

Tunbridge Wells Welcomes Refugees (TWWR)

Charity Number: 1175601

{For Charitable Incorporated Organisation}

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Period 6 April 2024 to 5 April 2025

Reference & Administration Details

Charity name: Tunbridge Wells Welcomes Refugees

Other names charity is known by: TWWR

Charity number: 1175601

Charity's operating address: 1 Bishops Down Cottages, Bishops Down Park Rd,
Tunbridge Wells

Postcode: TN4 8XY

Names of the Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

<i>Trustee Name</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Retired</i>
Ellie Batten		30.10.2020	
Hazel Beevers		30.10.2020	
Maureen Utting		12.09.2022	
Kate Hashemi-Ayling	Secretary	12.09.2022	
Martin Brice	Chair	03.08.2018	
Naeema Anjarwalla		11.09.2019	

Names & Addresses of Advisors

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address & Postcode</i>
Bank: CAF Bank	25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ
Bank: Metro Bank	1 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HA

Structure, Governance & Management

Description of the Charity's Trusts

Type of Governing Document: CIO - FOUNDATION REGISTERED 07 NOV 2017

How the Charity is Constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee Selection Methods: Trustees are appointed or reappointed at the meetings of the Trustees as necessary.

Additional Governance Issues

There is a Safeguarding Policy in place and Disclosure and Barring Service checks are carried out at an enhanced level for both vulnerable adults and children for all volunteers and Trustees.

Objectives & Activities

Summary of the Objects of the Charity as set out in its Governing Document

1. For the relief of those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status and their dependents in Tunbridge Wells:
 - a. the relief of poverty or financial hardship;
 - b. the preservation and protection of good mental and physical health;
 - c. the advancement of their education and training so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.
2. To advance the education of the public in general about the rights, needs and issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers.

Summary of the Main Activities Undertaken for the Public Benefit in Relation to the Charity's Objects

One of the main things TWWR does is to provide a small group of volunteers for each family or individual and these volunteers are able to offer support and respond to the needs of the refugees. Volunteers undertake such things as spending time having conversations with the refugees, helping them understand cultural expectations, helping with understanding UK systems, developing English skills, taking them to appointments, taking them out, helping them apply for jobs and anything else the refugees might require. These groups of volunteers are greatly appreciated by the refugees who report feeling less isolated and lonely and that they are made to feel welcome.

The people from Ukraine have been supported in a different way. This is because they have been placed mainly with UK residents who often support the Ukrainians with day to day life. Also, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) organised support from various agencies including TWWR for the Ukrainians. The aim was to ensure support over a wide number of areas and to reduce duplication of support. TWWR was asked to concentrate on providing English lessons for the Ukrainians, supporting some young people in school and providing some entertainment and trips for the families in the school holidays. A working group of volunteers within TWWR organised the

support for the people from Ukraine and raised funds to cover the costs. This included some classes teaching English run by volunteers and also some classes run by self-employed tutors who were paid. Some pupils from Ukraine were also supported in secondary schools by TWWR volunteers and a number of activities were organised for the families. The Ukrainians have settled well into the local community and most of them now have their own accommodation and many of them are working. The Ukrainians have become mainly self-sufficient and for example, no trips in the holidays have been organised by TWWR as the Ukrainians are able to make their own arrangements. Tuition classes in English for the adults continued until the end of June 2024. At this point, the classes were stopped as many of the participants were working. All the participants had at least basic English skills and the majority spoke and understood English at a reasonable level and were able to manage everyday communications. Some volunteers continue to support some young people from Ukraine in their schools.

Volunteers and refugees from all countries are able to request funding from TWWR for such things as clothes, equipment, furniture and activities. The Trustees make the decisions on the allocation of funding according to the need and circumstances of the refugees. The Trustees are aware that various changes of circumstances can cause times of hardship and we have been able to support some of the refugees with much needed funds during these times. Due to the rules governing Universal Credit, some of the new families arriving in Tunbridge Wells this year have received a limited amount of benefit money. TWWR has been able to support these families in a number of ways including financially when necessary.

The weekly Conversation Classes run by TWWR continued to thrive during this year and we continue to be grateful to The Mosaic Centre for the use of their facilities. Tuition in English, Maths and Science for the young people taking GCSEs and A Levels continued. This was partly provided by volunteers and partly through paid tutors. TWWR has supported a young person who has dyslexia through paying for weekly tuition. We have also been able to support some young people financially at college and university.

TWWR has continued to support the refugees to find work when they are able to do this.

All the activities described above helped TWWR to meet its objectives to relieve poverty, to preserve and protect good mental and physical health and to advance the education and training of the refugees.

Additional Details of Objectives & Activities

All the activities we provide are completely dependent on volunteers and we have no paid workers. We are very grateful to the volunteers for all the work they put into supporting the refugees.

Achievements & Performance

Statutory Declaration

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Summary of the Main Achievements of the Charity for the Year

TWWR continues to support any refugees and asylum seekers we are aware of in the borough of Tunbridge Wells who want our input.

TWWR continued to be responsible for providing supplementary English classes for the people from Ukraine. These classes were very successful and all the participants had at least a basic understanding of English and the majority were at a level where they could use English in their daily lives. Their improved English skills meant that many of the participants obtained employment and were no longer able to attend the English classes. It was therefore decided to stop the classes at the end of June 2024. Some of the Ukrainians started to attend the weekly Conversation Group in order to practice and improve their skills. Volunteers continued to support some Ukrainian young people in their schools and this was greatly appreciated by the school staff as well as the young people. This has been a very successful intervention for the Ukrainians.

During the summer and autumn of 2024, several new families moved into the borough of Tunbridge Wells, mostly from Afghanistan. They were made to feel welcome by the volunteers and greatly appreciated all the practical and emotional help given. Some of the new families had their Universal Credit capped because they were not working. They did not work for a variety of reasons including not able to speak English, child care commitments and medical issues. Managing their finances was a huge challenge for these families and TWWR volunteers helped in a variety of ways including introducing them to Community Larders and helping them find the best deals for their utility bills. TWWR also provided some financial support such as helping with the cost of school uniforms and equipment. Volunteers taught the adults English on a regular basis and some of the children received support in school. Some of the families had significant medical issues and were very grateful for the support volunteers gave them in accessing the relevant services and taking them to appointments. All the families commented how much the input of the TWWR volunteers helped them particularly since the organisation commissioned to support them no longer arranges transport.

Supporting the education of the children continued to be a priority for TWWR. It is felt that making good progress in the education system will greatly help with integration into the local community. One young person was identified as having literacy difficulties and TWWR paid for weekly tuition to address these difficulties. This person is making steady progress and is performing better at school. TWWR bought a scanning pen for another young person as recommended by the staff at the special school. This helps the young person access written material which otherwise would not be possible. Where needed, TWWR continued to provide tuition in English, Maths and Science to those pupils taking GCSEs or A Levels. All the parents and pupils reported that they appreciated the tutoring and it helped with the progress made by the pupils. We were really pleased when 6 young people obtained the grades that enabled them to start at university in September 2024. TWWR was able to give these young people and the 2 young people continuing their university courses some monthly financial support. This helped to reduce the anxiety about money and enabled the students to concentrate on their courses. In July 2024 we were very proud when 2 young people obtained their degrees.

Throughout the year, TWWR continued to respond to requests from the refugees for such things as furniture, white goods, clothes and educational equipment. TWWR continues to try and find these items through requests to the volunteers or through charity shops. If this is not possible and Trustees agree, TWWR has bought the goods. Some of the refugees have faced significant changes in their circumstances this year. Luckily, TWWR volunteers have been able to give emotional and practical

support which has been of great benefit and helped reduce anxiety. Because of the significant change in circumstances for these refugees, the Trustees agreed to give some financial support to them such as help with the rent for a limited period of time. The cost of living continues to be a challenge for all the refugees as even those in work are mostly on the minimum wage. All the families have been grateful for the financial help TWWR has been able to give them and it has helped them through these difficult times.

Some funds were also provided for activities such as school clubs, school trips, football and other clubs and gym membership. An outing to experience Christmas lights was organised and was greatly enjoyed by everyone. These activities help the participants become part of the community and help with emotional wellbeing.

We feel these examples show the positive difference TWWR has made to the lives of the refugees who report feeling well supported by TWWR in their ambitions to become useful members of their local community.

Financial Review

Brief Statement of the Charity's Policy on Reserves

On 5th April 2025 TWWR had £27,603 in the bank. Some of these funds are restricted at the request of the donors such as for supporting students at university and supporting newly arrived refugees. The main financial risk to the charity is not receiving grants. We keep enough funds to cover around 3 month's costs and to meet any unforeseen expenditure. We also apply for grants on a regular basis.

Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit

Not applicable.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Further Financial Review Details

We have been successful with our grant applications this year and we are very grateful to Kent Community Foundation who have continued to support us. Gatwick Airport Community Fund, The Round Table and Capital have also generously given us funds.

We have some supporters who donate on a monthly basis for which we are very grateful and we also receive some funding from the Tunbridge Wells Lotto. We have been grateful to receive some generous donations from supporters which included money towards the cost of applying for citizenship and help towards rent arrears.

External scrutiny

The charity's gross income for the year did not exceed £25,000. In accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the trustees are therefore not required to have the accounts independently examined or audited.

Statutory Notes to the Accounts

Particulars of Any Outstanding Guarantee Given by the CIO

N/A

Other Optional Information

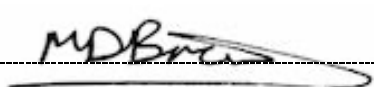
In the coming year, TWWR will continue to support any refugees and asylum seekers in the borough of Tunbridge Wells who want our help. We will provide a warm welcome to any refugees and asylum seekers new to Tunbridge Wells. For the refugees already here, we will continue with the type of support we already give and adapt this in response to requests and feedback from the refugees. TWWR will continue to prioritise the areas of education and employment for all the people we support. We will also endeavour to respond when people are experiencing financial hardship, either through providing funds or finding other support.

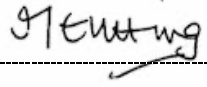
Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s):





Full Name(s): Martin Brice

Maureen Utting

Position(s): Chair

Trustee

Date: 8/12/2025

8/12/2025



Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

Period start date
06/04/2024

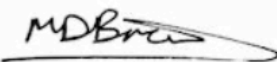
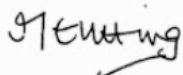
To

Period end date
05/04/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	4,721	18,932	-	23,653	97,908
Events	-	-	-	-	589
Donations - appeals	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Gift aid	-	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	665	-	-	665	417
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	5,386	18,932	-	24,318	98,914
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,386	18,932	-	24,318	98,914
A3 Payments					
Capital	-	2,548	-	2,548	6,254
Bank charges	60	-	-	60	60
Management & administration	19	380	-	399	731
Education support	463	12,100	-	12,563	19,148
English teaching & driving lessons	-	8,606	-	8,606	32,972
Grants to families	620	13,925	-	14,545	11,954
Other expenses	126	717	-	843	9,590
Social activities	-	3,286	-	3,286	1,315
Volunteers	-	-	-	-	49
Sub total	1,288	41,562	-	42,850	82,073
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,288	41,562	-	42,850	82,073
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,098	- 22,630	-	- 18,532	16,841
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	921	45,215	-	46,136	29,295
Cash funds this year end	5,019	22,585	-	27,604	46,136

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	5,020	22,583	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,020	22,583	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities				
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Martin Brice	08/12/2025	
		Maureen Utting	08/12/2025	