

**Maun Refuge**  
(Registered charity, number 1195420)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the period ended 30 September 2022**

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**Maun Refuge  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 30 September 2022**

**Full name** Maun Refuge

**Organisation type** Charitable incorporated organisation

**Registered charity number** 1195420

**Principal address** 70 King Edward Avenue, Mansfield, NG18 5AF

**Trustees**

Barbara Nestor, Chair  
Simon Hartley Jones, Secretary  
Robert Hill, Treasurer  
Bernard Ory, Vice-chair  
Clare Heyting

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 6 August 2021.

Trustees are appointed annually by the Board of Maun Refuge members.

Maun Refuge has policies that govern our principles and practices: they include policies on behaviour, equal opportunities, financial control, health and safety, personal boundaries, safeguarding children and adults, reserves, supervision and volunteering.

DBS checks are carried out as required and volunteers have regular supervision and support meetings.

The charity has five trustees who are responsible for its governance and risk management.

The trustees constitute Maun Refuge's main decision-making body, all of whom are also volunteers contributing to the work of the charity. There is one paid staff post (Project Manager) and duties are undertaken by two people as a job-share.

Maun Refuge liaises with the district and county local authorities, local and national service providers, educational and health establishments, community and voluntary services, etc., in order to best serve the interests - personal, educational and social - of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers in Mansfield.

## **Maun Refuge**

### **Objectives and activities**

For the public benefit to relieve the needs of those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status and their dependents living in Mansfield and the surrounding area, in particular: a) to advance their education and training so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community; b) to preserve and protect their physical and mental health; c) to provide facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances; and d) to relieve their financial hardship.

### **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

Maun Refuge supports Syrian refugees who were brought to Mansfield under the government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The charity augments the basic shelter and access to services provided by the local council. We do this by befriending, through cultural orientation, by working to encourage Mansfield people to be welcoming and by promoting community cohesion.

Thirty-seven Syrian refugees live in the town. Some families arrived in December 2015, more came in June 2017 and the most recent arrivals were in October 2018. All our Syrian people were at different stages of shock, relief or adjustment when they first arrived, and many of them continue to have significant worries about family and friends still in Syria or in refugee camps in Lebanon or Jordan. We believe most of our families feel settled, enjoy their freedom, safety and many aspects of life in Mansfield.

Whilst some adult males have full or part-time work and some women volunteer in nearby shops, learning English continues to be a high priority. Adults attend targeted ESOL classes during the week or have classes in the evening at the local FE college and library, with many gaining formal qualifications and progressing. Maun Refuge helps them to access further education courses. In addition, Maun Refuge employs qualified teaching staff to deliver Education classes which include ESOL, conversation classes and more specific skills training (Food Hygiene, car maintenance, fraud awareness etc.). Some of our adults have passed the 'Life in the UK' and the B1 national tests.

The teenage Syrian children attend local schools or college of FE and undertake a range of different studies. The older teenagers applied to university, with Maun Refuge assisting them by organising talks by a University Transition Team, explaining the application process and its deadlines, assisting with UCAS applications and finding accommodation.

Unpaid volunteers (many of whom are former teachers) give extra targeted learning support, help with homework, reading to adults and the younger children of primary school age. Volunteers have also made introductions to local employment agencies, assisted in the search for second-hand cars to increase independence and help the Syrians travel to important appointments.

## **Maun Refuge**

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

### **Summary of the main achievements during the period**

Within this reporting period (February 2022 to September 2022), the charity has contacted (or been contacted by) more Syrian refugee families who arrived in the UK and have settled in the Mansfield area. The charity has also been contacted by Afghan families who are also based in the town. When our resources allow, the charity offers support to these families and includes them in many of the activities we provide.

In total, up to 52 refugees in the area now benefit from the charity's work and support.

Whilst some adult males have full- or part-time work and some women volunteer in nearby shops, learning English continues to be a priority. Adults attend Maun Refuge's targeted ESOL classes during the week or are enrolled onto classes at local FE colleges, the library or online, with many gaining formal qualifications and continuing to show a progression. Maun Refuge helps them to access further education courses and employs qualified teaching staff to deliver Education classes which include ESOL and more specific skills training (Food Hygiene, car maintenance, Fraud Awareness, cake decorating etc). Some of our adults have passed the 'Life in the UK' and the B1 national tests.

Maun Refuge worked closely with South Yorkshire Housing Association to provide employment support to adult males in search of jobs.

The Syrian children attend local schools or colleges of FE, undertaking a range of different studies. Two older teenagers applied to universities in Manchester and Maun Refuge assisted them by organising talks by a University Transition Team, explaining the application process and its deadlines, helping with UCAS applications and finding accommodation. Both learners are now enjoying their courses, the city and taking a full part in university life. Maun Refuge aims to support them into their second year. Meanwhile, the charity is beginning the university application process with the next cohort of learners.

Unpaid volunteers (many of whom are former teachers) give extra targeted learning support, help with homework, reading to adults and the younger children of primary school age. The charity continues to enjoy good relationships with local primary and secondary schools and has attended parents' evenings and meetings in support of our Syrian families.

Volunteers have made introductions to local employment agencies, assisted in the search for second-hand cars to increase independence and help the Syrians travel to important appointments.

## **Maun Refuge**

Maun Refuge supports Syrian refugees who were brought to Mansfield under the government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The charity augments the basic shelter and access to services provided by the local council. We do this by befriending, through cultural orientation, by working to encourage Mansfield people to be welcoming and by promoting community cohesion.

Some Syrian families arrived in Mansfield in December 2015, more families came in June 2017 and the most recent arrivals were in October 2018. All our Syrians were at different stages of shock, relief or adjustment when they first arrived, and many of them continue to have significant worries about family and friends still in Syria or in refugee camps in Lebanon or Jordan. We believe most of our families feel settled, enjoy their freedom, safety and many aspects of life in Mansfield.

We continue to source (or enable access to buy) simple 'necessities' that have not been provided under the SVPRS scheme. For example, second-hand white goods, TVs and laptops, bicycles, small fridge/freezers and sewing machines. We continue to act as a conduit for many other items, furniture, household goods and clothing.

Maun Refuge has helped three Syrian families to apply to the Home Office for full British Citizenship status (which was formally confirmed in 2022). The charity decided to raise the considerable funding needed to support these (and future) applications for British Citizenship and, thanks to significant donations from High Net Worth individuals, it is now possible to focus on the second (of three) cohorts whose opportunity to apply for citizenship arrives in the summer of 2023.

As periods of national lockdown became a thing of the past and social distancing rules were relaxed, face-to-face meetings and teaching became possible one again, and the charity resumed some of its events and social activities. 'Meet and Eat' events were introduced as a way of bringing the Syrian community together with charity volunteers, invited speakers and other guests. This simple format allows time for discussion, demonstrations and the sharing of different foods.

We resumed our efforts to provide orientation, both geographical and cultural, by organising coach trips and social activities (to the theatre, the seaside and to special festive events at local country houses).

Funding from Sport England/Active Partners in Nottingham made it possible to introduce teenage Syrians to different specialist sports (ice skating, clay pigeon shooting, airsoft, go karting etc.) and enabled the Syrian women to learn how to swim under conditions that were acceptable to their Muslim faith (no males in attendance, no CCTV cameras, windows to be blacked out to give total privacy). The Syrians were introduced to a wider group of people, know how to book future sessions (independently of Maun Refuge), had the opportunity to learn new skills and progress in their sporting/recreational endeavours. Several gained their first swimming certificates.

## **Maun Refuge**

As the women progress, they might choose to take advantage of potential funding from British Canoeing to experience paddleboarding first hand.

Following the success of a one-off event, more male-only swimming sessions are being planned, with the intention of inviting participants from a much wider geographical area.

Younger Syrian children experienced ice skating and bushcraft sessions in Sherwood Forest (shelter-building, fire-making, map-reading etc), with one of our teenage boys enrolling on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Having already successfully run her own eight-week online 'Learn Basic Arabic' course for groups of English people, the same Syrian lady has successfully given formal talks and training events about Syria, its history and culture to local Women's Institute groups as well as delivering cookery demonstrations to local crafts groups.

Building on existing interests and skills, two Syrian women staged authentic Syrian pop-up restaurants for 20-40 customers who enjoyed a three-course Syrian meal cooked and served by them. Some events were staged at a local community centre and another was a special night organised by the local college of FE. The women plan to stage more pop-ups as occasional special events and use other venues to host them, possibly incorporating Syrian music as part of future evenings.

As a direct result of these pop-ups, 'customers' have requested that the Syrian women give personal cookery demonstrations in their own kitchens and to some of their friends.

Once again, throughout this period, Maun Refuge trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The charity continues to work hard to maintain its ability to resource extra ESOL classes, to comply with charity law, to manage risk and to keep its policies and procedures under constant review.

Trustees and staff spent much time planning for when the charity's first National Lottery 'Reaching Communities' grant was due to end (August 2022). An 'Intentions and Goals' (2022-27) plan was created and agreed, an appropriate Fundraising Strategy was devised and actioned in February 2022. Applications were made to trusts and foundations for funding to cover Maun Refuge's core activities as well as specific future projects. Happily, the charity received a number of positive responses throughout the latter half of 2022 for finance to support its future aims (see later for details).

Once social distancing was ended, the charity and some of its beneficiaries staged a sponsored event in aid of the national Ukrainian appeal. Funds were raised and shared with the British Red Cross's Ukrainian Appeal.



## **Maun Refuge**

In the future, Maun Refuge hopes to be able to extend its support to include more displaced people who come to live in the Mansfield and North Notts area. With the support and encouragement of the local district council, the charity would like to extend its scope and reach to help other Syrian families as well as Afghan and Ukrainian people who are expected in the town.

Volunteer numbers remain constant, and we have not only recruited a few younger volunteers but also managed to retain some of our existing teenage volunteers.

### What's gone well

The charity continues to enjoy a positive relationship with the Syrian families. They want to learn, improve and contribute to the local community. It is gratifying to note the lasting friendship shown to the Syrians by neighbours, acquaintances and people who are becoming more aware of their presence in the town.

Helping to fund applications for British Citizenship for our first three families was a huge success and has brought added security to their lives. We hope for a similar result when future applications are considered.

We were pleased that two of our sports-based ideas are being supported by Sport England/Active Partners. We hope that it leads to some of our youngsters making new friends, learning new skills and joining local sports teams.

We are delighted that our work with some of the Syrian women has delivered positive reaction from 'customers' to our restaurant and visitors to another stall at the Mansfield Christmas market. Their efforts have generated good copy in the local press and we hope more people / organisations will want to work collaboratively with us in the future.

### Partnerships

We have continued to work with various departments within Mansfield District Council and West Notts College; Tun Tum Housing; St Peter's Community Centre, Feel Good Gardens; Mansfield Citizens Advice; Mansfield Museum, Connect Networks Ltd, Wrights Storage, Redfern Travel, Fulwood Travel and many more.

### Where we have fallen short

We intend to devote more time and effort to raising funds and being able to support the Syrian families' other ambitions.

We would like to stage more community events and introduce the Syrians to more local people.

## Maun Refuge

Further:

1. We have continued to offer a programme of formal ESOL education to more people than ever.
2. We have supported an initial group of three Syrian refugee families to secure British citizenship. Applications for a second group of families are being prepared.
3. Volunteers continue to provide a valuable befriending service for our families. They bring a range of practical experience and useful introductions to untapped sections of the local community.
4. We have begun the process of reigniting some of our earlier social activities which will develop community cohesion.

We have seen positive results from the sporting activities we staged using funding from Sport England/Active Partners.

Our principal source of funding is the National Lottery's 'Reaching Communities' fund.

We have received donations from the Executive Mayor of Mansfield and individual local councillors.

In 2022, further awards were gratefully received from the following charitable organisations:

The Hilden Charitable Fund  
The Thomas Farr Charity  
The Yapp Charitable Trust  
The Jessie Spencer Trust

Our financial return offers further details of spending in pursuit of the aims described above.

### **The charity's policy on reserves**

Over time, we aim to build up reserves totalling £6,000 (as per our Reserves Policy), equivalent to 2-3 months running costs. The reserves will cover the consequences should we need to close the Charity.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed   
Barbara Nestor, Trustee

Date 06/10/2023



**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Maun Refuge  
for the period ended 30 September 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Maun Refuge (the charity) for the period ended 30 September 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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 09/10/2023  
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

**Maun Refuge**  
**Receipts & payments account**  
**for the period ended 30 September 2022**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
Grants & donations	2	6548	41121	47669
Loan repayment		-	333	333
Sales & fees		731	-	731
Opening transfer	3	8638	24401	33039
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>15917</b>	<b>65855</b>	<b>81772</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Citizenship Payment		-	10005	10005
Equipment		-	90	90
Hospitality		-	2027	2027
Insurances		-	118	118
IT & Website		-	212	212
Legal & Professional fees		-	1363	1363
Office Rent		-	487	487
Room hire		-	1330	1330
Telephones & Internet		-	201	201
Purchases		-	862	862
Salaries, NI and Pensions		-	17927	17927
Sessional Workers		-	100	100
Cultural trips		-	1115	1115
Educational Expenses		632	2732	3364
Office/General Administrative Expenditures		-	25	25
Teaching		-	2015	2015
Teens on Trial		-	704	704
Travel		-	1738	1738
Uncategorised Expense		1000	-	1000
Women's Swimming		-	1866	1866
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>1632</b>	<b>44917</b>	<b>46549</b>
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>		14285	20938	35223
Cash funds at start of this period		-	-	-
Transfers between funds		(3769)	3769	-
<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>		<b>10516</b>	<b>24707</b>	<b>35223</b>

**Maun Refuge**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**at 30 September 2022**

		<b>2022</b>
<b>Cash assets</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank accounts		<u>35223</u>
		<u><b>35223</b></u>
 <b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
General equipment		
Two laptops purchased in 2021 at a cost of £1,118		
 <b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	5	<u>(1334)</u>
		<u><b>(1334)</b></u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed R.P. Hill Dated 06/10/2023  
 Robert Hill, Trustee

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**Maun Refuge**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the period ended 30 September 2022**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants & donations**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Reaching Communities	-	23746	23746
Thomas Farr	-	5000	5000
The Yapp	-	2000	2000
Jessie Spencer	-	1000	1000
Sundry grants & donations	6548	9375	15923
	<b>6548</b>	<b>41121</b>	<b>47669</b>

**3. Opening transfer**

The opening transfer is comprised of the funds from Maun Refuge (registered charity number 1171127) that have been donated in their entirety to this organisation at the time of the charity's cessation. Any and all restrictions on those funds have been carried forward into this organisation.

**4. Funds analysis**

	Opening balance	Receipts	(Payments)	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Pop-ups	-	3640	(3118)	-	522
Reaching Communities	-	21469	(25238)	3769	-
Active Notts	-	7305	(4841)	-	2464
Citizenship Fund	-	13508	(10005)	-	3503
Community Champions	-	1933	(1620)	-	313
Education Classes	-	6000	-	-	6000
Welcome to Mansfield Plus	-	10000	-	-	10000
Running Costs	-	2000	(95)	-	1905
	<b>-</b>	<b>65855</b>	<b>(44917)</b>	<b>3769</b>	<b>24707</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General	-	15917	(1632)	(3769)	10516
	<b>-</b>	<b>15917</b>	<b>(1632)</b>	<b>(3769)</b>	<b>10516</b>

## Maun Refuge

The transfer from the General fund to the Reaching Communities fund is to cover the deficit on this activity.

The Pop-ups fund comprises funding towards occasional authentic Syrian pop-up restaurants staged throughout the period at a central Mansfield location which offers a kitchen and adjoining lounge/dining area.

The Reaching Communities fund comprises funding towards our core project working with the Syrian refugee community.

The Active Notts fund comprises funding towards programs designed to introduce our clients to sports activities - particularly refugee women who have cultural barriers to taking part in such activities.

The Citizenship fund comprises funding towards supporting our Syrian families who have held Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) status for twelve months and are eligible to apply for British Citizenship.

The Community Champions fund comprises funding towards specific things which the charity needed for the Syrian families and its own on-going core costs.

The Education Classes fund comprises funding towards classes run by the organisation.

The Welcome to Mansfield Plus fund comprises funding towards supporting certain core activities.

The Running Costs fund comprises funding towards staff fees and running costs.

### 5. Creditors

	£
Independent examination fee	654
Salaries, NI & pension (HMRC)	584
Salaries, NI & pension (NEST)	96
	<u>1334</u>

### 6. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

### 7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in this period.

### 8. Previous period comparison

The previous period's figures have not been included for comparison because this is the charity's first accounting period.

### 9. Glossary of terms

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions.