

# CROESO MENAI

England & Wales · Charity number 1186363

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-11-14

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

## Contact

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**Address** Pont Y Barcud  
Allt Cichle  
Llandegfan  
Menai Bridge  
Gwynedd  
LL59 5TA

**Phone** 07388600528

**Email** [croesomenai@gmail.com](mailto:croesomenai@gmail.com)

**Website** [croesomenai.org.uk](http://croesomenai.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO RELIEVE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, ADVANCE EDUCATION AND PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONGST THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM AND THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS PARTICULARLY BY TO ASSISTING WITH THE RESETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION OF FAMILIES AND BY ANY OTHER MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR DISCRETION SHALL DETERMINE.

**Activities:** THE RELIEF OF THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, OR THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM OR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION BY THE HOME OFFICE AND WHO RESIDE, OR WISH TO RESIDE, IN ANGLESEY OR GWYNEDD

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

## Geography

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- Gwynedd
- Isle Of Anglesey

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£17,698	£12,756	-	-
2024-04-30	£9,462	£13,650	-	-
2023-04-30	£15,975	£19,544	-	-
2022-04-30	£20,238	£9,582	-	-
2021-04-30	£13,047	£16,762	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
FRANCES MARION LLEWELLYN		2024-11-23
Gareth Edward Hughes		2019-05-28
Sara Louise Roberts		2022-05-23
Sonya Anne Woodward		2019-05-28

**CROESO MENAI**

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# Accounts

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## **CROESO MENAI AGM 2025**

### **Trustees' Report for the year 2024-2025**

Croeso Menai is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charities Commission under the number: 1186363. The objectives of Croeso Menai are:

1. to relieve financial hardship, advance education and promote social inclusion amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status particularly by assisting with the resettlement and integration of families and by any other means as the trustees in their discretion shall determine;
2. to preserve and protecting the physical and mental health of those granted refugee status and their dependants
3. to assist those granted refugee status in their search for employment
4. to promote community co-operation between individuals and organisations such as faith-based and voluntary bodies, university, schools and colleges, local authorities and businesses in pursuit of the above objects
5. to promote social cohesion through the education of the public about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum, and about the benefits of refugee community sponsorship for wider community.

The Trustees of Croeso Menai are Sadie Francis, Gareth Hughes, Frances Llewellyn, Sara Roberts and Sonya Woodward. The trustees welcome any further nominations to join them.

The Trustees are satisfied that Croeso Menai under the leadership of its founder and CEO Catherine Griffiths continues to do its work in line with our charitable objectives in a correct and proper fashion. Croeso Menai can look back on another successful year. We will shortly hear reports from the different teams.

After launching a new Community Sponsorship project in the year 2024/5, Croeso Menai looks forward to welcoming another refugee family to our area in the current year. It is expected that the family will be from Afghanistan.

The Trustees would like to thank Catherine for her continued inspiring leadership of Croeso Menai. We also thank all our volunteers in the different teams, as well as our Members and our supporters, for everything they contribute in different ways to our organisation. We are very grateful for the behind-the-scenes work of our Treasurer, Jan Mortimer. Her annual accounts and report will be presented at this AGM. And finally we owe a huge thank-you to our translators and cultural mediators. It would have been very difficult for Croeso Menai to have done its job with our first two families without them.

Gareth Hughes, 01/09/2025

## Croeso Menai Financial Report 2024-2025

The closing balance as of April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 was £10,823.96.

Income and expenditure for each area during the financial year 2024-2025 is as follows:

### CM 1&2

#### Income

	£
Donations	282.44
Refunds	4,167.40
Miscellaneous	<u>255.45</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,705.29</b>

#### Expenditure

Insurance	129.52
DBS	19.20
Zoom	251.81
Home Maintenance	60.00
Interpreting	1,215.00
Child Care	1,014.11
Family Entertainment	500.90
Miscellaneous	<u>4,522.88</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,713.42</b>

Refunds are payments made by the Home Office/ESOL.

Miscellaneous expenditure includes £4,000.00 transferred to CM3.

## **Dyma Ni Befriending**

### **Income**

Donations	1,008.37
Fund Raising	250.00
Grants	5,386.53
Miscellaneous	<u>142.15</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,787.05</b>

### **Expenditure**

Personal Needs	890.02
Drop Ins	320.51
Personal Travel	2,205.44
Mileage	457.30
DBS	4.80
Social Events	356.26
Miscellaneous	<u>399.20</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,633.53</b>

Grants consist of a Community Cohesion Grant from Ynys Mon and Migrants Help Community Hub Fund.

### CM3

#### Income

Donations	1,864.59
Fund Raising	321.30
Membership	20.00
Miscellaneous	<u>4,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,205.89</b>

#### Expenditure

Miscellaneous	409.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>409.48</b>

Miscellaneous income is the transfer from CM 1&2

Total income	£17,698.23
Total expenditure	£12,756.43
Leaving a balance of	£ 4,941.80
Plus, the closing balance as of April 30 <sup>th</sup> 2024 of	£10,823.96
Giving a final balance as of April 30 <sup>th</sup> 2025 of	<u>£ 15,765.76</u>

This figure agrees with the bank statement dated April 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 (attached).

**Report produced by Jan Mortimer, Treasurer Croeso Menai.**

**CROESO MENAI**

England & Wales - Charity number 1186363

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# Accounts

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## **Trustees' Report for the year 2023-24**

The Trustees of Croeso Menai are Elsa Barratt, Sadie Francis, Gareth Hughes, Sara Roberts and Sonya Woodward. The trustees welcome any further nominations to join them. At this meeting, also, Elsa will resign as trustee after being a founder member of Croeso Menai and a trustee since the creation of the charity. The meeting will have a chance to hear from her and to express its thanks for her service when we come to the point on the agenda when we elect our trustees.

The Trustees are satisfied that Croeso Menai under the leadership of Catherine Griffiths continues to do its work in line with our charitable objectives in a correct and proper fashion. Croeso Menai can look back on another successful year. We will shortly hear reports from the different teams.

The past year has seen Croeso Menai moving into new fields with Dyma Ni Befriending, a support network for asylum seekers living in our area while they wait for their cases to be decided. The two families that we welcomed under the Community Sponsorship programme are doing well, and with Dyma Ni Wcrain we continue to support the Ukrainian community in our area. In the last couple of months a new Community Sponsorship project has been launched, this time to welcome a family for resettlement from Afghanistan. Two Afghan volunteers have come forward as team leaders, and Croeso Menai has received an offer of housing for a family.

The trustees would like to thank Catherine for her continued inspiring leadership of Croeso Menai. We also thank all our volunteers in the different teams, as well as our Members and our supporters, for everything they contribute in different ways to our organisation. We are very grateful for the behind-the-scenes work of our Treasurer, Jan Mortimer. We are very lucky to have her. And finally we owe a huge thank-you to our translators and cultural mediators. It would have been very difficult for Croeso Menai to have done its job with our first two families without them.

Gareth Hughes, 20/11/2024

## Treasurer's Report as of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Accounts for the year ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were as follow:

There was a balance of £15,011.37 carried forward from the previous financial year and this, added to the income for the year 23/24 of £9,462.58, gave a total income of £24,473.95. Expenditure of £13,649.99 in 23/24 gave a final closing balance at April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 of £10,823.96.

At the end of the 23/24 financial year the allocation of funds was across three projects - Croeso Menai Sponsorship, Dyma Ni Befriending and Ukraine Fund.

Income and expenditure streams for each category were:

### Croeso Menai Sponsorship

#### Income

Donations	£ 690.86
Grants	£4,356.69
Miscellaneous amounts totalling	<u>£ 342.50</u>
	£5,390.05

#### Expenditure

Interpreting	£2,263.25
Childcare	£4,354.00
Family entertainment	£ 453.90
Utilities	£ 388.26
Miscellaneous amounts totalling	<u>£3,022.08</u>
	£10,481.49

### Dyma Ni Befriending

#### Income

Donations	£ 3,326.53
Fundraising	£ 450.00
Miscellaneous	<u>£ 296.00</u>
	£ 4,072.53

## Expenditure

Personal needs	£ 849.57
Personal travel	£ 206.68
Education	£ 449.28
Mileage	£ 232.70
Drop In refreshments	£ 871.30
Miscellaneous amounts totalling	<u>£ 558.97</u>
	£ 3,168.50

Ukraine Fund - Dormant

Janet Mortimer  
Treasurer Croeso Menai  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

**CROESO MENAI**

England & Wales - Charity number 1186363

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# Accounts

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## **CROESO MENAI 1186363 TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 01.05.2022 – 30.04.2023**

### **Objectives and activities**

The object of the CIO is

1. to relieve financial hardship, advance education and promote social inclusion amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status particularly by assisting with the resettlement and integration of families and by any other means as the trustees in their discretion shall determine;
2. to preserve and protect the physical and mental health of those granted refugee status and their dependants
3. to assist those granted refugee status in their search for employment
4. to promote community co-operation between individuals and organisations such as faith-based and voluntary bodies, university, schools and colleges, local authorities and businesses in pursuit of the above objects
5. to promote social cohesion through the education of the public about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum, and about the benefits of refugee community sponsorship for wider community.

### **Achievements**

#### **Trustees' Report**

In July 2022, the trustees, members and supporters lost one of the founders of Croeso Menai (CM). Tony McNicholl, trustee and Honorary Treasurer of our organisation died on July 22nd. I think that it's fair to say that he's hugely missed by all who knew him. Apart from his involvement with Croeso Menai he was also active in his church in Holyhead, CAFOD, the promotion of Fair Trade on Anglesey, and the North Wales Justice and Peace Campaign – and those were just his voluntary activities. A number of us were able to attend his funeral in August and pass on our condolences to his wife and family.

As his health declined at the beginning of 2022 Tony informed his fellow Trustees that he would have to give up the Treasurership of Croeso Menai. He helped us contact Peter Smith, who already acts as Treasurer to other voluntary organisations. Pete agreed to take on the role as our Honorary Treasurer, but without any other involvement in the activities of Croeso Menai. The trustees thank Pete for his work.

After Tony's death, the remaining Trustees of Croeso Menai are Gareth Hughes, Elsa Barratt and Sonya Woodward. During the year the Trustees co-opted Sara Roberts, who was formally approved at the 21/22 AGM held in February 2023. At the 21/22 AGM, Sadie Frost expressed an interest in becoming a Trustee. Her election can take place at the 22/23 AGM.

The Trustees are satisfied that Croeso Menai under the leadership of Catherine Griffiths continues to do its work in line with our charitable objectives in a correct and proper fashion. We would like to thank Catherine and all our volunteers, as well as our Members and our supporters, for everything they have contributed to the success of the organisation.

Family 1: The first family to be sponsored by Croeso Menai celebrated their first two years in the UK at the end of February 2023. The feedback from both the family and the Home Office appraisal was very positive. The children are well settled in school. The parents have been attending college. It was decided to continue to support the family but in a less formal way for at least another 12 months. The family is now more autonomous and is prepared to ask for advice and assistance only as and when required.

Family 2: Approval from the Home Office for a second family was granted to Croeso Menai in December 2022, and the new family was welcomed by a new CM team on January 25th, 2023. The family is housed in Bangor, and the first months of resettlement have gone well.

Dyma Ni: In response to the arrival of refugees to the UK from Ukraine in the spring of 2022, Croeso Menai entered into a partnership with the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Bangor, working with local and central government as well as Pobl i Bobl (the local refugee support NGO), to set up a social hub in Bangor, Dyma Ni, serving refugees and host families. The hub provided training for volunteers, and the centre opened in May 2022. Dyma Ni has worked with the health authorities, Citizens Advice, the Food Bank, etc. It has provided a place of contact and support, with ESOL, winter clothing donations, job fairs, etc. One year later, in March 2023, the need for Dyma Ni was reducing with user numbers dropping from a monthly peak of 136 to little more than 50. The local government-run residential Welcome Centre closed in March 2023. The future for Dyma Ni was under review. The trustees thank Kay Laurie for her work in coordinating the Dyma Ni team.

Gareth Hughes  
Trustee

## Financial Report

May 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – April 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>£18,579.86</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	£9,962.92	
Refunds	£3,986.01	
Fund Raising	£1,422.94	
Grants	£ 603.36	
Loan Repayment	£0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,975.23</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>		
General	£10,878.20	
Utilities	£ 787.68	
Interpreting	£ 3,150.04	
Child Care	£ 4,236.80	
DBS Checks	£ 491.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£19,543.72</b>	
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>£15,011.37</b>

Peter Smith  
Treasurer, Croeso Menai.

**CROESO MENAI**

England & Wales - Charity number 1186363

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# Accounts

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## **Objectives and activities**

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1. to relieve financial hardship, advance education and promote social inclusion amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status particularly by assisting with the resettlement and integration of families and by any other means as the trustees in their discretion shall determine;
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4. to promote community co-operation between individuals and organisations such as faith-based and voluntary bodies, university, schools and colleges, local authorities and businesses in pursuit of the above objects
5. to promote social cohesion through the education of the public about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum, and about the benefits of refugee community sponsorship for wider community.

## **Achievements**

The end of February 2022 marked the first anniversary of the arrival of the first family sponsored by Croeso Menai under the UK's Community Sponsorship scheme for resettling families with refugee status. A team of Croeso Menai volunteers had successfully supported the family through the first year of their residence in the UK. The review by the Home Office confirmed that the family were happy in their new home and were highly satisfied with the support they had received. The first few months were the most intensive in terms of support. Now that the family is entering their second year, and the two older children are well settled in school, the youngest child in daycare and the parents are completing their first year of college where they are learning English, the Croeso Menai support team has been reduced in size. A weekly review meeting with the family is held, with the support of the Croeso Menai interpreters, although the need for interpretation is reducing as the parents' - in particular, the mother's - communicative competence in English improves. Croeso Menai still helps with arranging appointments, providing help with translation, as well as advising the family on their future in the UK. Under the Community Sponsorship scheme, Croeso Menai is committed to providing support for the first two years of residence in our area.

In the autumn of 2021, the executive chair of Croeso Menai proposed

setting up a new team of volunteers to prepare to welcome a second family to our area. This proposal was accepted by the trustees. A public meeting was held to present our achievements to date and appeal for help in continuing and expanding the work of the Charity. An initial new team of over 20 volunteers was assembled for induction and training for the Community Sponsorship scheme. As before, the work was grouped under three headings: fundraising, housing and preparing the formal application. By the end of April 2022 excellent progress had been made on all three fronts. In particular, the fundraising had exceeded its targets and the team was beginning to consider the possibility of welcoming a third family. It appears that a house has been found for the second family, and the application is making good progress. It is hoped that Croeso Menai will welcome its second family before the end of 2022.

In February 2022 the invasion of Ukraine occurred and a new refugee crisis confronted Croeso Menai. Members of Croeso Menai joined in various local efforts to provide support for the new refugees. After some discussion with our volunteers, the trustees supported a new project to open a community hub to provide a meeting place for refugees and, in the case of the Ukrainians, their host families. The hub would also provide information and contacts with specialists for help with any legal, administrative, financial, educational or other problems or queries that the refugees (and host families) might have. Collaboration with other community organisations culminated in Croeso Menai forming a working partnership with the Society of Friends (Quaker), and the use of their Meeting House in Bangor for the hub to run two afternoons a week. As of the end of April 2022, the hub was due to open in May 2022.

Croeso Menai's community outreach has continued with participation of our volunteers in training and information-sharing sessions organised by Citizens UK (Sponsor Refugees) and other talks given to community groups. We continue to work closely with the local organisation Pobl i Bobl, which supports the wider refugee community as well as projects to support refugees in transit camps, and so on. The Charity's activities and achievements are publicised through a Facebook page, as well as via emails to our list of supporters/members.

*Gareth Hughes, Trustee*

## **Finance**

### **Croeso Menai accounts 1 May 2021 - 30 April 2022**

<b>Opening balance</b>		<b>£7923.88</b>
<b>Income</b>		

Donations	£13959.34	
Refunds	£1512.41	
Fund Raising Events	£1563.67	
Grants	£2239.45	
Loan Repayment	£963.33	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£20238.20</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>		
General expenses	£3520.87	
Utilities	£115.95	
Interpreting	£3584.15	
Child Care	£2253.25	
DBS Checks	£108	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£9582.22</b>	
Income - Expenditure	<b>£10655.98</b>	
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>£18579.86</b>

**CROESO MENAI**

England & Wales - Charity number 1186363

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# Accounts

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## **Objectives and activities**

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5. to promote social cohesion through the education of the public about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum, and about the benefits of refugee community sponsorship for wider community.

Croeso Menai was set up in July 2018 with the aim of welcoming a refugee family to the area under the Community Sponsorship scheme. Fundraising began in the autumn of 2018 and carried on through 2019 with a target of £9,000 as required by the Home Office; finding, securing and equipping a house; and preparing to welcome and take responsibility for the family assigned by the Home Office. During the fundraising and consciousness raising events (including public meetings, concerts and buffet meals) that were held. Croeso Menai engaged with the local community about responses to the global refugee crisis.

The Trustees have all been actively involved in Croeso Menai's activities and have sought to implement the guidance from the Charity Commission.

During 2019 we applied for recognition as a charity and this was granted on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## **Structure**

Croeso Menai has the following structure:

- Four trustees
- A core team of approximately 12 volunteers (including the Trustees). The core team met on a fortnightly basis throughout 2019 and often more frequently in order to complete the application to the Home Office and make the practical arrangements for the resettlement of a family. Sub-groups were set up to deal with the different aspects of the project (such as fund-raising, housing, communications, etc.). Croeso Menai is run entirely by volunteers.
- Croeso Menai has a wider "membership": people who have expressed an interest in supporting the organisation through donations, disseminating information, future volunteering, etc. Regular updates are sent out to the membership by the core team.

## **Achievements**

In 2019 Croeso Menai applied for membership of Citizens UK (Cymru), who then became Croeso Menai's lead sponsor for the Home Office. Through Citizens, Croeso Menai volunteers have participated in national and local events, both to receive training and also to share experience with other community groups. Training and support continued from Citizens Cymru and Sponsor Refugees throughout lockdown.

Croeso Menai won an award for the best new community sponsorship group at the national Sponsor Refugees Community Sponsorship Awards (October 2019).

Croeso Menai volunteers are also involved in support of the local community of families already resettled in the area via the Government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. During the lockdown Croeso Menai provided online conversation classes for Syrian family members.

Croeso Menai succeeded by the end of 2019 in fulfilling the Home Office conditions for the Community Sponsorship scheme. By March 2020 Croeso Menai was ready to welcome the family. The house was ready. A small team of five volunteers were organised to provide the day-to-day support for the family for the initial period after arrival in the UK. The group had all the necessary information about the family. An arrival date was fixed. Everything was ready. At this point, one day before the arrival date, the authorities in Jordan, from where the family was due to fly, closed the airports because of the coronavirus, and the family's resettlement was indefinitely postponed.

Covid-19 stopped the team meeting face to face, instead meetings were held using Zoom. A decision was quickly taken to cancel the house and to move the furniture out and into storage, free of charge in a church hall in Holyhead.

When the Home Office announced that the Sponsorship Scheme was active again and we would be able to welcome the same family as before the group began looking for suitable premises, and a property near a local primary school was found. The landlord's agents were in the process of redecorating and the house would be ready by end of January 2021.

During January and early February 2021 the furniture was moved into the house, and as much as possible done to make the house ready for the family to settle in, knowing that they would have to remain in isolation for 14 days to comply with Covid regulations. This involved our interpreters making short videos in Arabic on how to use the various items of equipment in the house, about recycling, and a short tour of the area the house is in, and provision of a laptop to view the videos and hold Zoom calls with the family. Contact was made with the school and places arranged for the children. Contact was also made with members of the local community who proved to be very welcoming once the family had arrived, which they did in the last week of February.

Once family quarantine was over there was a flurry of activity in setting up doctor and dental arrangements, banking, job centre contact and organising universal credit, and making a start on ESOL lessons. Support of the family is ongoing.

## **Finance**

Croeso Menai exceeded its fundraising target in 2019 of £9,000 by £3600. Depending on how much the organisation would need to spend in supporting its first family, money could be made available for supporting further families or new Community Sponsorship groups. During International Refugee Week in 2020, a virtual public meeting was held to raise awareness of refugees and their needs and to encourage the formation of other community groups in North Wales.

No fundraising activities were held after March 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions but some donations continued to be made by supporters of the group.

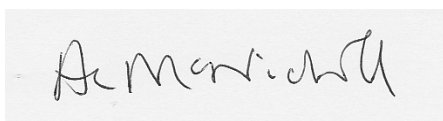
## Croeso Menai accounts 14 Nov 2019 – 30 Apr 2021

<b>Opening balance</b>		<b>£11636</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	5239	
Refunds <sup>(1)</sup>	4078	
Collection for Refugee4refugees	3730	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13047</b>	
		<b>£24683</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
General expenses	884	
Citizens Membership	500	
Rent	4821	
Utilities	567	
Furnishings	1450	
Family costs	3206	
Translating	936	
DBS Checks	127	
Vehicle Hire <sup>(2)</sup>	541	
Donation to Refugee4Refugees	3730	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16762</b>	
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>£7921</b>

Notes.

(1) Refunds are from cancelled housing costs plus Home Office void costs refund when planned family resettlement cancelled due to Covid 19 in 2020.

(2) Vehicle hire covers moving furniture into storage in 2020 after family transfer cancelled, plus moving it out again in 2021 to new house, plus collecting family from Manchester airport.



Treasurer, Croeso Menai.