us room to grow and expand our services. All while avoiding being too much of a mouthful!

After much deliberation, we proudly relaunched as 'Midlands Migrant Support' in November 2023.

Although much has changed in recent years, our group's mission remains constant. We will keep doing everything we can to support migrants experiencing detention in the East Midlands, whatever form that might take.

2. Chair's Report

2023 has been another year of change for us here at Midlands Migrant Support.

First and foremost, that meant continuing to adjust to the evolving needs of our local community. Our focus remained on Swinderby RSTHF, where our visiting presence has steadily increased. I'm proud that we have expanded to offer weekly drop-in sessions at Swinderby, where we have supported more than 160 clients throughout the year.

Not to mention we're now on the cusp of being able to offer our services at HMP Morton Hall.

However, we received the disturbing news last Spring that Scampton, a local RAF base, was set to be repurposed as a quasi-detention centre for asylum seekers. At the time of writing, there has been no indication of when exactly this might happen. But alongside other community groups in the area, we are exploring how we can be of use, if and when the time comes.

This has all happened against a wider and deeply horrifying political backdrop. We are witnessing a government that seems increasingly intent on demonising migrants. From the use of dehumanising language and treating asylum seekers with distrust, to the awful Illegal Migration Act which attacks the fundamental right to claim asylum.

I have never been more sure of the need for groups like ours. So we will press on - doing what we can to provide friendship, support and solidarity to those who need it the most.

As always, the Trustees are grateful to those who keep MMS running. None of this would be possible without our brilliant Project Coordinator, Gemma Goodwin. Gemma joined us at the beginning of the year and it's been a joy to watch her blossom in the role. We are equally thankful to our bookkeeper Cassie, and our examiner of accounts, Carly Bell.

Of course, our volunteer visitors are the heart and soul of MMS. We couldn't operate without them, and I would like to say a huge thank you each and every one of you.

Sadly, we have said some difficult goodbyes this year, too. Long-time group stalwarts of the group Camille Herreman and Dave Hewitt have both moved onto pastures anew, along with trustee Chris Leaman. Their passion, dedication and expertise are so dearly missed.

Despite all the change, I am confident that MMS has the tools it needs to keep moving from strength to strength. I hope our Annual Report will clearly make that case.

Carey Roach
Chair, Midlands Migrant Support

3. Coordinator's Report

A Period of Change and Growth

We began this year as *Morton Hall Visitors' Group* and finished as *Midlands Migrant Support*, a huge change for our charity, but only one of many...

We kicked off the year with a new member of staff and a renewed vision, following the many challenges brought by the pandemic and changes in the region.

In April 2023, after a long period of waiting to work with those men being held in Swindery RSTHF, visiting finally commenced. Volunteers were naturally thin on the ground following the restrictions around COVID and also the waiting period during the repurposing of the IRC. Over the course of the year, a couple have retired but many have joined us through our various efforts to recruit, whether through coffee mornings, presentations in key groups, online listings etc. and we now have eleven active volunteers. All have received extensive training and or refresher training, as well as access to regular volunteer meetings, support from staff and also peer support, while some have also been available to take up other forms of training provided by outside agencies such as BiD, AVID and Clinks.

Over the last eight months, our relationship with management and staff at Swindery RSTHF continues to strengthen and we have now held two quarterly review meetings to assess how things are going and what we can each put in place to improve our service. Visits usually take place at least twice weekly depending on the availability of our volunteers and the numbers of men held at any one time in the centre. Since April, we have supported 166 men over the course of 31 visits.

We remain the only befriending service to specialise in supporting detained people directly impacted by the immigration system in Lincolnshire, and look forward to 2024 where we will establish our visiting service in HMP Morton Hall, supporting people on more of a long-term basis.

Thank you to all of our funders, volunteers and the networks we engage with for supporting us during all the many changes to our organisation and its continued growth. We continue to build strong and supportive relationships with members of AVID and other NGOs operating in the local area and beyond.

We will continue to work alongside like-minded groups to support the many people affected by the UK immigration system in both Swindery RSTHF, HMP Morton Hall, showing solidarity, listening and signposting.

Gemma Goodwin
Project Coordinator, Midlands Migrant Support

4. Activities, Achievement and Performance

Responding to Change

This year, MMS continued with the strategy agreed by Trustees in 2022 to focus on delivering our services at two centres: the Swinderby RSTHF and HMP Morton Hall.

Our presence at the Swinderby RSTHF has grown significantly. We have grown from offering fortnightly drop-in sessions for Swinderby residents to visiting up to twice weekly. We have also continued to build good working relationships with management and staff.

At the same time, we have pressed on with negotiating a service agreement at HMP Morton Hall to begin offering our services there as soon as possible.

In the second half of the year, we have also been busy responding to an unexpected change - the planned repurposing of RAF Scampton. Government communications suggested this would open imminently, but there was still no sign of an official move-in date at the end of 2023.

Technically, residents at Scampton will be free to visit the local community. However, given its remote location and the fact it will be designed to “reduce the need to leave the site”, we expect the conditions to be similar to the ‘quasi-detention’ regime that is becoming increasingly common at asylum reception sites across the country.

In response to this disturbing news, we have been busy collaborating with other community organisations in the area through a new initiative called The Scampton Alliance to see how we can best pool resources and expertise to support residents when the facility opens.

While focusing on these three strains of work, MMS has continued to respond effectively to this ever-changing climate - laying the necessary foundations to expand to address the realities of quasi-detention, while continuing to effectively offer our services to people experiencing immigration detention in the region.

To support these objectives, MMS has undertaken several actions in the last 12 months. These include:

- Continuing to build positive working relationships with staff at Swinderby RSTHF, including through termly reviews with Mitie management and informal conversations about our services with staff who are visible in the communal areas;
- Successfully negotiating a service agreement with management at HMP Morton Hall to begin offering visit services, subject to our volunteers receiving the proper security checks;
- Continuing to attend meetings through the AVID network to share information and best practice with other visitor groups across the UK;
- Regularly meeting with members of The Scampton Alliance; and

- Maintaining our membership of Clinks, an organisation that promotes and represents the voluntary sector working with people in the criminal justice system and their families.

Volunteers

Volunteers - visitors, trustees and people who support with essential administrative activities - remain the heart and soul of MMS.

In 2023, we had a dedicated network of 11 active volunteer visitors who regularly facilitated our visiting sessions at Swinderby.

With visiting up and running regularly for the first time since the pandemic, volunteer recruitment and engagement was a major priority this year. We began the year with a kick-off event in January, which brought together volunteers and trustees for a day of sharing ideas, learning, and spending social time together in-person for the first time since the pandemic.

Once that event was delivered and our existing volunteers were engaged, we moved towards an intense recruitment drive. Steps to do this included:

- Presenting at local community meetings such as the Quakers Regional Conference and the Lincoln Rotary Club;
- Presentations to local churches and meetings with leaders in the local area;
- Advertising our volunteering opportunities through online platforms, such as Voluntary Centre Services
- Conducting leaflet drops to 250 households in local neighbourhoods;
- Operating a stall at Bishop Grosseteste University's Freshers Fayre; and
- Attending the Nottingham Green Festival.

As a result, MMS recruited 8 new volunteer visitors throughout 2023.

Volunteers are kept engaged by our Project Coordinator, who runs regular volunteer meetings to share best practice and provide peer support to visitors. 7 volunteer meetings were conducted this year.

Our trustee board remains strong, with 5 active trustees who help out with day-to-day activities alongside their strategic responsibilities.

Visits

MMS ran 31 drop-in sessions at Swinderby RSTHF this year. These began in earnest in March, after many of our offers to come earlier in the year were turned down due to the centre being empty. By the end of the year, our drop-ins were usually happening twice weekly.

At each visit, we sought to offer our services to every individual currently detained at the

centre. Given the transient nature of a short-term holding facility, this varied significantly depending on the day. The number of individuals detained at Swinderby in a single day ranged from 22 men to just one.

Throughout the year, we supported 166 men from a range of nationalities. This support took a variety of forms, ranging from a friendly chat to providing money for phone use, contacting legal support, referrals to other charities for support to action planning.

Training

Alongside volunteer recruitment and retention, training to ensure that our visitors were equipped to deal with the particularities of working in a short-term context was critical this year.

All of our new volunteers received training delivered by the Project Coordinator, who delivered three training sessions this year.

Support continues as our volunteers adapt to visiting in a RSTHF. Each new volunteer shadows our Project Coordinator for a first visit, while remaining in regular contact with the Project Coordinator and peer visitors, who share advice and best practice.

We also appointed a Safeguarding Lead amongst our trustee team, who took a specialised external training course on safeguarding practices and has ensured that our safeguarding policy is up-to-date.

Organisational Profile

MMS has continued to raise the profile of the organisation and its mission, particularly as we adjust to this next chapter of our work.

In regards to our profile, the most significant project we undertook this year was a rebrand. Our previous name, Morton Hall Visitors Group, was beginning to cause confusion amongst clients and staff as we offered our services at the Swinderby RSTHF. Following consultation with members and trustees, we relaunched in October as Midlands Migrant Support with the aim of accurately summarising our work, while still giving room to grow and expand our services.

The new name was coupled with a new website, engineered by our Project Coordinator, which can be found at midsmigrantsupport.org. We similarly relaunched on Twitter.

Partnership Work

Much of our partnership work has occurred throughout the AVID network. We continue to

enjoy good relations with AVID, who act as a consortium for visitor groups across the immigration detention NGO community in the UK. Highlights of this work include:

- Attending a 2 day conference with an opportunity to network, identifying ways of working in solidarity with people in immigration detention, and how to approach some of the challenges we face.
- Joining monthly member calls with other immigration detention visiting groups across the country;
- Receiving peer support from other groups as we prepare to offer our services in a prison environment; and
- Taking advantage of training opportunities offered by AVID.

Beyond AVID, we have continued membership of Clinks.

A significant new piece of partnership work this year was joining The Scampton Alliance. In response to news that the local Scampton RAF base was being repurposed to house asylum seekers, The Scampton Alliance brings together local community groups from across the region whose services might benefit Scampton's residents. Our involvement includes attending regular meetings and feeding into an exercise to set the group's Charter and terms of reference. We hope to build on these foundations in 2024.

Organisation Development

Our organisation development work continued in the background this year. This included further efforts to professionalise the charity's operations, including drafting a risk register.

We also drafted and adopted more operation policies, from a whistleblowing policy to a privacy notice.

Fundraising

Grants received in 2023 comprised £5,000 from the Evan Cornish Foundation, £550 from The Marsh Charitable Trust and £9,998 from the National Lottery Fund.

5. Trustees' report

The trustees for the year ending 31st December 2023 and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Carey Roach	Chair	Appointed March 2022
Cassandra Taylor	Treasurer	Co-Opted September 2022
Christopher Leaman	Trustee	Appointed March 2021 Resigned March 2023
Bethan Godley	Trustee	Co-Opted July 2022
Clara Della Croce	Trustee	Co-Opted August 2022
Erika Loggin	Trustee	Co-Opted October 2022

Charity number

Charity number 1174056. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 1 August 2017.

Registered and principal address

Transform Lincoln
Bridge Central, Portland Street
Lincoln
LN5 7NN

Our registered and principal address was updated with The Charity Commission in January 2024. Our previous address, used throughout 2023, was:

The Sycamore Centre
33A Hungerhill Road
Nottingham
NG3 4NB

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling

Kent
ME19 4JQ

Structure, governance and management

MMS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation that is governed by a constitution adopted on the 1 August 2017

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Our objectives

For the public benefit, to relieve the needs of people in detention in the East Midlands who are suffering financial hardship, distress or are otherwise in need by providing emotional support, advocacy and practical support, particularly through - but not limited to - the provision of a trained visiting network.

Our main activities

1. Through a network of trained volunteers, we visit and support people in detention in the Midlands, whether held indefinitely under immigration powers or non-British nationals who are serving custodial sentences.
2. We advocate for the rights of detained people and raise public awareness about their plight, as well as the broader legal situation for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Public Benefit Statement

Our main activities and who we aim to help are described above. All our charitable activities are focused on supporting people in detention and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the prevention and relief of need.

Achievements and performance

Please see Section 4 for a summary of our achievements and performance in 2022.

Financial Review

We started the year with £6,229 in the bank. The net receipts for the year were £15,569.47 and the net payments were £17,040.64, including £1,127.78 in liabilities, which were payments due following the end of the 2023 calendar year that have now all been made. Grants received in 2023 comprised £5,000 from the Evan Cornish Foundation, £550 from The Marsh Charitable Trust and £9,998 from the National Lottery Fund. We also received £21.47 in interest from our bank account. At the end of the year, our closing balance was £4,758.20,

with a further £112 in petty cash.

The main item of expenditure was staff wages, which totalled £11,303.32. For most of the year, we employed two part-time members of staff, but dropped down to just one in September.

Other significant items of expenditure were travel and expenses for both staff and volunteers, which came to £1,859.50. We continued to employ a bookkeeper to handle our accounts and pay for a monthly payroll service, totalling £1,020.40 in professional fees.

Reserves Policy

Last year, we adopted a 'reserves policy' which sought to ensure sufficient reserves are maintained to cover the winding up costs should it be desirable or necessary to cease activity. These will be sufficient to cover staff redundancies, rent and utility costs and any professional fees likely to be incurred. The reserves target has been met for 2023.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carey Roach', written in a cursive style.

Carey Roach

Chair

Signed: 25th April 2024

6. Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of:

Morton Hall Visitors Group/Midlands Migrant Support, Registered Charity number 1174056

The Sycamore Centre, 33A Hungerhill Road, St Anns, Nottingham NG3 4NB

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Morton Hall Visitors Group (also known as Midlands Migrant Support), for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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').

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible but not required, to be subject to an independent examination, it is my responsibility to examine the accounts 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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with those records; or
3. 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:

Carly Bell
XEMPL0000019288
Simpson Accounting and Payroll Services
Antrim Road
Lincoln
LN5 8TF

7. Receipts and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023

				2023			2022
Receipts							
	Donations			0			0
	Grants			15,548			7,000
		Evan Cornish Foundation	5,000		ICS	5,000	
		National Lottery Fund	9,998		Allen Lane Foundation	2,000	
		Marsh Charitable Trust	550				
	Interest received			21.47			7
Total receipts				15,569.47			7,007
Payments							
	Wages, NI, Pensions & Payroll		11,303.32			6,662.58	
	Bank charges		60			81	
	Insurance		409.37			396.93	
	Office/Phones/Website		78.25			158.27	
	Visitors Travel/Expenses		321.29			190.02	
	Staff Travel/Expenses		1,538.21			268.2	
	Membership/Subscriptions		104.39			36	
	Publicity		1,077.63			100	
	Equipment		0			0	
	Events		0			35	
	Professional fees		1,020.40			285	
	Liabilities		1,127.78				

Total payments				17,040.64			8,213
Surplus				-1,471.17			-1,206
Statement of Assets and Liabilities				2023			2022
	Cash in bank			4,758.20			6,229
	Cash in hand			112			112
Total				4,870.20			6,341
	Represented by bank balance b/f			6,229.37			7,435
	Cash in hand b/f			112			112
	Surplus income over expenditure			-1,471.17			-1,206
Total				4,870.20			6,341

Notes

Publicity payments

In line with international reporting standards, this section also includes £182 spent on booking venues for events. The rest of the payments recorded in this section were to print posters and leaflets to distribute at the centres we operate in, to advertise our services.

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

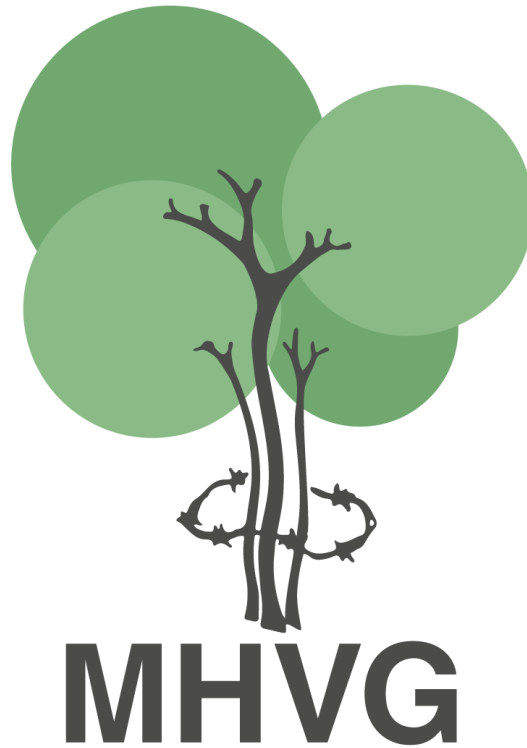
Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Midlands Migrant Support

England & Wales - Charity number 1174056

Accounts



Morton Hall Visitors Group Annual Report 2022

*Annual Report and Financial Statements for
the year ending 31st December 2022*

Registered Charity no: 1174056

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1. A Brief History of Morton Hall Visitors Group

For twelve years, MHVG's volunteer visitors have provided crucial friendship, signposting and support to people in immigration detention at Morton Hall.

Being in immigration detention almost always has a detrimental impact on a person's mental health and wellbeing. The experience of detention can be especially retraumatizing for those who have fled violence and persecution, or for people who have been victims of human trafficking.

We believe that immigration detention should end and be replaced with more humane, community-based alternatives. But until then, our primary aim is to support our clients as they navigate these challenging circumstances by providing emotional support and befriending services.

Through our visits, MHVG specifically aims to:

- ease the isolation and anxiety experienced by people in detention by providing emotional and practical support;
- signpost to services that offer specialist advice and guidance;
- act as unofficial human rights monitors by observing the conditions in immigration detention and highlighting these realities to the public.

At the same time, we advocate for the rights of detained people and raise public awareness about their plight, as well as the broader legal situation for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. By raising awareness of these issues, we aim to promote more tolerance and understanding in the East Midlands.

MHVG was first formed in 2011 following the conversion of Morton Hall prison in Swinderby, Lincolnshire, to an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC). The third largest IRC in the UK, Morton Hall held up to 392 people at a time. Many were waiting to find out if they would be allowed to stay in Britain or returned to their countries of origin. None of them were being detained as punishment for a crime - although a proportion have previous convictions. Non British nationals, subject to immigration powers, can be held indefinitely as immigration detention is not automatically reviewed by the courts, and many can end up in Immigration Removal Centres for lengthy periods of time.

Our visits continued - supporting hundreds of people at a deeply distressing time in their lives - until Morton Hall closed its doors in August 2021.

Following Morton Hall's closure, its grounds were repurposed into the Swinderby residential short-term holding facility (RSTHF) and HMP Morton Hall, a prison exclusively for 'foreign

nationals.’ We began offering drop-in sessions at the Swinderby RSTHF shortly after its October 2022 opening.

Swinderby can hold up to 37 men at a time, for a maximum of seven days each. People are normally held in RSTHF facilities for two main reasons: for screening, or as a staging post before removal. Both of these situations are often extremely stressful for the detained person. The quick turnaround in the facility also marks a departure from the type of befriending services we provided at the IRC, where volunteers built relationships with their clients over a sustained period of time.

In the medium-term, we also hope to extend our remit to include pilot programmes at HMP Morton Hall, HMP Nottingham and HMP Stocken, where we would support non-British nationals serving custodial sentences, as well as those held under immigration powers.

Our group is looking to the future and adapting to the evolving needs in the region. Nevertheless, our commitment to providing friendship, support and signposting services to people in detention - regardless of their background or status - remains unchanged.



2. Chair's Report

Recent years have presented a major crossroads for us here at MHVG. First, the Covid-19 pandemic brought an abrupt end to our in-person visits at the IRC. Then, news of Morton Hall's repurposing meant more challenges as we navigated how to offer our services in a totally new environment.

Throughout 2022, we have worked hard to adapt to the evolving needs across the East Midlands. But our core objective remains the same - to support people experiencing detention through a deeply distressing period in their lives.

Disturbing scenes from the Manston Centre in Kent and the Government's horrific small boats legislation have reiterated the need for visitor groups like ours. Detention remains a cruel, unjust lever of our country's immigration system. Which is why we must keep working with AVID and others to support people experiencing immigration detention - providing some much-needed human connection within an increasingly dehumanising system.

At the time of writing, MHVG is currently offering drop-in sessions at the Swinderby RSTHF. In the medium-term, we hope to expand our services to prisons across the East Midlands, including at HMP Morton Hall.

Behind the scenes, the Trustees have been working on a number of projects to make sure MHVG has the proper foundations to grow when that time comes. From formalising our operational policies, to reassessing how best to measure the impact of our visits. And perhaps most importantly, recruiting a new Project-Coordinator - the brilliant Gemma Goodwin, who has joined our much valued Director-Coordinator, Camille, on MHVG's staff team.

As always, the Trustees are incredibly grateful to those who keep MHVG running on a daily basis - Camille, Gemma, Dave, our bookkeeper Cassie, and our examiner of accounts Estelle Fischer. I'm also delighted that we've welcomed so many new Trustees to the Board this year, who all bring a wealth of diverse experience - although we've said goodbye to Lynda, Francesca and Ellie, who will all be missed. And of course, we couldn't operate without our volunteer visitors. Thank you to each and every one of you.

I am confident that as a team, we are prepared to take on this new chapter and keep doing what we do best - providing support, solidarity and services to vulnerable people in detention. I hope our Annual Report leaves you with that same belief.

Carey Roach
Chair, MHVG

3. Coordinator's Report

Looking forward.

MHVG's work this year has been characterised by patience and determination. As we have seen the broader political context become more and more difficult for those we work with, we have also experienced challenges on an organisational level as we adapt to working in two new settings of immigration detention in the Midlands; "short-term" detention and prisons.

To do this, we have consulted partner organisations to ensure MHVG is fit for purpose, and have launched, explored, and piloted work in four new facilities to inform our work and our focus going forward. Through retraining and development, we end 2022 with a talented and committed team of volunteers ready to support people in the fast-developing immigration detention estate.

Following the success of our pilot drop-in at HMP Stocken in June, we launched our drop-in in Swinderby Short Term Holding Facility as soon as it opened in October. We offered 6 drop ins with between 2-4 volunteers in place between October-December. We also expect to launch monthly drop-ins in HMP Morton Hall in quarter 2 of 2023.

We remain the only face-to-face befriending organisation to offer specialised support to people in immigration detention in the Midlands, and we are proud to begin 2023 with two fantastic projects to build and grow.

Thank you to our members and funders for your support in what has been a challenging time. We are thrilled to be getting back to our underpinning face-to-face work and values. We are again supporting people in person, signposting them, giving friendship, celebrating resilience, sharing in grief, at a time of significant hardship for all those affected by the UK immigration system.

Camille Herreman
Director-Coordinator, MHVG

4. Achievements, Activities and Performance

Responding to Change

Following the closure of Morton Hall IRC in 2021, we identified two main areas where a need for MHVG's services continued to exist in the East Midlands - the Swinderby RSTHF and multiple prisons. This includes HMP Morton Hall, but expands further to the likes of HMP Stocken and HMP Nottingham.

The Trustees made a strategic decision to spend 2022 prioritising starting up visits at Swinderby, as well as organisational development to ensure that we are prepared to expand our remit in a responsible and sustainable way. However, we kept in contact with management at numerous prisons in the region, as beginning those visits remains a priority for us in 2023.

In doing so, MHVG has continued to respond effectively to this ever-changing climate - laying the necessary foundations to expand, while continuing to offer our services to people experiencing immigration detention in the region.

To support these objectives, MHVG has undertaken several actions in the last twelve months. These include:

- Continuing to liaise with Mitie Care and Custody and Home Office representatives at Swinderby RSTHF, successfully negotiating a service agreement that allows us to offer visits there;
- Adapting our practices to reflect the particularities of visiting in short-term facilities, including our training materials and client databases;
- Maintaining relationships with management in prisons that we hope to offer our services to in the medium-term;
- Informing our network about this new chapter of MHVG by updating the website and sending updates via email;
- Establishing close working relationships with Larne House Visitors Group and Manchester Immigration Detainee Support Team (MIDST), who both work in short-term holding facilities;
- Continuing to attend meetings through the AVID network to share information and best practice with other visitor groups across the UK;
- Maintaining our membership of Clinks, an organisation that promotes and represents the voluntary sector working with people in the criminal justice system and their families;
- Recruiting a new Project-Coordinator to join MHVG as a job share partner for Camille, again increasing our staff capacity to two days per week.

Volunteers

Volunteers - visitors, trustees and people who support with essential administrative activities

- remain the lifeblood of MHVG.

In 2022, we had 15 active volunteers. We recruited 5 new trustees and one additional visitor.

As visits became possible again in the last quarter of 2022, re-engaging existing volunteers became a priority. We took multiple steps to do this, including:

- Reviving our newsletter to share updates, training opportunities and other events with our network;
- Restarting monthly volunteer meetings to create a space for volunteers to connect with each other and ask questions;
- Organising a volunteer kick-off event and social in January 2023, which would bring together our volunteers in-person for the first time since the pandemic.

Visits

2022 and the end of Covid restrictions marked the opportunity to finally begin offering in-person visits again. But we have encountered some challenges with access as we adjust to operating in new centres.

We have continued to enjoy a positive relationship with Mitie Care & Custody, who operate Swinderby. We attended a tour of the facility shortly before its October opening, where Camille and the Trustees were able to meet face-to-face with management and ask questions.

MHVG first began offering visits at Swinderby on 17th October, and have operated a rota of volunteers available to visit every Monday since. Unfortunately, these offers have been declined by Mitie due to the centre being empty. Although hopefully a positive sign that fewer people are being detained in the East Midlands, this is one of the new challenges of working in a short-term holding facility - the rapid turnover creates uncertainty over when there will be clients present in need of our support.

There is, however, cause to be optimistic about the future of our visiting capacity. We have published a flyer which explains the services offered by MHVG and outlines our contact information, to be circulated to all new arrivals at Swinderby. This is aimed at increasing awareness of our services, encouraging potential clients to self-refer.

At the same time, we kept relations warm with the management of prisons in the area. In August, we attended a Community Day aimed at non-British nationals at HMP Stocken. Attended by around 30 people, this was our first in-person event in two years.

There, we spoke to the majority of attendees about their concerns, conditions at HMP Stocken for 'foreign nationals' and provided short term emotional and practical support. MHVG was warmly received at the event, giving hope for expanding our services there in the near future.

Training

As we adapt to offering services in the RSTHF, we have had to adapt our training approach, too. Operating in a short-term holding facility is a significant departure from our work at Morton Hall IRC, where visitors were able to build trust and rapport with their clients over a sustained period of time.

Now, we have to be prepared to support clients for only one session each before they are likely transferred out of the facility.

To ensure our volunteers are equipped to offer high-quality services in the RSTHF, we have:

- Offered refresher training to existing volunteers in October, when our Swinderby visitor rota first began;
- Worked with MIDST to adapt our training resources to reflect the particularities of visiting in a short-term holding facility;
- Held a joint volunteer meeting with MIDST, a visitor group that supports people detained at the short-term holding facility at Manchester Airport. This provided MHVG volunteers with the opportunity to ask questions of their peers and learn about the way they work.

Partnership Work and Organisational Profile

MHVG has continued to raise the profile of the organisation and its mission, particularly as we adjust to this next chapter.

Much of our partnership work has occurred throughout the AVID network. We continue to enjoy good relations with AVID, who act as a consortium for visitor groups across the immigration detention NGO community in the UK. Highlights of this work include:

- Building closer links with other visitor groups through regular meetings;
- Attending AVID's AGM;
- Feeding into AVID's new charter, which seeks to develop a theory of change as well as shared values across its member organisations

Beyond Avid, we have continued membership of Clinks. We have also worked to increase MHVG's profile by updating the website to reflect the new stage for the group.

Organisational Development

Another priority in 2022 was organisational development. This was to ensure that MHVG is prepared to expand our remit in a way that is both responsible and sustainable.

As a first step, we had an intense drive to recruit new trustees after our board was significantly depleted by Spring 2022. Now, we have 6 trustees on the board - including a new Treasurer and a newly elected Chair. Our board draws on a wide range of professional and

personal backgrounds, ranging from experienced HR professionals and academics to longstanding MHVG volunteers.

Once our new Board was in place, we began several projects to implement new practices and systems. These include:

- Initiating an audit to identify gaps in our existing formalised policies. We then drafted and updated approximately 10 policies - including on safeguarding, expenses, staff remuneration and health & safety - to ensure we could safely start operating visits again;
- Creating induction materials for both new staff and new trustees, to ensure a smoother and clearer onboarding process;
- Developing a formalised risk register to track our mitigation actions and progress;
- Creating a fundraising database to strategically forecast upcoming funding opportunities;
- Undertaking an impact practice project to identify how we can better measure output and outcomes, to ensure our services are making a positive difference. This has resulted in numerous recommendations that we will continue implementing into 2023.

Fundraising

Grants received in 2022 comprised £5,000 from ICS and £2,000 from the Allen Lane Foundation.

5. Trustees' Report

The trustees for the year ending 31st December 2022 and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Carey Roach	Chair	Appointed March 2022
Lynda Wilson	Chair	Appointed August 2017 Resigned April 2022
Eleanor Hull	Treasurer	Co-Opted June 2021 Resigned September 2022
Cassandra Taylor	Treasurer	Co-Opted September 2022
Francesca Bargiela	Trustee	Appointed August 2017 Resigned April 2022
Christopher Leaman	Trustee	Appointed March 2021
Bethan Godley	Trustee	Co-Opted July 2022
Clara Della Croce	Trustee	Co-Opted August 2022
Erika Loggin	Trustee	Co-Opted October 2022

Charity number

Charity number 1174056. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 1 August 2017.

Registered and principal address

The Sycamore Centre
33A Hungerhill Road
Nottingham
NG3 4NB

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling

Kent
ME19 4JQ

Structure, governance and management

MHVG is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation that is governed by a constitution adopted on the 1 August 2017

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Our objectives

For the public benefit, to relieve the needs of people in detention in the East Midlands who are suffering financial hardship, distress or are otherwise in need by providing emotional support, advocacy and practical support, particularly through - but not limited to - the provision of a trained visiting network.

Our main activities

1. Through a network of trained volunteers, we visit and support people in detention in the East Midlands, whether held indefinitely under immigration powers or non-British nationals who are serving custodial sentences.
2. We advocate for the rights of detained people and raise public awareness about their plight, as well as the broader legal situation for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Public Benefit Statement

Our main activities and who we aim to help are described above. All our charitable activities are focused on supporting people in detention and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the prevention and relief of need.

Achievements and performance

Please see Section 4 for a summary of our achievements and performance in 2022.

Financial Review

We started the year with £6,341 in the bank. The net payments for the year were £8,213 and the net receipts were £7,007. Grants received in 2022 comprised £5,000 from ICS and £2,000 from the Allen Lane Foundation. We also received £7 in interest from our bank account. At the end of the year, our closing balance was £6,229, with a further £112 in petty cash.

Given the lack of visiting activity for the first half of the year, the main item of expenditure was the Director-Coordinator's wages. However, we did begin offering our visiting services again in October, accounting for staff and visitors expenses. We continued to employ a bookkeeper to handle our accounts, totalling £285.

Reserves Policy

Last year, we adopted a 'reserves policy' which sought to ensure sufficient reserves are maintained to cover the winding up costs should it be desirable or necessary to cease activity. These will be sufficient to cover staff redundancies, rent and utility costs and any professional fees likely to be incurred. The reserves target has been met for 2022.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Carey Roach

Chair

Signed: 10th April 2023

6. Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of:

**Morton Hall Visitors Group Registered Charity number 1174056
The Sycamore Centre, 33A Hungerhill Road, St Anns, Nottingham NG3 4NB**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Morton Hall Visitors Group, for the year ended 31 December 2022.

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').

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible but not required, to be subject to an independent examination, it is my responsibility to examine the accounts 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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with those records; or
3. 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: Estelle Fisher

Estelle Fisher

**Name: Estelle Fisher, Postgraduate Diploma in Audit Management and Consultancy,
Institute of Internal Auditors, Advanced Diploma.**

Address: 35, Mere Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7LH

7. Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022

				2022			2021
Receipts							
	Donations			0			220
	Grants			7,000			11,250
		ICS	5,000		Bergman Lehane Trust	250	
		Allen Lane Foundation	2,000		29th May 1961 CT	5,000	
					WF Southall Trust	3,000	
					Allen Lane Foundation	3,000	
	Interest received		7				
Total receipts				7,007			11,470
Payments							
	Wages, NI, Pensions & Payroll		6,662.58			16,204	
	Bank charges		81			102	
	Insurance		396.93			339	
	Office/Phones/Website		158.27			144	
	Visitors Travel/Expenses		190.02			-	
	Staff Travel/Expenses		268.2			-	
	Membership/ Subscriptions		36			72	
	Publicity		100			780	
	Equipment		0			-	
	Events		35			-	
	Professional fees		285			391	

Total payments				8,213			18,545
Surplus				-1,206			3,019
Statement of Assets and Liabilities				2022			2021
	Cash in bank			6,229			7,435
	Cash in hand			112			112
	less Liabilities due in year						-
Total				6,341			7,547
	Represented by bank balance b/f			7,435			4,417
	Cash in hand b/f			112			112
	Surplus income over expenditure			-1,206			3,019
Total				6,341			7,547

Notes

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

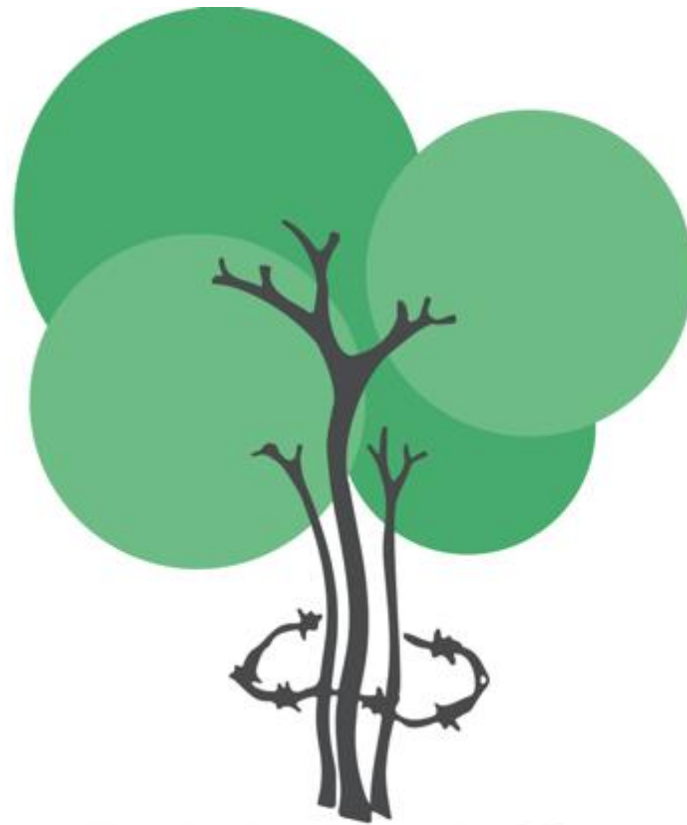
Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Midlands Migrant Support

England & Wales - Charity number 1174056

Accounts



MHVG

Morton Hall Visitors' Group Annual Report 2021

Registered Charity no: 1174056
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2021

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MHVG is currently funded by:

The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Allen Lane Foundation
The WF Southall Trust
The Bergman Lehane Trust

Previous funders have included:

The Leigh Trust
The Noel Buxton Trust
Marsh Christian Trust
The National Emergencies Trust
The Hilden Charitable Fund
Swan Mountain Trust
The Souter Trust

Morton Hall Visitors' Group

Annual Report 2021

Morton Hall Visitors' Group: a brief history

This year marks eleven years since our charity was founded. Eleven years of providing emotional support and practical help to people detained indefinitely under immigration powers at the remote Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in Lincolnshire, Morton Hall.

In this time, MHVG has cultivated a group of skilled and dedicated volunteers who have supported hundreds of people held indefinitely in detention at Morton Hall. Many of the people we support are waiting to find out if they will be allowed to stay in Britain or returned to their countries of origin.

It is our belief that indefinite detention at an IRC, or other facility, almost always has a detrimental impact on a person's mental health and wellbeing and that the experience can be especially traumatising for those who have fled violence and persecution, or for people who have been victims of human trafficking. In the most recent inspection of Morton Hall, H M Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) reported that 71% of people detained at Morton Hall felt depressed and 29% felt suicidal.

We believe that immigration detention should end and be replaced with more humane, community-based alternatives. Until then, our primary aim is to ease the isolation and anxiety associated with incarceration and indefinite immigration detention by providing solidarity and signposting to services able to offer specialist advice and guidance. Our volunteers also act as unofficial human rights monitors, by providing a bigger-picture view of the reality of immigration detention. This helps to challenge negative rhetoric surrounding immigration and asylum. It also informs and supports national campaigns that promote progressive immigration policy reform.

In April 2021, we were made aware that the Home Office would be opening a Residential Short-Term Holding Facility on the Morton Hall site. Due to be operated by Mitie Care and Custody, Swinderby RSTHF is set to open in June 2022 and will have capacity to hold around 35 people (men and women) for a maximum of 7 days under immigration powers.

In August 2021, Morton Hall IRC closed in preparation to reopen at some point in 2022 as a category C adult prison for "foreign national offenders". Sadly, following months of constructive negotiations, in the last quarter of 2021, the management of what will become HMP Morton expressed reservations about MHVG's suitability to visit a prison environment. While continuing to consult with Morton Hall management and re-establishing access remains a priority, MHVG will focus on preparations for the opening of Swinderby RSTHF, in addition to launching a pilot project with HMP Nottingham, initiated in August 2021.

Despite another year of Covid restrictions preventing access to clients, and the eventual closure of Morton Hall IRC, it is MHVG's intention to build upon the foundations laid in 2021. Our group remains committed to providing friendship and support to people held under immigration powers, as well as to non-British nationals serving custodial sentences, in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

Annual report – achievements & performance

Chair's report

Chair's Report 2021

I begin this report as the Nationality and Borders Bill is being examined line by line by members of the House of Lords. Many agencies, including UNHCR believe that, should the bill be passed by the Commons, most refugees seeking asylum in our country will be penalised even further. The model undermines established international refugee protection rules and practices e.g. 1951 Refugee Convention. The Scotland and Wales governments and The London Assembly have rejected this anti-refugee bill. We will need to increase our activity in campaigning for the rights of those seeking refuge in the UK.

As one of the 17 groups visiting immigration detainees as part of AVID we are aware that the need for support for detainees and prisoners remains high. Our strategic aim is to reduce the human and social cost of immigration detention. As befrienders we share concerns about the use of detention in the UK.

Morton Hall Detention Centre closed last year and the premises will re-open as a prison later in 2022. We have experienced a year without access to detainees because of Covid rules, but a year when Beth, our Acting Co-ordinator, has consolidated our position by focussing on the opportunities when Swinderby Short Term Holding Facility opens. In addition we have been invited to be part of a visiting programme at HMP Nottingham. Despite the lack of visiting opportunities we have kept our visitors up to date with appropriate courses and had a good response to our stall at Nottingham Green Festival in the autumn.

The trustees are very grateful to Beth, Stuart, our volunteer book keeper/administrator, Estelle Fischer our examiner of accounts and CA Plus who deal with salary payments. Together we have a strong team. This year we will be engaging a paid book keeper who will deal with our day to days finances and visitors' expenses so allowing our Treasurer Trustee Elie to focus on fund-raising bids.

I hope you find our Annual Report interesting and urge you to continue to support our group and spread the word to others who may consider visiting or becoming a trustee.

With best wishes

Lynda Wilson
Chair MHVG.

Coordinator's report

With all the Covid-19 disruption of 2020, I had hoped that my report for 2021 would be filled with reference to getting back to doing what we do best: making a positive difference to the lives of people in immigration detention. Unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions dictated that we were never able to recommence visiting at Morton Hall IRC before its closure in August 2021.

Undoubtedly, it has been another challenging year for our group, not least because of the closure of Morton Hall IRC and ongoing Covid-19 restrictions severely limiting our access to clients but also due to the bigger immigration detention picture. 2021 saw the Nationality and Borders Bill pass through the House of Commons, without the adoption of any of the amendments proposed to safeguard human rights. The message being, it is clear that 2022 is likely to bring with it an increasingly hostile environment for people who are non-British nationals.

However, there is also a lot to be positive about as we enter our eleventh year. Far from being disheartened, as a group we are more determined than ever to provide much needed friendship and support to people in immigration detention and the criminal justice systems regionally.

Until its closure, we continued to support people detained at Morton Hall IRC by phone. We have retained some dedicated and truly inspirational volunteers and recruited others. We have campaigned as a part of a wider network on issues such as mass deportations/charter flights and the use of barrack accommodation to house people arriving in the UK in small boats. We have strengthened our board of trustees with new appointments. We have participated in training to upskill ourselves for the future. We have made some positive inroads with Mitie Care & Custody to assure access to people detained at Swindby RSTHF, once it opens in June 2022. We are in the final phase of negotiating a pilot project with HMP Nottingham, where we will support people detained under immigration powers as well as non-British nationals serving custodial sentences. And we have continued to secure funding from generous funders to safeguard the future of the charity and extend our remit to support more people in the immigration detention and criminal justice systems in the region.

As we welcome Camille back after maternity leave, it is my turn to thank the volunteers, trustees and people from within the AVID network, who have helped me in this role over the last 18 months. It has been a privilege to lend my support and help steer MHVG through such an unprecedented phase. I now look forward to returning to my previous volunteer role and getting back to visiting people as soon and as safely as possible.

Beth Godley
Acting project coordinator/director

Responding to change

Ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, along with the IRC's subsequent closure, prevented MHVG accessing people detained at Morton Hall in person in 2021. Maintaining telephone support services remained a priority but, with several changes to the regional immigration detention landscape, including the proposed opening of Swinderby RSTHF and increasing use of prisons to hold people under immigration powers post sentence, the group recognised the importance of planning.

MHVG has continued to respond effectively to an uncertain and changeable climate. The group has explored new ways to support non-British people in the immigration detention and criminal justice systems in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire and is on track to continue providing emotional support and signposting services.

To support our objective of maintaining vital provision, in the last twelve months MHVG has undertaken several actions. These include:

- Continuing to liaise with the management of what will become HMP Morton Hall to negotiate access once the prison opens. Telephone meetings took place monthly during the first half of the year and were initially productive. Conference calls with management were complemented by the 'Visiting in Prisons' working group committee meeting, held via Zoom, chaired by MHVG's coordinator and attended by several volunteers.
- Maintaining provision to people in immigration detention, MHVG was quick to make connections with Mitie Care & Custody, in addition to the Home Office representative overseeing the project, when it was announced that a RSTHF would open at the Morton Hall site. These talks are ongoing and so far, encouraging, with agreements in principle in place and an offer of a tour of the new facility ahead of its opening in June 2022.
- Extending our remit, MHVG worked collaboratively with the charity Detention Action, to pitch our service to HMP Nottingham. The prison is very interested in providing more support to their non-British population and recognises the value MHVG can offer. As such, and after a successful meeting at the prison in December 2021, a pilot project has been agreed and is due to commence in the coming weeks.
- Undertaking recruitment activity to replace lost volunteers and bolster visitor numbers in anticipation of facilities opening/ HMP Nottingham pilot commencing. This has included advertisements across partner organisations' social media pages, within village newsletters and through a presence at Nottingham Green Festival.
- Continuing to attend prison visiting peer support meetings to understand best practice from visitor groups that already visit non-British people in prisons. Close working relationships have been established with Asylum Welcome and the Lewes Organisation in Support of Refugees & Asylum Seekers.
- Maintaining our membership of Clinks, an organisation that promotes and represents the voluntary sector working with people in the criminal justice system and their families

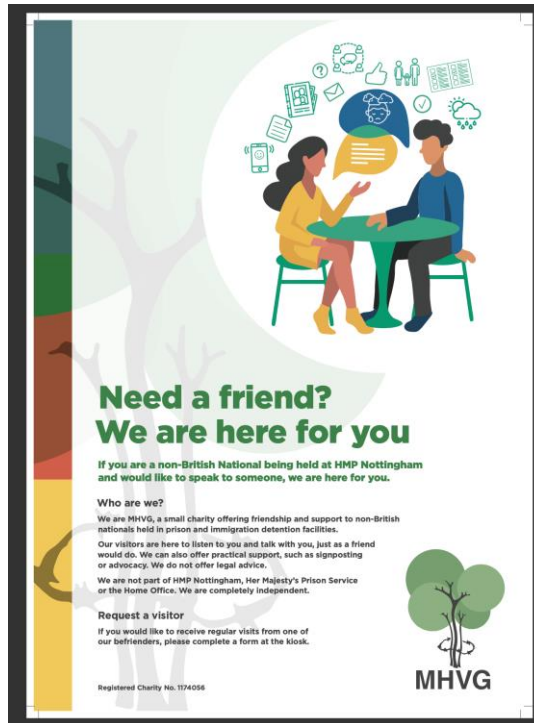


Image 1: Poster for HMP Nottingham pilot, visiting non-British people serving custodial sentences + people held under immigration act powers

Volunteers & visits

Volunteers - visitors, trustees and people who support with essential admin activity - remain the lifeblood of MHVG. While we have understandably lost some volunteers, due to inactivity over the last year, we remain grateful to the volunteers who continue to lend their support to our group and the people we will once again soon be supporting.

In 2021, MHVG had 26 active volunteers registered, an increase from 2020's figure. Likewise, prior to the IRC's closure in August 2021 when in-person visiting was still prohibited, our volunteers placed 135 telephone calls to people in immigration detention at Morton Hall - providing much needed emotional support and signposting in what was an incredibly frantic, distressing, and isolating period.

While we welcomed only one new volunteer during the year, we are hopeful that this figure will increase substantially during the first quarter of 2022, as demand increases and we progress expressions of interest and applications received during 2021 recruitment activity.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Active volunteers over the year	28	32	22	26
New volunteers trained/inducted	16	9	10	1

Non visiting volunteers	3	3	8	6
Client referrals	45	68	16	7
Number of visits	94	110	24 (+62 calls)	135 calls

Training

We have inducted one volunteer during 2021 but, owing to the ever changing landscape and inability to visit, have not delivered any formal training directly to volunteers in 2021.

However, volunteers have attended external training on a range of topics, including a session delivered by charity, Bail for Immigration Detention (BID), on bail and immigration detention in prisons. We have liaised with our colleagues at Larne House visitors' group and have started the process of designing initial training for visitors to Swindery RSTHF. This will be completed and signed off ready to be delivered later this year once we have more information about access requirements and regimes. Research for initial training for visitors set to take part in the HMP Nottingham pilot also took place in the last quarter of 2021 and will be delivered in the first quarter of 2022.

Partnership work and organisational profile

Through attending local events, engaging with the immigration detention NGO community, retention and recruitment of volunteers, and thanks to membership of AVID and Clinks, MHVG has continued to raise the profile of the organisation and its mission.

While this activity has reduced during 2021, in comparison to previous years, due to staff furlough and continued reduced staffing hours to conserve funds while visiting was restricted, some of 2021's highlights include:

- Developed and strengthened MHVG's relationships with other organisations working in the field, with a focus on groups providing support to people in prisons, including Asylum Welcome and Lewes Organisation in Support of Refugees & Asylum Seekers. This included regular meetings over Zoom and sharing of documentation and best practice.
- Continued involvement as members of Detention Forum, a group established to enable a more coordinated approach across a broader spectrum of NGOs working on the theme of detention (not just inside centres).
- Continued membership of Clinks
- Continued to work to develop MHVG's relationship with the management of what will become HMP Morton Hall, with regular telephone and email correspondence taking place between all parties throughout the first three quarters of 2021.
- Worked with Detention Action to raise awareness of MHVG's provision and expertise to HMP Nottingham, which resulted in request to initiate a visiting pilot for non-British nationals held at the prison.

- Joined and participated in the shared campaign movement: together with refugees #whoweare
- Attended Nottingham Green Festival with exhibition stand and group of MHVG volunteers to raise awareness of immigration detention system, speak to the general public and encourage recruitment in the Nottingham area, ahead of the HMP Nottingham pilot launch.

We have a very good relationship with AVID, and we have attended regular AVID coordinators' meetings in 2021. This has been a vital exercise in sharing information re: the rapidly evolving nature of the detention estate, as well as providing an opportunity to share and learn from best practice with other visitors' groups, (15+), across the UK.



Figure 2: MHVG exhibiting at Nottingham Green Festival in September 2021.

Fundraising

Grants received in this financial year comprised £250 from the Bergman Lehane Trust, £5,000 from The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, £3,000 from the WF Southall Trust, and £3,000 from the Allen Lane Foundation. Individual donations comprised £220.

Trustees report for the year ending 31 December 2021

Trustees report for the year ending 31 December 2021

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Lynda Wilson	Chair	Appointed 1 August 2017
Francesca Bargiela	Trustee	Appointed 1 August 2017
Sayeeeka Farnaz	Trustee	Co-opted January 2021 Resigned March 2021
Christopher Leaman	Trustee	Appointed March 2021
Eleanor Hull	Trustee	Co-opted June 2021

Charity number

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number, on the 1 August 2017.

Registered and principal address

The Sycamore Centre
33A Hungerhill Road
Nottingham
NG3 4NB

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on the 1 August 2017

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives

For the public benefit, to relieve the needs of foreign nationals who are, or who have been, detained under UK law at the Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre, or elsewhere, who are suffering financial hardship, distress or are otherwise in need by the provision of financial support, goods, items, advocacy and support, particularly through, but not limited to, the provision of a trained visiting network.

Trustees report (continued) for the year ending 31 December 2021

The charity's main activities

1. The provision of a trained visiting network of volunteers who can offer emotional and practical support to detainees in Morton Hall IRC
2. The education of the public about the plight of immigration detainees, the experiences they may have had historically or whilst detained, and the broader legal situation for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the prevention and relief of need.

Achievements and performance

Please see annual report 2021 achievements and performance section (see contents page).

Financial review

We started the year with £4,417 in the bank. The net payments for the year were £18,033 and net receipts were £21,052. Grants received in this financial year comprised £250 from the Bergman Lehane Trust, £5,000 from The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, £3,000 from the WF Southall Trust, and £3,000 from the Allen Lane Foundation. Individual donations comprised £220, and we were also in receipt of £6,334 from the HMRC Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) for Camille, and a further £3,247 from the HMRC for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (JRS) for Beth. At the end of the financial year our closing balance was £7,435 with a further £111.75 in petty cash.

Given the lack of visiting activity for much of the year, the main item of expenditure was the Project Coordinator's wages. From October onwards we reduced staff hours to one day per week. However, we did organise several successful volunteer recruitment events which, along with a brand-new website, took our spending on publicity to £780. We also returned an unspent portion of the grant that we received in September 2020 from the NET Lincs Covid 19 Fund.

Reserves policy

Last year we adopted a 'reserves policy' which sought to ensure sufficient reserves are maintained to cover the winding up costs should it be desirable or necessary to cease activity. These will be sufficient to cover staff redundancies, rent and utility costs and any professional fees likely to be incurred. The reserves target has been met for this financial year.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynda Wilson', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Date: 14 March 2022

Name: Lynda Wilson
Chair

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of:
Morton Hall Visitors Group Registered Charity number 1174056
The Sycamore Centre, 33A Hungerhill Road, St Anns, Nottingham
NG3 4NB**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Morton Hall Visitors Group, for the year ended 31 December 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').

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible but not required, to be subject to an independent examination, it is my responsibility to examine the accounts 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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
 2. the accounts did not accord with those records; or
 3. 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: Estelle Fisher

Estelle Fisher

Name: Estelle Fisher, Postgraduate Diploma in Audit Management and Consultancy, Institute of Internal Auditors, Advanced Diploma.

Address: 35, Mere Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7LH

Morton Hall Visitors' Group: Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ending December 31 2021

Morton Hall Visitors Group						
Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ending						
December 31 2021						
			2021		2020	
Receipts		£	£	£	£	
	Donations		220		600	
	Grants		11,250		6,450	
	Bergman Lehane Trust	250				
	29th May 1961 CT	5,000				
	WF Southall Trust	3,000				
	Allen Lane Foundation	3,000				
	HMRC		9,582			
	SMP	6,334				
	JRS	3,247				
	Total receipts		21,052		7,050	
	Payments					
	Wages, NI, Pensions & Payroll	16,204		16,410		
	Bank charges	102		60		
	Insurance	339		297		
	Office/Phones/Website	144		405		
	Visitors Travel/Expenses	-		268		
	Staff Travel/Expenses	-		389		
	Membership/Subscriptions	72		72		
	Publicity	780		462		
	Equipment	-		-		
	Events	-		35		
	Misc: NET Grant refund	391		147		
	Total payments		18,033		18,545	
	Surplus		3,019		(11,495)	
	Statement of Assets and Liabilities		2021		2020	
	Cash in bank		7,435		4,417	
	Cash in hand		112		112	
	less Liabilities due in year		-		-	
	Total		7,547		4,529	
	Represented by bank balance b/f		4,417		15,883	
	Cash in hand b/f		112		141	
	Surplus income over expenditure		3,019		(11,495)	
	Total		7,547		4,529	
	Notes to Morton Hall Detainee Visitors Group accounts for the year ended 2021					
	1 Accounting policies					
	Basis of accounting					
	The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis					
	There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.					
	No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.					
	Taxation					
	As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates					

Midlands Migrant Support

England & Wales - Charity number 1174056

Accounts



MHVG

Morton Hall Visitors' Group Annual Report 2020

Registered Charity no: 1174056
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2020

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MHVG is currently funded by:

The Leigh Trust
The Noel Buxton Trust
Marsh Christian Trust
The National Emergencies Trust

Previous funders have included:
The Allen Lane Foundation
The Hilden Charitable Fund
Swan Mountain Trust
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Souter Trust

Morton Hall Visitors' Group Annual Report 2020

Morton Hall Visitors' Group: a brief history

Morton Hall Visitors' Group (MHVG) has provided emotional support and practical help to people detained indefinitely under immigration powers at the remote Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in Lincolnshire, which houses 392 male foreign nationals, for almost a decade.

Since 2011, MHVG has cultivated a group of skilled and dedicated volunteers who have supported hundreds of people in detention at Morton Hall. Many of the people we support are waiting to find out if they will be allowed to stay in Britain or returned to their countries of origin. None of them are being detained as punishment for a crime and all can be held indefinitely.

In the year ending June 2020, 19,128 people entered the UK's detention estate¹, a decrease compared to the year before, due to the onset of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Morton Hall IRC has a very diverse population, which varies frequently. In the most recent inspection in the fourth quarter of 2019, H M Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) reported² that there were 49 different nationalities represented including people from:

- Albania (19.7%)
- Pakistan (7.4%)
- India (8.6%)
- Bangladesh (6.1%)
- China (4.9%)
- Iran (4.5%)
- Iraq (3.7%)
- Poland (4.5%)
- Nigeria (3.5%)
- Vietnam (2.9%)

These figures change week to week. While 67% of the population had been held for under a month, at the time of inspection 37 men had been held for more than two months and six for more than 10 months.

It is our belief that indefinite detention at an IRC almost always has a detrimental impact on a person's mental health and wellbeing and that the experience can be especially traumatising for those who have fled violence and persecution, or for

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

² H M Inspectorate of Prisons "Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre 28 October – 15 November 2019" Appendix III Detainee population profile pp 65-67

people who have been victims of human trafficking. Devastatingly yet unsurprisingly, the same report also highlighted 71% of people detained at Morton Hall felt depressed and 29% felt suicidal.

We believe that immigration detention should end and be replaced with more humane, community-based alternatives. Until then, our primary aim is to ease the isolation and anxiety associated with indefinite immigration detention; provide solidarity and signpost to services able to offer specialist advice and guidance. Our volunteers also act as unofficial human rights monitors, by providing a bigger-picture view of the reality of immigration detention. This helps to challenge negative rhetoric surrounding immigration and asylum. It also informs and supports national campaigns that promote progressive immigration policy reform.

In July 2020, it was announced that Morton Hall will be re-purposed to a category C adult prison for “foreign national offenders” during 2021. Despite this change, it is MHVG’s intention to continue providing friendship and support to people held at Morton Hall.

Annual report – achievements & performance

Chair's report

Last year I began my report by sharing the successes of the group, following the appointment of MHVG’s first member of staff - our project director/co-ordinator, Camille.

While Covid and the pending re-role has made this year a very different one from last, I am pleased to report that Camille, and Beth Godley who is covering Camille’s maternity leave, have continued to drive the group forward. Despite the significant challenges, we maintain a strong, trained group of visitors and supporters. It has again been a joy to witness the increased confidence and number of visitors who are able to support people in detention. In addition, they have led the group in educating a variety of individuals and other groups about the immigration detention system.

Camille has contributed hugely to the efforts of our group to provide joined-up support for those at Morton Hall IRC, by collaborating with The Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID) and many other organisations supporting people in detention and post-detention. Beth has brought a different set of skills and experiences and their combined efforts have ensured that the offer we can make is relevant, timely and appropriate.

Our aim is to work towards making the need for groups such as ours redundant, but even with the pandemic reducing the UK’s detention estate, in the year ending June 2020 19,128 people entered detention in the UK. This number is still far too high.

The trustees are very grateful to Camille, Beth, Stuart, Dave, who is our point of contact, Estelle Fisher, our examiner of accounts, and CA Plus who deal with salary payments. Together we have a strong team.

As I ease out of the role as chair and trustee, I wish our newly invigorated group members my very best wishes for next year.

We support some of the most vulnerable members of society at particularly stressful times and our actions can and do make a huge difference to their lives. To those of you who have volunteered in any way to support the group and/or people in detention this year, the trustees thank you.

Lynda Wilson
Chair

Coordinator's report

The last 12 months has brought significant change and challenge for MHVG.

The onset of the global Covid-19 pandemic in March saw MHVG lose access to the people we support, as the centre closed its doors in a bid to prevent the transmission of the virus. With all visitor groups across the country prevented from entering IRCs, Non-Government Organisations' (NGOs) visibility across the entire detention estate diminished dramatically and along with it referrals.

Suddenly, we found ourselves operating in the dark, unsure of how many people were being detained at Morton Hall, whether their needs were being met or if they had access to the legal advice and healthcare support to which they are entitled. We were reliant on updates from Morton Hall's management and separate NGOs to establish facts and seek out individuals who may have required support from MHVG but were unaware of our services.

In addition to the disruption caused by the pandemic, the announcement in July 2020 of Morton Hall's planned repurposing into a prison for "foreign national offenders", represented a crossroads for our charity. Turn in one direction and celebrate Morton Hall IRC's closure and wind down MHVG having achieved our goal, turn in the other direction and recognise the repurposing as contributing towards a national trend that has seen a marked increase in the use of prison places to detain people under immigration powers, once custodial sentences have been served. We chose the latter.

Whether people are serving sentences or being held under immigration powers, prison is a tough environment. It compounds many of the feelings of isolation, desperation and anxiety people experience in IRCs. The harsher conditions and stark differences in regimes can combine to render people invisible to the outside world - making it difficult to access publicly funded legal advice or communicate with loved ones and heightening the risk of harm, mistreatment and unjust outcomes.

While the last year has been rife with challenges and uncertainty, it has also galvanised our group. The injustices that we have witnessed, and the continuation of a cruel, inhumane and frankly dangerous immigration system has served to fuel our commitment. It has given us a clear mandate to continue and expand our provision

to accommodate people held under immigration powers and non-British nationals serving sentences.

Without judgement or prejudice, we will work to ensure people do not become lost in the prison system, that advocacy for improvement of conditions continues and that people have access to friendship, support, solidarity and services able to champion their human rights and secure just outcomes.

Bethan Godley, acting project co-ordinator, February 2020

Responding to change

Since March 2020, Covid-19 restrictions have prevented us from accessing Morton Hall. In order to respond to this challenge, we have undertaken several actions. These include:

- Liaising with remaining clients about the safety measures in place at Morton Hall, during the early weeks and months of the pandemic. This remote IRC monitoring was part of a nationally coordinated effort and informed sector-wide advocacy activity
- Collating information for the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) relating to access to phones/video contact/ computers needed to facilitate contact with the outside world during the pandemic
- Liaising closely with legal organisations to support access to making a claim for unlawful detention for those being held despite Covid-19
- Undertaking regular contact with Morton Hall's management to establish relevant facts relating to conditions during the pandemic
- Providing training on how to support people over the phone (see training section below) and offering telephone support to people in detention at Morton Hall
- Designing and distributing Covid-19 specific leaflets to people at Morton Hall, informing them of our befriending services and the new option of being contacted by phone by volunteers
- Taking part in weekly Zoom meetings with coordinators of other visitor groups across the country to understand the broader picture and inform our response to Covid-19
- Producing a risk assessment for re-establishing Covid-secure face to face visiting, once restrictions lift

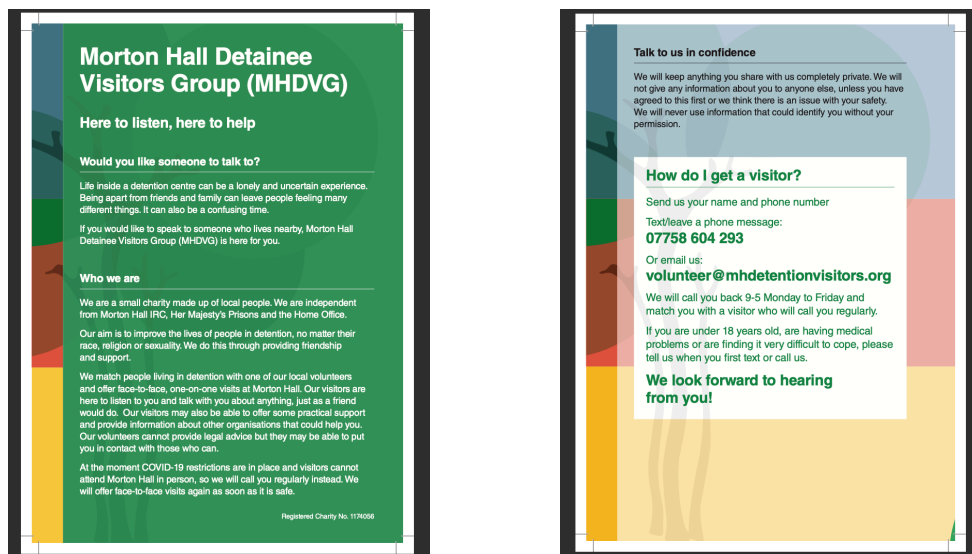


Figure 1: New leaflet redesigned and distributed to people at Morton Hall to promote telephone support offering during Covid-19 lockdown

To respond to Morton Hall’s planned repurposing into a category C adult prison for “foreign national offenders”, we have:

- Released a statement to local and national press, acknowledging the news but highlighting our concern at the increasing use of prisons to hold people under immigration powers, once custodial sentences are complete
- Liaised with management on a monthly basis to enquire about plans and timelines and keep volunteers informed of any progress
- Undertaken extensive research into the requirements, challenges and opportunities of visiting in prisons as opposed to visiting in IRCs. This included consultation with experts in the field, ranging from the deputy director of Detention Action, a specialist immigration law solicitor with Duncan Lewis and two coordinators from other visitor groups (Asylum Welcome & Lewes Organisation in Support of Refugees & Asylum Seekers) that visit people in prisons
- Produced a document outlining key challenges associated with visiting in prisons and potential operational adaptations needed to rise to them successfully
- Drafted a ‘new narrative’ for MHVG, acknowledging the pending re-role of Morton Hall and confirming our intention to continue providing friendship, practical support and signposting to people held under immigration powers and to non-British nationals serving sentences
- Rebranded from MHDVG to MHVG to acknowledge the fact that our client base may expand to include non-British nationals serving sentences, once the transition is complete

- Became a member of Clinks - an organisation that promotes and represents the voluntary sector working with people in the criminal justice system and their families
- Established a 'Visiting in Prisons' working group with volunteers, which is conducted over Zoom with the aim of scrutinising research and developing practicable solutions to the identified challenges in order to promote service continuity
- Recruited and trained 10 new volunteers in anticipation of the rising demand, once Covid-19 restrictions lift and the repurposing is complete

Volunteers & visits

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation and we are especially grateful to our members who have maintained their commitment to the charity and to supporting people in detention at Morton Hall, despite not being able to visit in person.

This year we have been delighted to welcome 10 new volunteer visitors, from both the Nottingham and Lincoln regions.

While we had planned to use funding obtained from the National Emergencies Trust to support a recruitment drive in the last quarter of 2020, we made the decision to postpone this activity until more clarity is available re: a return to face to face visits.

Due to Covid-19, we have been unable to maintain 2019's presence of a visit every 3.3 days. However, before lockdown came into force, we were able to visit Morton Hall on 24 occasions to provide face to face support. Post lockdown, volunteers who received specific telephone support training have also been able to support a number of people detained at Morton Hall by phone, with 62 calls placed.

Having established an active group of volunteers in Lincoln in 2018/9, including monthly supervision, to complement the long-established monthly meeting of volunteers in Nottingham, it has been a strange and testing year not being able to meet in person to share difficult experiences and learn from and support each other.

To prevent disengagement and to keep our much-valued volunteers up to date with activity, in September 2020 we launched our email newsletter. The newsletter is published and circulated every month and provides news about the rapidly shifting immigration detention landscape, details of training opportunities and updates about the repurposing of Morton Hall. While a monthly newsletter does not compare favourably with face-to-face meetings, it has been well received by volunteers and supporters and is something we hope to continue post-Covid.

Our 'Visiting in Prisons' working group is also providing a great opportunity for us to come together and contribute to MHVG, while not being able to visit people in detention. We hope to use this working group as a template to establish other working group off-shoots, with the aim of encouraging greater volunteer involvement with various operational segments, from fundraising to promotion.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Active volunteers over the year	11	28	32	22
New volunteers trained/inducted		16	9	10
Volunteers in Lincoln	0	7	10	11
Active volunteers		18	22	16
Non visiting volunteers	2	3	3	8
Client referrals		45	68	16
Number of visits	62	94	110	24 (+62 calls)

Training

During 2020, despite being unable to meet in person, with the support of AVID, MHVG was able to redesign and deliver online initial training to five new volunteers. Over the course of several weeks, we covered:

- Introduction to immigration detention
- Immigration detention policy and practice
- Access to health and legal services in detention

The remaining new volunteers either received induction/training prior to lockdown measures being introduced or are currently awaiting training.

In collaboration with a variety of organisations, in 2020, new and existing volunteers also attended multiple training sessions, including:

- Two sessions on supporting people by phone
- Trafficking, delivered by an independent solicitor
- Legal aid, delivered by an independent solicitor
- 'Working in Prisons', delivered by Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)
- Time limit amendments to the Immigration Bill webinar
- 'Charter flights, access to legal advice and the Detention Duty Advice (DDA) scheme should work, delivered via AVID
- A session on 'Immigration detention and the risk of transfer to an EU country', delivered via AVID
- Unlearning racism webinar, delivered by the Racial Justice Network
- Supporting LGBTQI+ people in detention delivered by UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG)
- Virtual lunch and learn event with Dr. Teresa Degenhardt, co-ordinator of Larne House Visitors' Group (exploring the impact of Covid-19 on visitors to immigration detention)
- 'Healthcare in Immigration Detention; Training / Q&A for support and visitor groups working with people in detention', delivered by Medical Justice

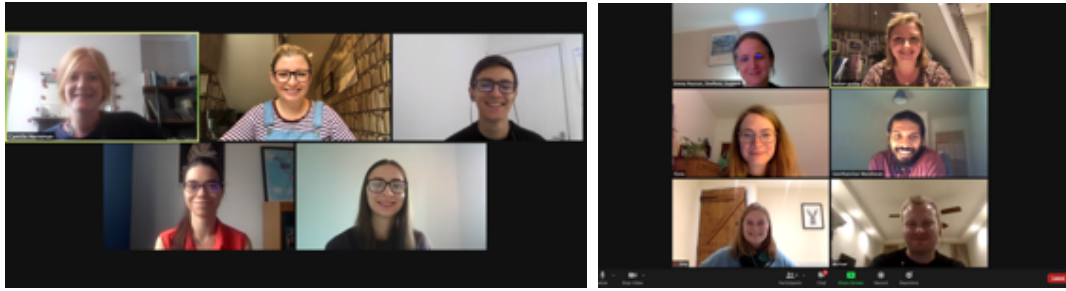


Figure 2: Initial training session for new volunteers, delivered over Zoom in several evening sessions by MHVG and AVID

Partnership work and organisational profile

Through the recruitment of new volunteers, extensive research and engagement with key stakeholders, we have continued to extend our reach. Some of 2020's highlights include:

- Accepted as members of the Detention Forum, a group established to enable a more coordinated approach across a broader spectrum of NGOs working on the theme of detention (not just inside centres)
- Accepted as members of Clinks
- Attended quarterly meetings with Detention Forum
- Developed and strengthened our relationships with other organisations working in the field
- Continued to develop our relationship with the management of Morton Hall IRC and the welfare team, with regular correspondence taking place between all parties
- Worked with a wide range of partner organisations e.g. Detention Action, Medical Justice, other visitors' groups across the UK, UKLGIG, the British Red Cross, and HOST Nottingham, to name a few
- Attended online event: 'Migration and Coronavirus, What Now and Where Next?'
- Met with Music in Detention who also work within Morton Hall
- Took part in online webinar re: strategic communications around immigration detention
- Co-signed several NGO letters to advocate for urgent review/reform of immigration detention, including: an open letter from BID calling for the release of everybody held in prisons under immigration powers, a letter drafted by Liberty addressed to immigration minister, Chris Philip MP, calling for 'no return to normal' following the initial reduction in immigration detention as a result of Covid-19 and a letter from AVID calling for the release of everyone held in barracks accommodation
- Participated in research interview "Visitors' Group Involvement in Inspection Process"

We have a very good relationship with AVID, and we have attended bi-monthly AV-ID co-ordinators' meetings since the onset of the pandemic. This has been a vital exercise in sharing information re: the rapidly evolving nature of the detention estate, as well as providing an opportunity to share and learn from best practice with other visitors' groups, (15+), across the UK.

A new website and social media presence

Although in recent years we've managed well without a website, we believe building a stronger online presence is essential as we adapt to meet evolving demands. As such, we have invested some of our resources during 2020 in developing a new website and joining Twitter (@WeAreMHVG).

Our website will raise awareness of our services to the people being held at Morton Hall and their families; offering a quick and simple way for them to self-refer. It will help us to attract new volunteers, better communicate with existing volunteers through a secure members' area, offer fast access to information for prospective benefactors and provide an additional funding stream for the charity with the inclusion of a 'donate now' button (coming soon).

A new, accessible and regularly updated website will also help us to challenge the stereotypes associated with immigration detention more broadly.

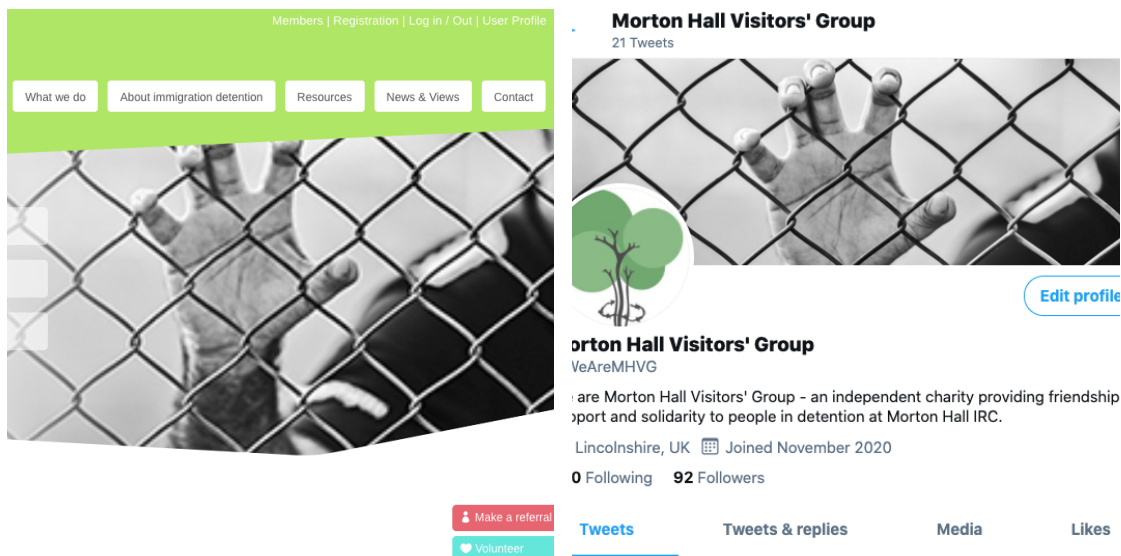


Figure 3: A new website and Twitter presence for a new era of MHVG

Fundraising

Grants received in this financial year comprised £1,500 from The Leigh Trust, £3,000 from The Noel Buxton Trust, £450 from the Marsh Christian Trust, and £1,500 from the National Emergencies Fund Lincolnshire COVID19 for a specific volunteer recruitment project. Donations of £600 were also received.

Trustees report for the year ending 31 December 2020

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Lynda Wilson	Chair	Appointed August 2017
Francesca Bargiela	Trustee	Appointed August 2017
Sayeeka Farnes	Trustee	Co-opted February 2021
Chris Leaman	Trustee	Appointed March 2021

Charity number

Charity number 1174056. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on the 1 August 2017.

Registered and principal address

The Sycamore Centre
33A Hungerhill Road
Nottingham
NG3 4NB

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4J

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on the 1 August 2017 and amended on 18 January 2021.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives

For the public benefit, to relieve the needs of foreign nationals who are, or who have been, detained under UK law at the Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre, or elsewhere, who are suffering financial hardship, distress or are otherwise in need by the provision of financial support, goods, items, advocacy and support, particularly through, but not limited to, the provision of a trained visiting network.

The charity's main activities

1. The provision of a trained visiting network of volunteers who can offer emotional and practical support to detainees in Morton Hall IRC

2. The education of the public about the plight of immigration detainees, the experiences they may have had historically or whilst detained, and the broader legal situation for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the prevention and relief of need.

Achievements and performance

Please see annual report 2020 achievements and performance section (see contents page).

Financial review

We started the year with £15,883 in the bank. The net payments for the year were £18,545 and net receipts were £7,050. Grants received in this financial year comprised £1,500 from The Leigh Trust, £3,000 from The Noel Buxton Trust, £450 from the Marsh Christian Trust, and £1,500 from the National Emergencies Fund Lincolnshire COVID19 for a specific volunteer recruitment project. £600 in individual donations were also received. At the end of the financial year our closing balance was £4,529 with a further £112 in petty cash. We are however still owed 3 months of Statutory Maternity Pay from HMRC to cover Oct-Dec.


The main items of expenditure were the Project Coordinator's wages, which were higher this year due to an additional 2-month crossover period prior to the Project Coordinator taking maternity leave and her maternity cover replacement. However, travel expenses were significantly reduced due to the impact of the pandemic on our ability to visit people in detention at Morton Hall. And although the total expenditure on travel was similar to last year's, this was only because the vast majority of visitors last year did not claim expenses.

Given the current economic climate we recognise that fundraising is going to be even harder in the months and years ahead and have tried to reduce our outgoings as much as possible. We no longer have an office and storage space and our freelance administrator has offered to volunteer his time. We will continue to look for savings where we can.

Reserves policy

Last year we adopted a 'reserves policy', which sought to ensure that winding-up costs are covered should it be desirable or necessary to cease activity. These will be sufficient to cover staff redundancies, rent and utility costs and any professional fees likely to be incurred. The reserves target has been met for this financial year.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed:  Date: 1/03/2021

Name: Lynda Wilson, Chair

Independent Examiner's Report

Morton Hall Visitors' Group Registered Charity number 1174056
The Sycamore Centre, 33A Hungerhill Road, St Anns, Nottingham NG3 4NB

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Morton Hall Visitors' Group, for the year ended 31 December 2020.

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').

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible but not required, to be subject to an independent examination, it is my responsibility to examine the accounts 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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with those records; or
3. 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: Estelle Fisher

Name: Estelle Fisher, Postgraduate Diploma in Audit Management and Consultancy, Institute of Internal Auditors, Advanced Diploma.

Address: 35, Mere Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7LH

Morton Hall Visitors' Group: Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ending December 31 2020

	2020		2019	
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Donations		600		1,370
Grants		6,450		21,900
The Leigh Trust	1,500			
The Noel Buxton Trust	3,000			
NET Lincs Covid 19	1,500			
Marsh Christian Trust	450			
Total receipts	7,050		23,270	
Payments				
Wages, NI, Pensions & Payroll		16,410		12,434
Bank charges		60		60
Insurance		297		265
Office/Phones/Website		405		804
Visitors Travel/Expenses		268		177
Staff Travel/Expenses		389		387
Detainee Phone Cards		-		-
Recruitment		-		-
Membership/Subs		72		60
Publicity		462		362
Equipment		-		-
Events		35		110
Misc Expenses & Training		147		90
Total Payments		18,545		14,749
Surplus		(11,495)		8,521
Statement of Assets and Liabilities		2020		2019
Cash in bank		4,417		15,883
Cash in hand		112		141
Less Liabilities due in year		-		-
Total		4,529		16,024
Represented by bank balance b/f		15,883		7,455
Cash in hand b/f		141		49
Surplus income over expenditure		(11,495)		8,521
Total		4,529		16,024

Notes to Morton Hall Visitors' Group accounts for the year ended 2020

Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

- The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis
- There has been no change to the accounting policy since last year
- No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years

Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.