

Gatwick
Detainees
Welfare
Group

2013

Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England and Wales No. 4911257

Registered Charity No: 1124328

Patrons: Lord Dholakia PC, OBE, DL & Rt. Hon. Baroness Williams of Crosby

Annual Report



Chair's Report

With a Board now consisting of eight trustees, I am pleased that we have developed especially in three key areas this year. Firstly we have a good range of the skills needed. I am particularly grateful here to George Fitzsimons not only for taking on our treasurer role, but also for ensuring all trustees have a clear understanding of our finances. Secondly trustees now have the familiarity with each other, vital both for open discussion, and also for knowing each others' strengths and areas of expertise. Thirdly we have brought in more diversity, both demographic and of life experience, though this is ongoing work. My thanks go to John Coke for guiding us through a number of trustee meetings on future strategy.

I would like too to give warmest thanks to Bob Dare, not seeking reselection as a trustee, for his dedication, his clarity of thought and his deeply held convictions.

I am grateful to Nic Eadie, who heads an excellent team of five staff. In today's climate of ever dwindling legal help for detainees, I commend them for their diligence, humanity and unfailing good humour.

Our volunteer visitors carry out our core work. The relationship between visitor and detainee comes in all forms. At its best it can sustain at a time of absolute despair; it can lead to lasting friendship; it can simply add a human touch, in a bleak unfeeling world.

Again this year we are seeing projects impressively imaginative, but needing a huge level of organisation and practical skill. These include the quilt, with its many contributors; theatre productions with local schools; and our Second Longest Day. I especially thank Anna Pincus and the members of the outreach team for this work.

We of course rely on the help we are given by the staff of Brook and Tinsley House and appreciate their willingness to work with us, and their professionalism often under difficult circumstances.

We are a growing organisation, both in numbers and in reach and remit. With this comes the challenge not to lose sight of our core values. We also need to make sure that the different elements of GDWG know what is going on and feel part of decisions made. This year we have sought to define and list our membership. In this way we hope to give a voice to volunteers, staff, and others who have made exceptional contributions to GDWG. We place great value on our focus groups, both for visitors and for those we visit, and warmly encourage suggestions and new ideas.

I look forward to the coming year and the unstinting work of all involved with the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group.

Anna Seddon
April 2014

Detainees' Words

Some words from current detainees and those released

'My visitor says "I know you feel stressed. You don't need to feel it now. Don't worry"

'It was the best thing...my visitor was older than me she treat me like a son. She talk to me like a son. She take interest in me like my mum who died'

'I lost words for my visitor she give me really love. I was little bit scared to meet her. I'm very happy now with she. I love this community'

'Being in detention I was isolated but with a visitor I was free. I felt free like a priest myself'

'You are in the visiting hall and you see people around and it cannot change inside you but you get a little bit of happiness'

'You think all people are the same thing but when I meet C [visitor] you see some people can care. It helps too much. You become less frustrated'

'He is the person I do trust. He means a lot. He helped me. We talk football in the pause'

Director's Report

2013 was a year when the circumstances for those we work with yet again became more challenging. The job we as visitors, and as an organisation, had to face was to keep up with this new landscape, and to continue to provide a service that was relevant and of value to the greatest number of detainees who sought out our help.

The most obvious and far-reaching development was the implementation of the legal aid cuts in April 2013, which were enshrined in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. This new legislation severely curtailed the rights of migrants to access free legal advice and representation, effectively removing all immigration work from the scope of legal aid, save for direct challenges to detention and claims under the Refugee Convention. While the new rules are complex, and the long-term effects yet to be fully assessed, it was clear throughout the year that many of the people we see, who have spent years living here and commonly have families and children in the UK, were unable to challenge their removal effectively unless they could pay for a lawyer to do so, which can of course be a very expensive matter. The result of this was that we saw many people in detention who were not effectively able to challenge the decisions made against them, some of whom appeared to have strong cases but were unable to secure a legal representative to present them to the Home Office or the courts, thereby compromising their ability to access justice. While we did have some success in challenging the even more draconian proposals to cut Legal Aid later in the year that would effectively have denied almost everyone in detention any free legal advice, we remain concerned over the impact that will undoubtedly unfold over the years to come if changes are not made, which will have an enormous human cost, for negligible financial savings.

Elsewhere in the detention estate, the year tragically saw a further three deaths, including that of an 84 year-old man suffering from Alzheimer's, as well as a fire in Campsfield set by an Afghan detainee who had recently been diagnosed as having a depressive episode. The Home Office also increased the use of bed spaces in prisons to hold foreign national ex-prisoners post-sentence, thereby making it far more difficult for them to access advice and support. Despite all of these difficult circumstances, I am proud that we worked together with many other groups across the country to continue to push for the rights of those held in Brook House, Tinsley House and beyond.

I was sad to see the departure of Louise Peim from the office staff after her maternity leave in 2013, but very happy to be able to make Lauren Cape-Davenhill's position permanent. With the addition of Naomi Blackwell in the summer, I am confident that the team we have and the service they offer those held in Brook House and Tinsley House is the best I could possibly hope for, and I thank them, and Anna Pincus and Sarah Pailthorpe, for the fantastic work they have done all year. I would also like to send my most sincere thanks to all of the trustees for their advice and support over the past twelve months, and finally to all of the GDWG volunteers whose dedication, compassion and patience never fail to inspire me.

Nic Eadie
April 2014

Facts and Figures

In 2013 we were in contact with 1030 detainees in total.

Assistance

Below are some of the measurable ways in which GDWG assisted detainees in 2013. Perhaps the most striking difference between 2013 and the previous year was that the total number of people we visited increased by almost a third, up to 262 from just under 200. We noticed that the length we visited people in general decreased during the year, hence we visited more people overall. This is reflected in the figures on length of detention (see below), and reflects an overall trend that seems to show that people are spending shorter periods in Tinsley House and Brook House.

Number of Detainees Requesting	Total 2012	Total 2013
Agency Liaison	62	94
Clothing	456	418
Drop-in	412	380
Information/signposting around bail	360	325
Phone cards	Approx. 700	731
Removal Money	120 (£2900)	104 (£3060)
Section 4 Assistance	86	83
Transport Money	42 (£1575)	36 (£1286)
Visitor	198	262

Length of Detention

Below is a 'snapshot' of how long each of the detainees we were in touch with on 31st December 2013 had spent in detention. As in previous years, these figures may slightly underestimate the periods of

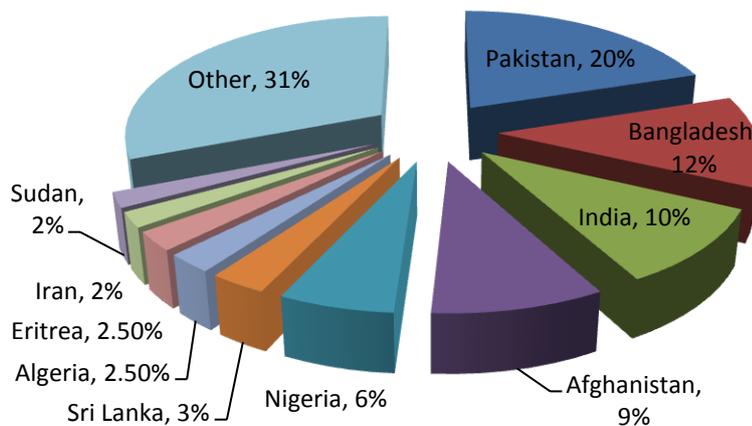
detention, as for many of these people we did not know about periods spent in other detention centres so we took the date they came to the Gatwick IRCs as their start date.

What the figures show is a fairly significant decrease overall in the lengths of time that people spent in detention, reflected in the fact that we were in contact with far fewer people who had been detained for more than six months. Overall on 31st December we were in touch with 218 people, compared with 141 on the same date the year before, but of those only 21, or just under 10%, had been detained for more than six months, compared to 27, or 19%, a year earlier. We believe this is largely down to the fact that the Home Office have been keeping far more ex-prisoners detained in prisons post-sentence rather than transferring them to IRCs, and these people typically spend longer detained than other detainees.

Period of Detention	Number Detainees (2012)			Number Detainees (2013)		
	BH	TH	Total	BH	TH	Total
0-30 days	20	22	42	49	29	78
1-3 months	23	19	42	72	16	88
3-6 months	26	4	30	25	5	31
6-12 months	16	0	16	13	0	13
Over 12 months	11	0	11	8	0	8

Countries of Origin

In 2013, as in 2012, we had more Pakistanis contacting us than any other nationality, followed by Bangladeshis and Afghans. We also continued to see considerable numbers of Iranians, Algerians and Sri Lankans, and saw 18 Syrian nationals, a significant increase on the previous year.



Visiting

Below is a ‘snapshot’ of the people we were visiting on 31st December, 2013. We were visiting a total of 43 detainees on that date. The figures reflect those that we found for total periods in detention, whereby the number of detainees we were visiting who had been detained for over six months reduced significantly, and we had not been visiting anyone for more than a year at that point.

Over and above the 43 volunteers who were visiting on that date, we also had another 36 volunteers who were taking a temporary break from visiting at that point, meaning we had a total volunteer force of 79 people. Of these volunteers, 27 have been visiting with GDWG for over 5 years, including 14 for over 10 years.

Period of Visiting	No. Detainees	Number Detainees
0-30 days	11	15
1-3 months	14	22
3-6 months	7	4
6-12 months	5	2
Over 12 months	5	0

Outreach and work with other organisations

GDWG’s work with other detention-related organisations continued in 2013. We worked very closely with a number of other groups under the auspices of the Detention Forum, with GDWG staff sitting on the Working Groups on Vulnerable People, Judicial Oversight, and toward the end of the year Indefinite Detention. This collaborative work largely involved lobbying on such issues as the Legal Aid cuts, which ultimately resulted in a climb-down by the government over proposals to impose a residency requirement on those in detention which would have effectively removed Legal Aid almost entirely from anyone in detention. We have also been heavily involved in the drafting of a report into the treatment of vulnerable people in detention, which is due to be finalised in the spring of 2014.

We have continued to work with other detention-related groups on an operational level, primarily via the Asylum Rights Campaign (ARC) detention sub-group, as well as our close links with other visitors’ groups and organisations that support detainees on an individual basis. We have forged some very good links with lawyers, to whom we have been able to refer many of those we support.

More locally, the year began with GDWG attending a Mayoral reception thanking local voluntary organisations at The Hawth theatre and a subsequent visit by the new Mayor, Cllr Bob Burgess and the Mayoress, Cllr Brenda Burgess, for lunch with volunteers and a visit to Brook House. The Mayor subsequently sent a letter of thanks, saying ‘the opportunity to talk to one of the detainees and to hear

his story with its daily routine and uncertainty for the future was particularly valuable to the Mayoress and me'. The GDWG outreach committee also hosted lunch, accompanied visits to Brook House and arranged meetings with volunteers and ex-detainees for actress Miriam Margolyes, Bishop Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon, and members of the Bridges Arts Group.

We celebrated Refugee Week in 2013 with a school drama project led by the Bridges Arts Group in Crawley. The highlight of this was a workshop with Hazelwick School students and their parents leading to a production of 'Island' that ran for several performances at Hazelwick secondary school in Three Bridges. Refugee Week in 2013 also marked the launch of a banner project uniting our visitors, local community organisations, school children from Pound Hill Junior School, detainees and ex-detainees in sewing a quilt depicting journeys and the hand of friendship. During the year we were also invited to help regularly in the Tinsley House art class and we thank our volunteers Ann, Maude, Lin and Jane for their involvement in this, and Jasmine the art teacher for welcoming them in the class. Finally, 'Thank you' to Christina Fitzsimons, Mary Barrett, Ann Locke and Jennifer Tindle for their Outreach Committee work on activities in 2013 which has also involved forward planning and work towards 'The Second Longest Day' event in 2014 and the 'Refugee Tales' walk in 2015.

Led by Lauren Cape-Davenhill, and assisted by a number of our volunteers, GDWG delivered a lesson that we had designed and written to 725 school children in 31 separate classes throughout the year. This was a significant increase on the previous year, and forms an important strand of our awareness-raising work that we are continuing to expand. We also spoke to nine other local organisations about our work.

Treasurer's Report

GDWG generated a surplus of income over expenditure of £23,154 in 2013, compared to a deficit of £5,910 in 2012, as a result of higher income and slightly lower costs.

Grant income was £184,725 in 2013 compared to £155,200 in 2012. The increase principally relates to The Big Lottery Fund, which contributed £104,250 in 2013 compared to £65,250 in 2012 (the grant started in the second quarter of 2012) and there was less income from a number of other grant funders in 2013). A greater number of donations were received in 2013 and interest income grew as a result of more active cash management. The 'Longest Day' awareness-raising event of 2012 was not repeated in 2013 and so there was no 'fund-raising' revenue or expenditure.

Direct charitable expenditure increased with the addition of a new member of staff, while premises and office support costs were reduced across a variety of areas.

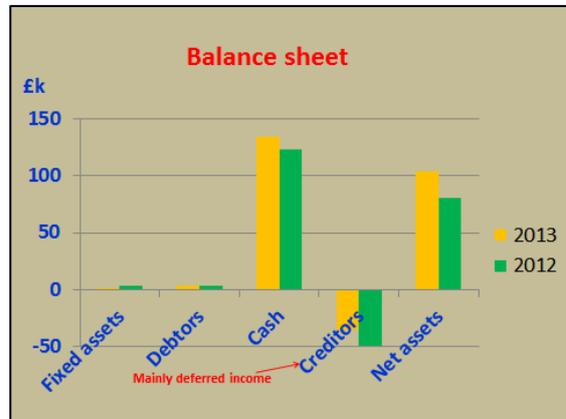
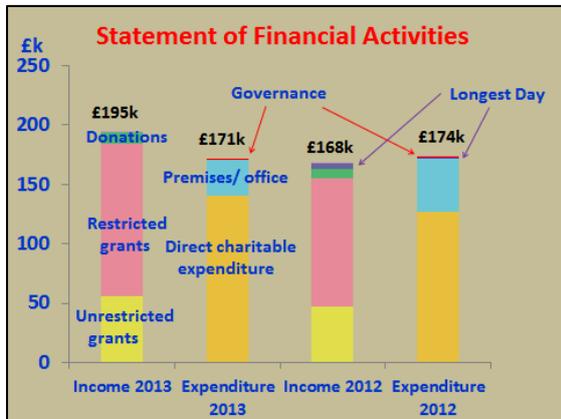
Lottery funding is committed until early 2016, although the annual amount is reducing slightly over 2014 and 2015. Cash at year end was £134,082 compared to £123,134 at the end of 2012 and the Charity's financial position appears sound.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

	Unrestricted 2013 £	Restricted 2013 £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Grants received	55,725	129,000	184,725	155,200
Donations received	9,665	-	9,665	7,809
Fundraising	-	-	-	4,918
Interest received	838	-	838	191
Total incoming resources	66,228	129,000	195,228	168,118
Cost of generating funds:				
Fundraising	-	-	-	1,490
Total cost of generating funds	-	-	-	1,490
Resources expended:				
Direct charitable expenditure	16,007	114,399	130,406	127,433
Premises and office support costs	6,728	33,440	40,168	44,199
Governance costs	1,500	-	1,500	906
Total resources expended	24,235	147,839	172,074	174,028
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources	41,993	(18,839)	23,154	(5,910)
Transfers between funds	(635)	635	-	-
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources after transfers	41,358	(18,204)	23,154	(5,910)
Fund balances at beginning of year	61,349	19,044	80,393	86,303
Fund balances at end of year	102,707	840	103,547	80,393

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

	2013		2012	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:				
Tangible assets		1,348		3,514
Current assets:				
Debtors	3,493		3,515	
Cash at bank and in hand	134,082		123,134	
	<u>137,575</u>		<u>126,649</u>	
Creditors falling due within one year		(35,376)		(49,770)
Net current assets		102,199		76,879
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>103,547</u>		<u>80,393</u>
Income funds:		840		19,044
Restricted funds		<u>102,707</u>		<u>61,349</u>
Fund balances at end of year		<u>103,547</u>		<u>80,393</u>



George Fitzsimons
April 2014

Support

We are grateful for the support of:

Our funders:

Big Lottery Fund
 Crawley Borough Council
 Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund
 The Hillcote Trust
 J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust
 Sussex Community Foundation
 The Longley Trust
 The AB Charitable Trust
 The Allen Lane Foundation
 The Rowan Charitable Trust
 The Tudor Trust
 Wates Foundation

Our patrons:

Rt. Hon. Baroness Williams of Crosby
 Lord Dholakia PC, OBE, DL

Our friends and colleagues:

ABL solicitors
 Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees
 Asylum Aid
 Asylum Welcome
 Bail for Immigration Detainees
 Bhatt Murphy Solicitors
 Bridges Arts Group
 College of Law
 Deighton Pierce Glynn Solicitors
 Detention Action
 Detention Forum
 Duncan Lewis Solicitors
 Freedom From Torture
 Haslar Visitors' Group
 Helen Bamber Foundation
 Howe and Co Solicitors

Immigration Law Practitioners Association
 Kent Refugee Help
 Lawrence Lupin solicitors
 Lewes Group in Support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
 Medical Justice
 National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns
 Project London
 Red Cross International Tracing and Messaging Service
 Refugee Council
 Samphire
 Samaritans (Reigate branch)
 Wilson and Co solicitors
 UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group
 Yarls Wood Befrienders
 Zimbabwe Association

Our thanks to:

Crawley Community and Voluntary Service
 Henry Smith MP
 Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons, Nick Hardwick

G4S and UKBA staff and management at Brook House and Tinsley House IRCs for their assistance and cooperation

Churches, individuals and organisations who have donated money, clothing and other items to us

Our wonderful volunteers, who do such great work with those we work with in detention

And the many others who have helped us in the past