

TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

England & Wales · Charity number 1183921

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-06-17

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

Contact

Address Quakers Friends Meeting House
Bath Place
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 4EP

Phone 07876775401

Email chair@tauntonwelcomesrefugees.co.uk

Website www.tauntonwelcomesrefugees.co.uk

Activities

Objects: (A) THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AMONG REFUGEES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS IN TAUNTON, WELLINGTON AND SURROUNDING AREAS, WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION, BY PROVIDING A CIRCLE OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MEET THEIR NEEDS TO ASSIST THEM SETTLE AND INTEGRATE INTO THE AREA AND ADAPT TO THEIR NEW LIFE BECOMING INDEPENDENT SELF-RELIANT MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.(B) TO FURTHER SUCH OTHER PURPOSES AS ARE CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL THINK FIT WITH A VIEW TO RELIEVING THE CHARITABLE NEEDS OF REFUGEES AND SUPPORTING THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THEIR COMMUNITY AND BECOMING INDEPENDENT.

Activities: The Objects of Taunton Welcomes Refugees (TWR) are the promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among refugees and their dependents in Taunton, Wellington and surrounding areas.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£21,457	£36,530	-	-
2024-03-31	£31,496	£31,578	-	-
2023-03-31	£24,638	£22,958	-	-
2022-03-31	£15,095	£12,001	-	-
2021-03-31	£12,571	£1,904	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SIMON FORRESTER	Chair	2019-06-13
Christopher Langton		2025-12-03
Edmund David East		2022-05-01
Esther Penelope Checketts		2020-11-11
Kevin Bunce		2025-05-21
Robin Peeler		2019-06-13

TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1183921

Accounts

TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

Chair's Report to Annual Meeting May 21 2025.

Earlier this year at the end of a coffee and conversation session a young Iranian woman stood and, with tears in her eyes, made a short speech in clear but not perfect English, *"This is my last time here. Tomorrow I am going to Portsmouth. Thank you so much. You have been so kind to me. I don't know what I could have done without you. I will never forget your kindness."*

In a world in which war, famine and desperation continue to force large numbers of people to flee their countries of origin and in a political climate that is often hostile to them, Taunton Welcomes Refugees remains proud of our work to welcome and offer support to people who have arrived here seeking refuge and asylum.

Settled Families

Liaising with the Local Authority we continue to offer befriending support to newly arrived families with settled refugee status now mostly from Afghanistan. We see this as a long term commitment of up to two years to help the family settle and integrate into life in the UK. Currently we are supporting 7 families.

People Seeking Asylum

Our work offering support to people housed by the Home Office in a building formerly used as a hotel continues to develop with a small group of volunteers visiting twice a week. The hotel is still at full capacity with families and single women from many different countries and our volunteers offer friendship, moral support, practical advice and help with understanding documents and procedures. With the Home Office now processing claims faster, a lot of our work is guiding people through, and helping them understand, the difficult process of trying to settle into their new lives. On average 24 people attend each of our sessions though on occasion it has been as many as 60.

In partnership with RAFT (Refugee Aid from Taunton) we also help supply clothing and source other essential items such as mobiles and SIM cards.

We offer similar support to a smaller number of people who are housed in dispersal accommodation in the area.

Coffee and Conversation

Coffee and Conversation, now in its fourth year, continues to go from strength to strength. We hold sessions twice a week at the Quaker Meeting House in Taunton, where we welcome a mix of people from the displaced community. There are Afghan families from the resettlement schemes as well as asylum seekers from a wide range of countries who are in the hotel or in dispersal properties in Taunton and Bridgwater. Families and individuals enjoy the opportunity to engage in one to one conversation with native English speakers at whatever level is appropriate for them and also to mix and socialise. With people from so many diverse backgrounds the opportunity to mix and engage with each other is very rewarding. We

currently have an average of 17 people attending each session (this has on occasion risen to nearly 30) with an equal number of volunteers.

As ever, our incredible volunteers are the backbone of the work we do, and we are extremely lucky to be able to draw on such a range of skills and talents as well as their unbounded kindness and compassion.

We set up Bridgwater C&C in March 2024, in response to a need to support Refugees in Bridgwater who are unable to attend the Taunton C&C.

We approached Diversity Voice who run a Welcome Hub in Bridgwater. They allow us to use their resources for free. The Bridgwater C&C is only small but really appreciated by the small number of Afghan ladies that attend. Two ladies, in particular, now have the confidence to attend College. Initially A translated for B. A now attends College. C has started with us and B now translates for C. This is such a positive and a real pleasure to watch.

The Hub also hosts other organisations such as the Community Employment Hubs, CAB and The Pantry so we can easily signpost to these organisations. More importantly there is a great deal of laughter and smiles!

Minehead Holidays

In the summer of '24 working in partnership with a Minehead group we were able to arrange seaside holidays for four of the families we have supported over the years. The whole family benefits but the children's delight is a joy to behold.

English Language Lessons for Ukrainians.

This project is now nearing the end of its third year. Katya continues to be a fabulous teacher and has run three classes, two in-person at QMH and one online from home. The attendance hasn't been full, as people are more likely to be employed or are visiting Ukraine for extended periods - but nevertheless the social interaction between the two classes at QMH is such that the first class hangs around and the second class arrives early so that they have coffee and chat together. Katya tells me that they all benefit hugely from this time, herself included. The whole project has been funded in full by SCC at no cost to TWR other than organisational time.

Multi Agency work.

TWR is not alone in wanting to give a positive welcome to people seeking refuge. Working with Somerset Council, CHARIS and Raft we have been proud to contribute to a series of events and to the work that recently has led to Taunton achieving City of Sanctuary status. We hope that this status will raise the profile of our work and act as a catalyst for further developments.

Safeguarding

Because we work with vulnerable families and individuals we are determined to ensure that our safeguarding procedures are thorough and effective.

Over the last 12 months we have ensured that our safeguarding and CP policy has been reviewed and updated. A quick point of reference safeguarding flowchart was created and sent to all volunteers and added to our safeguarding policy.

There have been 2 safeguarding concerns raised with the DSL and Deputy DSL. One which resulted in multi-agency working with CSC, police and other professionals.

Safeguarding training for all new volunteers has been delivered either face to face or online by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Along with DBS checks and reference checks. All Trustees have up to date DBS checks.

Outside agencies have been contacted in situations where professional advice was required. Moving forward the safeguarding team will continue to:-

- Look to continue to maintain, review and improve our safeguarding systems.
- Ensure the training of volunteers and trustees remains up to date and relevant.
- Ensure further safeguarding training for trustees

Volunteers

TWR is a volunteer organisation, all our trustees and face to face workers give their time voluntarily. Currently we have 56 active volunteers. As an organisation we are mindful of the enormous value of this contribution and of how it enables us to achieve a great deal with very limited finance. Our volunteers bring a diverse range of remarkable skills and experience underpinned by compassion and a desire to make our community a better place for all of us. We endeavour to ensure that volunteers are well trained and supported through regular volunteers events and opportunities to give feedback and raise issues.

At TWR we cannot thank our volunteers enough, working face to face or behind the scenes as trustees their effort is amazing. We know it is greatly appreciated by the refugee community and we believe that the experience enhances the lives of the volunteers themselves.

“Hello, my dear, thank you for your kindness. After arriving in England, people like you made us endure the distance and the difficulties. Thank you □□□□□” Kurdish woman from Iraq.

Eddie East and Simon Forrester, TWR Co Chairs.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Taunton Welcomes Refugees

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1183921

Set out on pages

1 - 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed:

Date:

20/06/2025

Name:

Christopher Cherry

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

FCCA

Address:

3 Marco Polo House, Cook Way, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6BJ

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

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



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Apr-24

To

31-Mar-25

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					
Individual Donations	1,165	-	-	1,165	2,334
Institutional Donations	2,053	-	-	2,053	790
Grants	-	17,461	-	17,461	27,303
Gift Aid Claim	565	-	-	565	-
Cards & Calendars	213	-	-	213	1,069
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,996	17,461	-	21,457	31,496
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,996	17,461	-	21,457	31,496
A3 Payments					
Co-ordinator	515	12,309	-	12,824	8,966
IT	45	-	-	45	325
Volunteer Meetings	1,124	-	-	1,124	1,489
Management	832	-	-	832	1,074
Other	-	331	-	331	1,010
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	338
Publicity	-	-	-	-	4,745
Conversation Taunton	2,170	6,251	-	8,421	571
Conversation Bridgwater	-	-	-	-	12,192
English for Ukrainians	-	12,609	-	12,609	97
Asylum Support	119	-	-	119	271
Grants to Clients	-	-	-	-	500
Kilve	-	-	-	-	-
Minehead	225	-	-	225	-
Sub total	5,030	31,500	-	36,530	31,578
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,030	31,500	-	36,530	31,578
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,034	- 14,039	-	- 15,073	- 82
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,146	14,935	-	18,081	18,163
Cash funds this year end	2,112	896	-	3,008	18,081

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	Main account	2,102	896	-
	Public account	10	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,112	896	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Projector		152	-
	Dsisplay Boards		144	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Robin Peeler		

TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1183921

Accounts

Taunton Welcomes Refugees

Chair's report to the Annual Meeting 17.4.24

Having rearranged our calendar to align our Annual Meeting with our financial year it is only six months since our last Annual Meeting. The reports presented to that meeting by the officers and portfolio leads remain a valid and up to date account of our activities. This report serves merely as a very brief update on new developments. Full reports will be presented again to our Annual Meeting in April 2025.

The international situation continues to underline the need for organisations offering support to people seeking refuge in this country. There has been no positive news and we now have war and unimaginable suffering in Gaza as well.

We have seen an increase in the number of families from Afghanistan with 4 new referrals to TWR. This has stretched our capacity to offer befriending circles and it has been pleasing to welcome them to Coffee and Conversation as well.

We continue to offer support and language teaching to people seeking asylum including those housed in a local hotel. We have been able to source a significant number of mobile phones from Migrant Help which are always in great demand. We are grateful to Prodigal Bikes who have continued to source and supply bicycles.

We have run two volunteer preparation courses since October welcoming another 6 volunteers to TWR. Our new Volunteer Management Group continues to offer vital support to our current volunteers and we have now completed a complete round of volunteer reviews from which we have gained valuable insights. Our thanks to David Moy for his work on this. We have also held two interesting and enjoyable social/information sharing/learning evenings for volunteers.

Our safeguarding and CP policy has been reviewed and is currently being updated in line with the Wessex Water grant requirements. The DSL and Deputy DSL are fully up to date with their safeguarding training. Future safeguarding training for new volunteers will be delivered either face to face or online by the DSL. At each Board meeting a contextual safeguarding matter is raised for discussion or free training/resources are suggested.

Having been successful in attracting grant aid to improve our administration we have increased our Administrator's hours to two days

per week from last January. Our expectation is that this will enable her to take a more proactive role.

TWR continues to benefit from the hard work and dedication of our Board of Trustees all of whom put in a great deal of time and effort, and of course we couldn't function without our wonderful team of volunteers. Our volunteer reviews have underlined our conviction that the role provides invaluable support for refugees and people seeking asylum and is a positive and life affirming experience for the volunteers themselves.

Eddie East and Simon Forrester

April 2024



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity name
Taunton Welcomes Refugees

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1183921

Set out on pages

1 - 2
(If an answer to indicate the page number is not applicable, please tick the box)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed: 

Date: 15/8/24

Name: Christopher Cherry

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

FCCA

Address:

3 Marco Polo House, Cook Way, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6BJ

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

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



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Apr-23

To

31-Mar-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Individual Donations	2,334	-	-	2,334	1,927
Institutional Donations	790	-	-	790	8,283
Grants	-	27,303	-	27,303	13,147
Gift Aid Claim	-	-	-	-	-
Cards & Calendars	1,069	-	-	1,069	1,281
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,193	27,303	-	31,496	24,638
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,193	27,303	-	31,496	24,638
A3 Payments					
Items for Clients	368	-	-	368	1,016
Admin	2,795	-	-	2,795	1,283
Support Meetings	1,331	-	-	1,331	167
Translation	108	-	-	108	203
Training	733	-	-	733	193
Convesation Taunton	1,803	2,943	-	4,746	4,229
Conversation Bridgwater	571	-	-	571	1,008
Adminsitrator	5,653	3,082	-	8,735	6,583
Ukraine Support	-	-	-	-	896
English for Ukrainians	2,716	9,475	-	12,191	6,876
Enterprise Loan	-	-	-	-	-
Employment Workshop	-	-	-	-	310
W. Somerset Support	-	-	-	-	-
Asylum Support	-	-	-	-	50
Sub total	16,078	15,500	-	31,578	22,814
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	144
Sub total	-	-	-	-	144
Total payments	16,078	15,500	-	31,578	22,958
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 11,885	11,803	-	82	1,680
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,032	3,131	-	18,163	16,483
Cash funds this year end	3,147	14,934	-	18,081	18,163

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	Main account	3,137	14,934	-
	Public account	10	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,147	14,934	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

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

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Projector		152	-
	Dsisplay Boards		144	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Robin Peeler	



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity name
Taunton Welcomes Refugees

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1183921

Set out on pages

1 - 2
(If an answer to indicate the page number is not applicable, please tick the box)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed: 

Date: 15/8/24

Name: Christopher Cherry

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

FCCA

Address:

3 Marco Polo House, Cook Way, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6BJ

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

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



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Apr-23

To

31-Mar-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Individual Donations	2,334	-	-	2,334	1,927
Institutional Donations	790	-	-	790	8,283
Grants	-	27,303	-	27,303	13,147
Gift Aid Claim	-	-	-	-	-
Cards & Calendars	1,069	-	-	1,069	1,281
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,193	27,303	-	31,496	24,638
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,193	27,303	-	31,496	24,638
A3 Payments					
Items for Clients	368	-	-	368	1,016
Admin	2,795	-	-	2,795	1,283
Support Meetings	1,331	-	-	1,331	167
Translation	108	-	-	108	203
Training	733	-	-	733	193
Convesation Taunton	1,803	2,943	-	4,746	4,229
Conversation Bridgwater	571	-	-	571	1,008
Adminsitrator	5,653	3,082	-	8,735	6,583
Ukraine Support	-	-	-	-	896
English for Ukrainians	2,716	9,475	-	12,191	6,876
Enterprise Loan	-	-	-	-	-
Employment Workshop	-	-	-	-	310
W. Somerset Support	-	-	-	-	-
Asylum Support	-	-	-	-	50
Sub total	16,078	15,500	-	31,578	22,814
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	144
Sub total	-	-	-	-	144
Total payments	16,078	15,500	-	31,578	22,958
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 11,885	11,803	-	82	1,680
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,032	3,131	-	18,163	16,483
Cash funds this year end	3,147	14,934	-	18,081	18,163

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	Main account	3,137	14,934	-
	Public account	10	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,147	14,934	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

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

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Projector		152	-
	Dsisplay Boards		144	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Robin Peeler	

TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1183921

Accounts

Co-Chairs Report

2022-23

Over the year our work has expanded to include:

- Working alongside other organisations in supporting the large number of pre-dispersed asylum seekers at J24, including running a session once a week for general support, moving the Bridgwater C&C to North Petherton plus, in the last few weeks, offering English classes on site once a week
- on-line training for individuals appointed to J24 and, more latterly, for anyone working with asylum seekers across Somerset
- more personalised support for the increased number of asylum seekers attending EC&C

We currently have 63 volunteers (48 active, 3 waiting appointment + 12 'on hold') with another 5 waiting for DBS clearance. During the year 20 volunteers have been fully trained or upgraded. We have supported 5 resettled and 3 HfU families, and at least 80 individuals via the C&C sessions. Over 30 Ukrainian students have attended English courses, and an unknown number of asylum seekers have been attended TWR activities at J24. We estimate that our total team of about 75 have had contact with at least 300 people.

Also, in the last year we have:

1. seen the real difference our work makes to peoples' lives; they tell us they are feeling valued and cared for, adults and children are thriving and contributing much to their neighbourhoods and to TWR.
2. continued to offer 'preparation' (not 'training') for volunteers. They are encouraged to pool insights, skills and experience, and this manifests itself in the range of imaginative responses to the needs of those we support (see mini-reports)
3. continued to deliver our brief, which is not only to help people 'integrate', but to help people feel welcome and safe.
4. continued to prioritise those in most need (where we could) and to respond proportionately across the different groups.
5. started to develop a more robust volunteer support system (Volunteer Management Team) appropriate to the numbers we now have.

A more detailed account of our work is contained in the portfolio holders' reports presented to the Annual Meeting (September 23)

Future Strategy

The past year has been one of considerable change for TWR both in terms of the increasing demand on our services and in our organisational structures. A year ago we were in the early stages of adjusting to the needs of people arriving from the Ukraine and had had no warning of the change in government policy that has led to the large numbers of pre dispersed asylum seekers now accommodated in our area. As a Board of Trustees we were adjusting to a new system with two Co Chairs and portfolio holders taking responsibility for specific areas of our work.

We cannot anticipate the world events and government policy changes that will arise in the future though we will of course endeavour to respond to them, and we will be better placed to do this effectively if we take steps to consolidate our current position.

- We must continue to share the workload by further refining and developing our portfolio system.
- We must make more use of the wide ranging skills and experience of our volunteers by increasing the ways in which they can become involved in the management of the organisation.
- We must endeavour to secure core funding to increase the hours that we employ our administrator.

Looking back over the past year TWR has every reason to be pleased with what has been achieved and confident that we will be able to continue to offer valuable support to the refugees and asylum seekers in our area. Our achievements are a testament to the commitment and hard work of all our Board of Trustees who are the driving force behind TWR and to the dedication and flexibility of our pool of volunteers. Our thanks also go to our administrator for her patience and hard work.

Lynne Mayers and Eddie East



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Taunton Welcomes Refugees		
On accounts for the year ended	31 March 2023	Charity no (if any)	1183921
	Set out on pages 1 - 2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 16/05/2023

Name:

Christopher Cherry

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

FCCA

Address:

Brunel House, Cook Way, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6BJ



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Taunton Welcomes Refugees 1183921

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01-Apr-22	To	31-Mar-23
---------------------	-----------	----	-----------

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					
Individual Donations	1,927	-	-	1,927	5,217
Institutional Donations	8,283	-	-	8,283	2,952
Grants	-	13,147	-	13,147	5,000
Gift Aid Claim	-	-	-	-	804
Cards & Calendars	1,281	-	-	1,281	1,122
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,491	13,147	-	24,638	15,095
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,491	13,147	-	24,638	15,095
A3 Payments					
Items for Clients	1,016	-	-	1,016	964
Admin	1,283	-	-	1,283	1,147
Support Meetings	167	-	-	167	238
Translation	203	-	-	203	634
Training	193	-	-	193	467
Convesation Taunton	1,360	2,869	-	4,229	733
Conversation Bridgwater	1,008	-	-	1,008	-
Adminsitrator	6,583	-	-	6,583	5,665
Ukraine Support	896	-	-	896	-
English for Ukrainians	841	6,035	-	6,876	-
Enterprise Loan	-	-	-	-	1,000
Employment Workshop	-	310	-	310	802
W. Somerset Support	-	-	-	-	200
Asylum Support	50	-	-	50	-
Sub total	13,600	9,214	-	22,814	11,850
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Display Boards	144	-	-	144	152
Sub total	144	-	-	144	152
Total payments	13,744	9,214	-	22,958	12,002
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,253	3,933	-	1,680	3,093
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	17,285	802	-	16,483	13,390
Cash funds this year end	15,032	3,131	-	18,163	16,483

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	Main account	15,009	3,131	-
	Public account	23	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,032	3,131	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

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

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Dsisplay Boards		144	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Robin Peeler	

TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1183921

Accounts



TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

Trustees' Annual Report July 2021 to June 2022

Trustee and Staff appointments

Taunton Welcomes Refugees (TWR) welcomed Eddie East as a new Trustee and accepted the resignation of Finbarr O'Mahoney from the board. Caroline Adams relinquished her post as Coordinator and we welcomed Louise Froud as her replacement. Our great thanks go to those leaving us for the work they have put in.

After the end of the reporting period, Simon Forrester stood down from the chair and Ali Bachelor and Lynne Mayers have taken over as joint chairs.

Achievements

It has been a time of unexpected turbulence and TWR has had to react adroitly to maximise the support we can give. In the period 2 Afghan families have been welcomed to the area and support circles have been put in place working closely with the resettlement team at Somerset County Council.

Our planned work in English has taken off. TWR now offers Coffee and Conversation on two days a week in Taunton and more recently a new project offering this once a week in Bridgwater has also started. Alongside this, there are some more formal classes of English where there is specific need. These sessions have been principally aimed at members of the Syrian, Afghan and Asylum Seeker communities. Additionally, as this group has become a community in itself, TWR has been able to offer sessions around IT skills and preparation for employment.

During this time some Asylum Seekers have been relocated to our area and we now support around 10 people in two houses. We will be reviewing how best we can support this group effectively during the next period.

We were all very shocked by the invasion of Ukraine and the sad necessity of relocation of Ukrainians all round Europe. In Somerset, many British families are hosting more than 1,000 evacuees from Ukraine. To assist with this TWR welcomed Sally Hawkes and then Chris Martens as project

managers to deal with this particular area. In partnership with Charis another local charity, TWR hosted on line seminars to help hosts prepare. Each was attended by over 120 people. These have been followed up by various face to face sessions. Much more recently it has become clear that extra provision of English tuition is needed and to help with this, TWR has offered a contract to a Ukrainian English teacher to provide classes from September 2022. A pilot of six successful classes was run in July 2022.

Against this backdrop, the normal work continues and we have been recruiting and training volunteers and Trustees.

Delightful Moments

During the course of the year so many wonderful things happened that it is difficult to pick out only a few. But these strike at the point of writing

- The father of one of our families was able to exhibit his art during the local 10 Parishes Festival. His story was reported locally in the press and he was well visited. He was subsequently asked to design some Christmas cards for TWR which sold out!
- The Chamber Orchestra of the West collaborated with us to put on a workshop for families near Christmas. What a happy occasion!
- The holidays offered to 5 families by the Quakers of Minehead were once again available and greatly appreciated.

The Future

In the next year, TWR will plan a more comprehensive plan for Asylum Seekers where it is expected that numbers will grow. The Bridgwater end of our operation needs to consolidate, and we can hope to have more volunteers there in the next 12 months. It is expected that across Somerset as a whole there will be some more families arriving under the various Afghan and other schemes for vulnerable persons' resettlement. Hopes that some of the Ukrainian guests will be able to go home seem a little optimistic at the moment, and so we are planning for another year that will be unpredictable.

Taunton Welcomes Refugees Treasurer's Report

Year Ending 31st March 2022

	2021 - 2022	2020 - 2021
Opening Balance	£13,389.68	£2,723.04
Income		
Individual Donations	5,217.18	2,421.00
Institutional Donations	2,952.41	100.00
Grants	5,000.00	10,050.00
Gift Aid Claim	803.95	
Christmas Cards	1,122.00	
Total Income	15,095.54	12,571.00
Expenditure		
Grants To Families	963.94	345.69
Admin	1,147.44	1,351.62
Support Meetings	238.00	
Translation	633.61	182.05
Training	618.53	25.00
English Conversation	733.21	
Administrator	5,665.00	
Enterprise Loan	1,000.00	
Workshop	801.93	
W. Somerset Support	200.00	
Total Expenditure	12,001.66	1,904.36
Closing Balance	£16,483.56	£13,389.68

TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1183921

Accounts



TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

Trustees' Annual Report July 2020 to June 2021

Trustee and Staff Appointments

Taunton Welcomes Refugees (TWR) welcomed Finbarr O'Mahoney and Ali Batchelor as Trustees and Caroline Adams as the employed Coordinator.

Following the resignation of Gail Griffiths as Chair in April 2021, Simon Forrester was appointed as Acting Chair.

Achievements

This period was during the Covid pandemic and associated restrictions meant that the normal arrangements for Trustee meetings and events for families could not take place. However, Trustees continued to meet regularly by video conference and befriending circles continued to provide support to families and also started to support a group of young asylum seekers. TWR were successful in their application to the Fairfield Trust for a grant to cover the costs of employing a part time coordinator for one year and appointed to the post in May 2021.

The Trustees, led by Kate Murdoch, started to plan to hold weekly English conversation and coffee sessions for refugee families. These were unable to start until September of 2021 because of Covid restrictions.

Two of the trustees, Lynne Mayers and Juliet Harkness prepared and tutored the three formal training courses for volunteer befrienders in July 2020, November 2020 and May 2021. 15 volunteers attended, 5 of whom have been placed in befriending circles and 2 are helping with English conversation, 4 are waiting to be placed in befriending circles and the remainder are helping with other tasks. TWR now has a professional approach to training volunteers for their respective roles in the organisation.

In addition, induction courses were held for new trustees and refresher courses for other trustees and volunteer befrienders.

The Future

This year has been a time of consolidation in readiness for new resettlement programmes. There will be challenges ahead with

- the introduction of the Afghan resettlement scheme,
- the amalgamation of Somerset County Council with the District Councils to form a Unitary authority
- changes in personnel with a new manager in the Somerset County Council Resettlement team.

Signed

Simon Forrester

Date

10 Jan 2022.

Simon Forrester

Chair

Taunton Welcomes Refugees		
Annual Accounts for Year Ending 31/3/21		
	2020-2021	2019-2020
Initial Balance	#NAME?	£0.00
Income		
Individual Donations	£2,421.00	£268.00
Church Donations	£100.00	£495.00
Grants	£10,050.00	£3,160.00
Total	£12,571.00	£3,923.00
Expenditure		
Grants to Families	£345.69	£107.75
Admin	£1,233.12	£516.55
Translation	£182.05	£257.50
DBS	£118.50	£169.00
Training	£25.00	£150.00
Total	#NAME?	#NAME?
Balance	#NAME?	#NAME?
Restricted Fund Balance	£0.00	£0.84