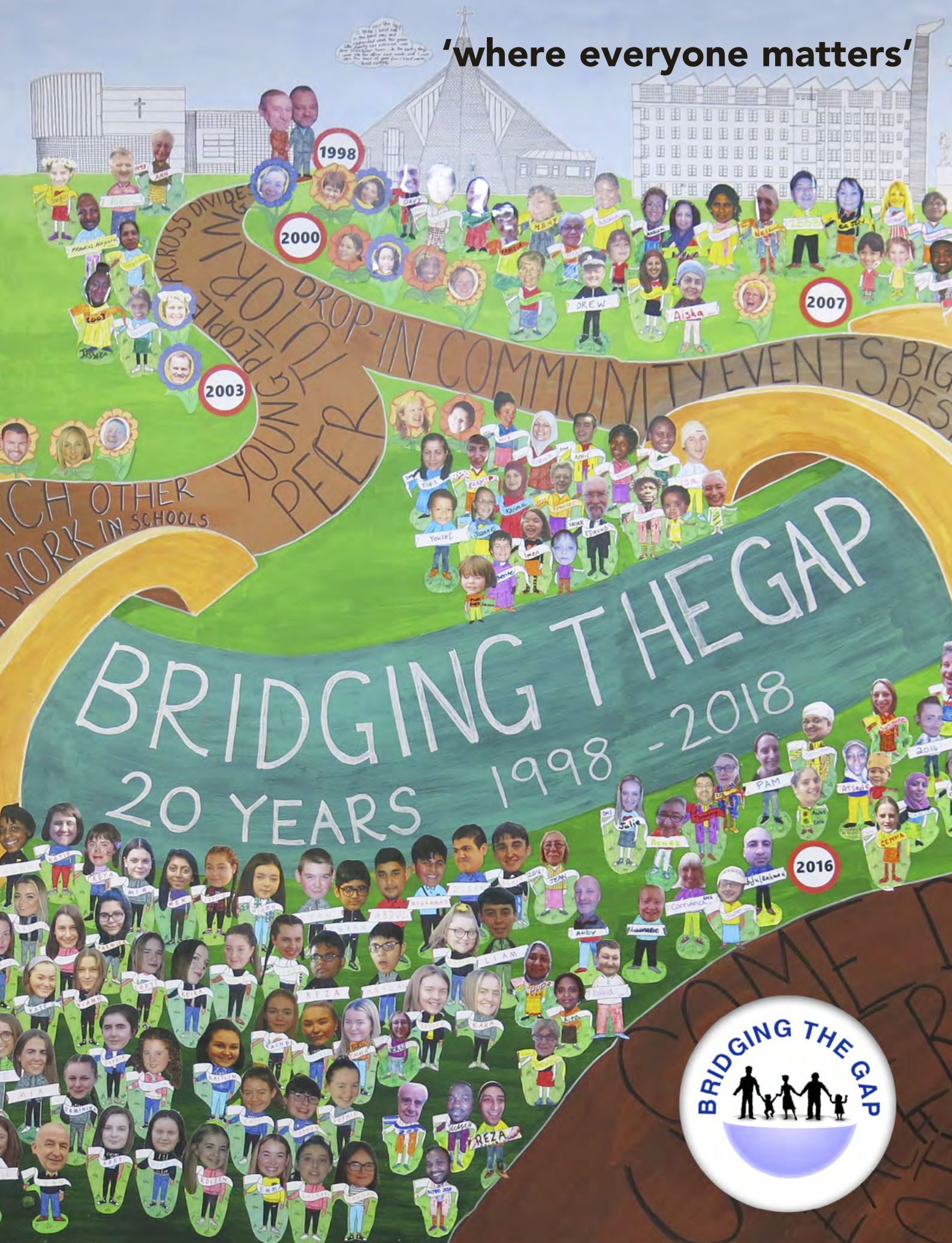


'where everyone matters'



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019





# where everyone matters

## Mission Statement

Bridging the Gap is a local community project serving the Gorbals area.

We were established in 1998 to enable the local churches (Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic) to work together to meet local needs.

We aim to work across divides which are apparent in the community, providing opportunities for people to discover 'common ground'.



## Purpose Statement

The Purpose of Bridging the Gap, which is rooted in the Gorbals is:

To build positive relationships across the divides, with particular reference to: integration of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community, and the transition from primary to secondary schools.

To value the humanity and nurture the potential of every individual, and where appropriate, provide practical support.

To celebrate the good in our community, by providing the opportunity for people of diverse backgrounds to discover their common ground, overcoming racism, sectarianism, territorialism and isolation.

## Contents

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# Chairperson's Remarks

## Welcome to the Annual Report of Bridging the Gap



Ian Galloway

**Chairperson of the Board of Trustees**

**This year saw us pass the twenty-year landmark and the Board continues to be hugely appreciative of all those – staff, volunteers, participants, partners, funders, supporters, community – whose steadfast work and enthusiasm have collectively enabled this to be possible.** The people we engage with have consistently inspired and shaped our work, and we continue to involve them in the formation and delivery of all of our different programme strands.

For example, in our schools' programmes, S5 and S6 young people assumed leadership roles and their input enabled sessions to be further developed to be even more interactive and interesting. The Awards Ceremony, hosted at Hampden Park, was again attended by hundreds of participants and their families, and gave the chance for P7 and S4 students to share how being involved has made a positive difference in their lives.

Our families' work has seen a marked success in increased self-organisation being taken forward by participants beyond the boundaries of Bridging the Gap activities, with trips to parks and events helping young children who first met at the Baby and Toddlers group to form firm friendships long before they start school. Several parents have also continued to support the running of this invaluable and supportive group after their own children have outgrown it.

The weekly Big Thursday drop-in continues to be the mainstay of our community-led work, with food initiatives, including the drop-in lunch, Come Dine With Us monthly meal, and the High Rise Bakers, all

providing opportunities for people to come together and build trust, awareness and friendships across cultural and generational divides. Our coordination of the Gorbals Third Sector Forum is ongoing, and we collaborate with other local organisations to provide support to the wider community.

The pinnacle of our vicennial celebrations was an all-age carnival day, where those currently and previously involved gathered together to join in with the joyous festivities. This event also produced a collaborative and portable mural, depicting Bridging the Gap's evolution and expansion since 1998 and featuring photos of the great many people who have been involved across the years, which now serves as a constant visual reminder.



This has all been achieved in an increasingly challenging funding environment, with uncertainty and pressure in attempting to secure the necessary finances growing year-on-year across the third sector. Without the expertise and commitment of our wonderful staff, the dedication and energy of a vast team of incredible volunteers (the Board included), and the backing of a wide range of funding bodies and operational partners, none of this would have been possible and we express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of those involved.

The Board strongly feels that the achievements of the last twenty years have been extremely worthwhile and hopes that Bridging the Gap will be able to continue to serve the needs of the always changing but forever vibrant Gorbals community for decades more to come.

# Director's Report



Tricia McConologue MBE  
Director

## Welcome to Bridging the Gap's Annual Report for the financial year 2018-2019

Over the last 20 years, our priorities remained firmly committed to ensuring that people are at the 'heart' of our work, seeing the 'Human' first and providing a nurturing environment, where everyone can be themselves and can be the best they can.

None of our achievements or rising challenges presented over the last 2 decades could be achieved without the efforts, enthusiasm and commitment of our Board of Directors, staff and volunteers. They work extremely hard for the people we serve, doing so with care and compassion.

We have just passed a significant 20 years' milestone in Bridging the Gap's journey, which began in 1998 with a conversation between the parish priest and minister from the local Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland. To mark this momentous occasion, we held a celebration in Gorbals Parish Church with people and groups we have worked with over the 20 years coming to mark its achievements and celebrate the many connections it has generated. It has been amazing to reflect on all of the different projects, staff, volunteers and members who made up this 20 year journey. It was wonderful to see friends meet up who have kept their friendships going even though they are now living in different parts of the UK. One Iranian woman came up from England and met up with her Scottish friend that she has kept in touch with since meeting her at BtG over 10 years ago. On the schools side, 2 young men, now in their early 20's who were in different classes in secondary school and who didn't like each other remembered how they became best friends through the schools transition programme. The gaps that are bridged, near and far are what BtG is all about. By building trust, understanding and kindness between people together, irrespective of social backgrounds, experiences, cultures or religions we build community. By listening to the people we serve, we know that they take their experience at BtG wherever they go and spread the understanding and love.



I like to take this opportunity to thank our funders and the friends of Bridging the Gap who have donated generously over the 20 years.

Finally, Mary Miller, previously Director of the Jeely Piece Club and author of the book 'A life of Courage', is in the process of writing a book about the life of Bridging the Gap. Many adults and young people have spoken to Mary, telling their story in their own words about their time at Bridging the Gap. The book will be published soon..... watch this space.

I trust you will find this annual report interesting and informative and I hope you will join me in looking forward to another successful year.



# Developing Young People

## Transition Programme

A unique peer led programme, that allows young people in S4 to be positive role models and mentors to vulnerable P7's making the difficult transition from Primary to Secondary school.



*"My time spent with the P7's over the past months has paid off as I am now a friendly face to them in a school of strangers."*

The programme is divided into 4 areas:

**MY GLASGOW**

working to tackle sectarianism

**MY COMMUNITY**

exploring issues within, and creating positive members of their communities

**MY SCHOOL**

exploring and conquering fears about secondary school

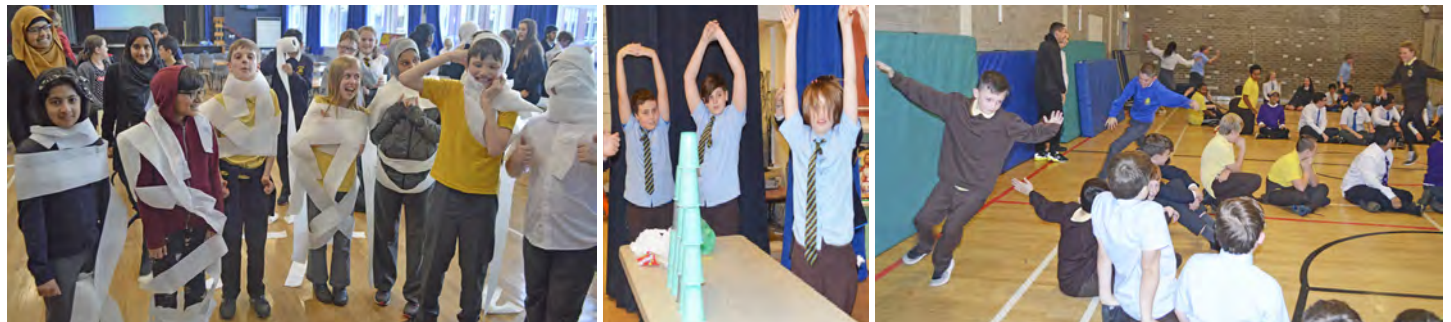
**MY SELF**

team building and self-development workshops



**2** SECONDARY SCHOOLS hosted & participated

**14** PRIMARY SCHOOLS participated



All P7 and S4 pupils who took part in this years transition programme gathered to celebrate their hard work and achievements at our annual awards ceremony – held at Hampden Park. The evening was attended by over 600 people, which included family, friends and teachers, who heard the stories from a number of young people about their experience of Bridging the Gap.



**137** P7 PUPILS completed the programme

**116** S4 PUPILS completed the programme



**600+** PEOPLE attended the awards ceremony

## Volunteers

Every year we continue to encourage the growth and development of our young people. Many of those who take part in the programme in S4, S5 and S6 are encouraged to come back and volunteer as young adults. In doing so, they continue to support the primary pupils with their transition and the secondary school pupils in their role as a peer mentor. In addition to this, the young adult volunteers support staff with the planning and delivery of the transition programme along with some of the other focus groups mentioned below. This year we had a group of 28 committed young adults who volunteered their time to Bridging the Gap, as well as undergoing further studies in college and university and/or working in paying jobs. As always, we organised a development day for the group which involved workshops around youth work training and child protection training – 18 volunteers attended this. At this year's development day, we also had staff from Youth Scotland involved, who facilitated team building activities for the group.



**28** YOUNG ADULTS  
volunteered

*"Bridging the Gap for me was an amazing chance to volunteer and find out what skills I had that could be of use to help the kids coming up to secondary, it was an opportunity for me to give back to my community as well as to develop myself. As a senior, it is a brilliant programme to offer new experiences to yourself and others."*



## Other Projects

As well as our core activities, we offered buddy training to S6 pupils who would be mentoring new S1 pupils in Shawlands Academy. We also delivered enhanced transition support through a range of classes for S1 pupils who Shawlands Academy who begin their move to secondary school before the summer holidays.

## S5/S6 Development

Every year we work with a group of S5/S6 years who have been through the programme as S4 pupils, and want to continue their commitment to Bridging the Gap. In July, we held a development day in Torglen Community Hall which was attended by 19 young people. The young people contributed to future programme content by evaluating the programme that they had participated in. They took part in teambuilding games and explored the importance of the role they would take on as S5/S6 young people. We ended the day as always with a BtG BBQ in the sun!

## S1 Mentoring

Our work supporting S1 pupils through a one-to-one mentoring programme has continued to strengthen. Staff support young people who have been referred to Bridging the Gap, at weekly sessions in Shawlands Academy. Young people work through a variety of exercises with staff to help build self-esteem and confidence. The sessions also gave the young people the opportunity to discuss issues that may have been affecting them, and to look at ways of resolving these. Staff were able to monitor the young people's progress through their 1st year in secondary school, and liaise with teachers based on this progress.



**19** YOUNG PEOPLE  
participated in training



## Tackling Sectarianism

Throughout the transition programme, P7 & S4 pupils participated in issue based sessions, which allowed the young people to explore the root causes and solutions to sectarianism, and how it affects their lives in Glasgow. These workshops gave the young people involved an opportunity to discuss the issue, as well as a platform to celebrate, not only their own, but also the different cultures of their peers.

This year, our work tackling sectarianism was expanded out across the city. As well as the issue based sessions within Holyrood Secondary and Shawlands Academy, we also brought together St Roch's Secondary/Whitehill Secondary, and Airdrie Academy/St Margaret's Secondary. These 4 schools took part in 3 preparation workshops together to learn about the causes and solutions of sectarianism, preparing them for a trip to Corrymeela. After these, we held a cross community team building development day for all 6 schools. 61 young people attended this and were given the opportunity to build relationships and learn more about one another. Following on from these – 83 young people from 6 schools across 2 residential trips visited the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland. Through the 3 day residential, the young people took part in various group work sessions which offered them the chance to look at issues that have shaped who they are, such as personal identity, culture and beliefs.



**83** YOUNG PEOPLE  
went to Corrymeela



**61** YOUNG PEOPLE  
completed cross community  
team building day

**4** NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
took part in cross community/issue  
based sessions

**8** SESSIONS  
cross community and team building

*"This opportunity gave us a first-hand experience of the sectarianism that still exists in today's society by visiting one of the most divided cities."*



**253** YOUNG PEOPLE  
took part in issue based workshops focussed on  
sectarianism

**91%** S7 PUPILS  
reported an increase in confidence about  
moving to secondary school

**98%** PARTICIPANTS  
reported having a greater awareness,  
knowledge and understanding of sectarianism

**95%** S4 PUPILS  
reported feeling confident taking on a  
leadership role



## Understanding Each Other

Our 4 week Understanding Each Other programme gave 58 Primary 6 pupils from Blackfriars and St Francis the opportunity to learn about immigration, particularly in the Gorbals area. In some sessions we had visitors to the classes. S5's who had been to Belfast with us earlier in the year came in to talk about their trip, the sectarianism in Northern Ireland and what happens when communities in a society do not understand each other, and in another session, our visitors were people who have come to the Gorbals as different types of migrant, Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Internal Migrants and Economic Migrants. They spoke about their journeys and reasons behind moving. The children also took part in workshops where they explored their own family history, culture and identity and in turn learned from one another.



**58** P6 PUPILS participated

*"I enjoyed it because we taught the kids something new and opened their eyes yknow, about how there's genuine issues even today with sectarianism. and it's important because some day the kids can be the change that we need to tackle issues like that."*



**88%** P6 PUPILS know about the 4 types of migrant

**93%** ALL PUPILS knew more about their classmate's stories

**90%** P6 PUPILS know more about sectarianism after session with S5 pupils

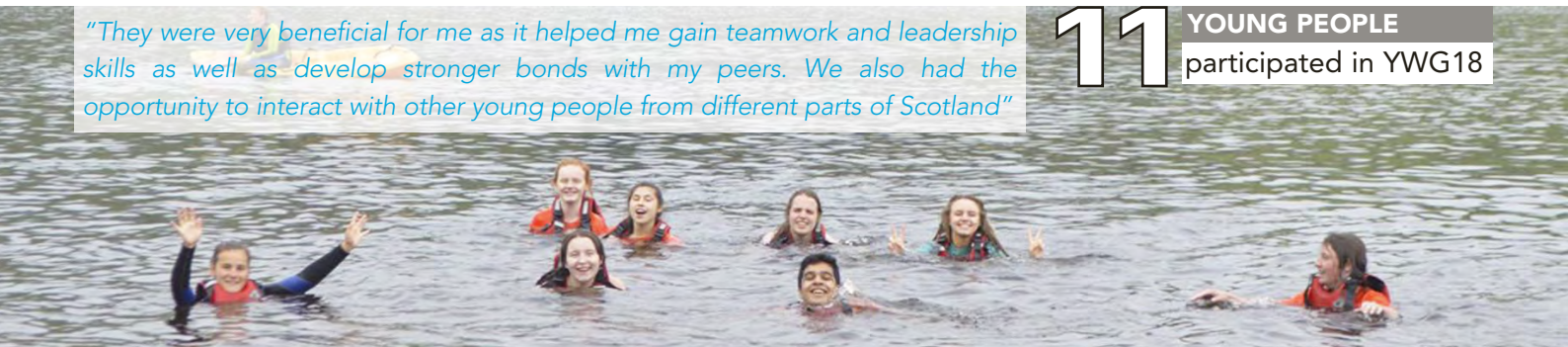
**90%** ALL PUPILS knew more about the stories of people who have come to the Gorbals

## Youth Work Games

In a continued partnership with Muirhouse Youth Development Group, 11 young people participated in the 'Youth Work Games'. The games included cross country running, archery, swamp football canoeing, swimming and tandem bike rides. The group competed with other young people from across the country at this event, which included two nights camping outdoors. The young people had to work in teams, motivating and encouraging one another. It was a great trip for all involved and those that took part were keen to return for the following year's games.

*"They were very beneficial for me as it helped me gain teamwork and leadership skills as well as develop stronger bonds with my peers. We also had the opportunity to interact with other young people from different parts of Scotland"*

**11** YOUNG PEOPLE participated in YWG18



The Developing Young people team would like to thank all of our partners we have worked with over the year. Without the support and the flexibility of schools, Bridging the Gap would not be able to deliver our programmes. We look forward to the year ahead and to the continued success of our partnerships.



# Community Inclusion

## BIG Thursdays Gathering

BIG Thursdays continues to sit at the heart of our Community Inclusion work.



An average of 53 people from 32 countries gathered each week to enjoy each other's company and a shared lunch; 51% from BME backgrounds and 81% from the Gorbals. Activities included picking Gorbals damsons to make jam, kite-flying, Burns Day celebrations plus weekly table tennis and sewing sessions.

*"I can feel the love in the room. I'm used to being at business meetings where you can feel the tension. People take care of each other here"*

## Volunteers

Our work could not happen without the contribution of our wonderful volunteers. This dedicated team gave 752 sessions over the year at BIG Thursdays. A small group at BIG Thursdays completed re-working the volunteer handbook to make it easier to use for people who have difficulty reading English or other literacy difficulties. The team also began to trial a buddy system for inducting new volunteers.



**BIG CHATS**  
at the Drop In

We had 9 BIG chats this year at the Drop-in exploring issues and sharing ideas on topics such as how poverty is measured, famous black and Asian people for Black History Month, Suicide awareness, Housing allocation and International Welcomes.

**81%** **PEOPLE** from the Gorbals  
**51%** **PEOPLE** from BME backgrounds  
**53** **PEOPLE** on average gathered to enjoy each other's company



**752** **VOLUNTEER SESSIONS** over the course of the year  
**20** **VOLUNTEERS** on average helped to run BIG Thursdays every week  
**26** **VOLUNTEERS** spent the hottest afternoon of the year at a barbecue to celebrate their contribution to Bridging the Gap  
**14** **TASTER VOLUNTEERS** from Volunteer Glasgow came for the day and 4 came back to join the BIG Thursdays team  
**3** **COURSES FOR VOLUNTEERS** First Aid, Food Hygiene, Health and Safety



# Events and Activities

## High Rise Bakers

High Rise Bakers gather twice a week to bake high quality bread and baked goods for sale and to offer a warm welcoming space. This year the bakers began to design their new kitchen planned for a neighbouring high rise. The team drew on their experience of the current kitchen and previous work experiences in shaping how this might look.

High Rise Bakers ran 4 workshops in Adelphi nursery bringing children and their carers together to bake bread to take home. A second Burgers and Buns Day proved a popular way for families to learn to make bread and share a lunch prepared from scratch.

20 new bakers meant that we began a shift system in the kitchen so everyone can have a turn of baking.



**20** NEW BAKERS helped bake more bread

**4** WORKSHOPS brought children & carers together

*"After my first day at High Rise Bakers I went home and made a loaf myself. I realised I had nothing to bake it in so I used a Fray Bentos tin."*

## Gorbals Fair

We went baking mad for this year's parade dressing up as cupcakes, chefs and waving giant utensils accompanied as always by our Samba band.



## Refugee Week International Come Dine With Us

Come Dine With Us joined BIG Thursdays once more to cook and eat dinner together. International desserts were a highlight and a great way to try new foods, while speed friending questions helped diners to begin to get to know each other.



**168** PEOPLE celebrated

## Christmas Party

168 people gathered for an international buffet, and fun and games. This year's party included a very popular photo booth and Mrs Claus who came to help her husband distribute the children's gifts.



## International Women's Day

Traditionally, men take over the kitchen at BIG Thursdays while the women relax. This year we celebrated that 'Women are...' with an exhibition and quiz of women who have paved the way in science, politics and the arts. Our evening event included the Ethiopian coffee ceremony, crafts and singing.



## Haud The Bus

Sponsored through the European Athletic Championships and initiated by Citizens Theatre, we hosted a 'bus stop' featuring historic bakers of the Gorbals (in costume!) and freshly-made pancakes as part of this community treasure trail.

## Destitution Cupboard

Our food cupboard is filled by generous donations, money or in kind from individuals or churches. Since we opened our food cupboard, numerous people have passed through that door.

They get the food to feed their themselves and their families, if they have any. They appreciate the help they get from us and say they would like to return the favour if circumstances change



## 17th October

United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty is a worldwide event and along with Poverty Truth Community, ATD Fourth World, Givin it Laldie and Lodging House mission we are this event each year in George Square to celebrate the courage and resilience of those people for whom poverty is a daily struggle. This year's theme was 'Hunger for Justice' and we heard powerful testimonies from adults and children, which were read aloud in the City Chambers in Glasgow. Over 50 people attended this event.

## Community Development work

We continue to co-ordinate the Gorbals 3rd Sector Forum and represent it on the Gorbals Regeneration Group. We produce the Gorbals Timetable and Gorbals Food Map and have co-ordinated funding for 5 organisations to mitigate the effects of food poverty locally. We have been part of the community consultation, Gorbals Speaks.



50+

PEOPLE  
attended event



## Come Dine With Us

Our dedicated team of 8 local volunteers once again created a warm hospitable atmosphere for their neighbours and friend at our monthly Come Dine with Us. 868 3 course meals were served up. We continued to see some of the regular community members bring along their next door neighbours and other they know who are isolated and would appreciate some nice food, nice company and music. Some families who struggle on benefits told us that they enjoy a night off from cooking.



*"Since my husband died I've found it hard to go out but I always makes an effort to come here as I love the food and the company."*

## Summer Trips and Fun

Our popular trips included going by subway to Kelvingrove Museum and Park and Heads of Ayr plus a Sports Day. These days away provide a welcome break for families for whom the summer can be stressful on a limited income.

## Families Working Together

### Baby and Toddler Groups & BIG Messy Play

It is a joy to see children thriving and parents/carers having opportunities to help their child.

Staff had been monitoring the Friday baby and toddler group for some time and decided that we should close it as most of the children were involved in the Tuesday baby and toddler group and Big Messy Play.



One young mum who was struggling with her child's behaviour said

*"I can't thank you enough for putting me in touch with the Play Therapist, it has helped me and my child so much"*



# The People

## Board of Directors

<b>Chairperson</b>	Rev Ian Galloway
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Gillies
<b>Secretary</b>	Jacqueline Stockdale
<b>Trustees</b>	Michael McLaughlan
	Dr. Pam Green
	Katherine Longmuir
	Jatinder Kang
	Patrick Barbour
	Elsie Mackie
Resigned 21/5/2019	Dr. Andrew Lyon
Resigned 12/2/2019	John Finch
Resigned 14/4/2018	Rosemary Holleran

In attendance

<b>Director</b>	Tricia McConalogue
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## Staff

<b>Director</b>	Tricia McConalogue
<b>Administrator</b>	Clemence Butoyi

### Developing Young People's Team

<b>Project Workers</b>	Collette Daly
	Michael Snee
	Megan Thomson
	Claire Bonner

### Community Inclusion & Families Team

<b>Development Worker</b>	Roz Adams
<b>Project Workers</b>	Catriona Milligan
	Marie McCormack

<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Brett Nicholls Associates
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# The Network

Bridging the Gap is grateful to the following for their support and partnership working:

Glasgow Asylum and Destitution Action Network  
 Citizens Theatre  
 Poverty Alliance  
 Poverty Truth Community  
 South East Integration Network  
 New Gorbals Housing Association  
 Gorbals Parish Church  
 Blessed John Duns Scotus Church  
 Blackfriars Primary School  
 Holy Cross Primary School  
 St Francis Primary School  
 St Bride's Primary School  
 Cuthbertson Primary School  
 St Conval's Primary School  
 St Fillan's Primary School  
 St Brigid's Primary School  
 St Mirin's Primary School  
 Battlefield Primary School  
 Shawlands Primary School  
 Langside Primary School  
 St. Albert's Primary School  
 Our Lady of the Annunciation Primary school  
 Holyrood Secondary School  
 Shawlands Academy  
 Muirhouse Youth Development Group  
 East Belfast Area Youth Project

Glasgow Life  
 Youth Scotland  
 GCVS  
 Mark Brown Programmes  
 Finns Place  
 SEAL  
 Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees  
 Glasgow Volunteer Centre  
 Gorbals Fair Management Committee  
 The Corrymeela Community  
 Givin' it Laldie  
 Glasgow Destitute Asylum Seekers Night Shelter  
 Gorbals 3rd Sector Partners  
 The Barn  
 NHS Health Improvement Team  
 TASK Childcare  
 Urban Roots  
 Bookbug  
 ATD Fourth World  
 Volunteer Glasgow  
 G Heat  
 Adelphi Nursery  
 Link Up Gorbals  
 Way to Go Cafe  
 Gorbals Men's Shed  
 Saint Francis Pipe Band



# Income & Expenditure

For the year ended 31st March 2019

	Total Funds <u>2019</u> £	Total Funds <u>2018</u> £	Total Funds <u>2017</u> £
<u>Income</u>			
Revenue Grants	362,453	278,657	312,278
Interest	60	-	81
Total	<u>362,513</u>	<u>278,657</u>	<u>312,359</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Charitable Activities	313,595	275,411	281,305
Governance Costs	-	2,295	2,134
Total	<u>283,657</u>	<u>277,706</u>	<u>283,439</u>
Surplus/-Deficit	<u>48,918</u>	<u>951</u>	<u>28,920</u>

## Surplus/Deficit

**2018**

**2017**

**2016**



Independent Examination carried out by Wylie & Bisset LLP Chartered Accountants.



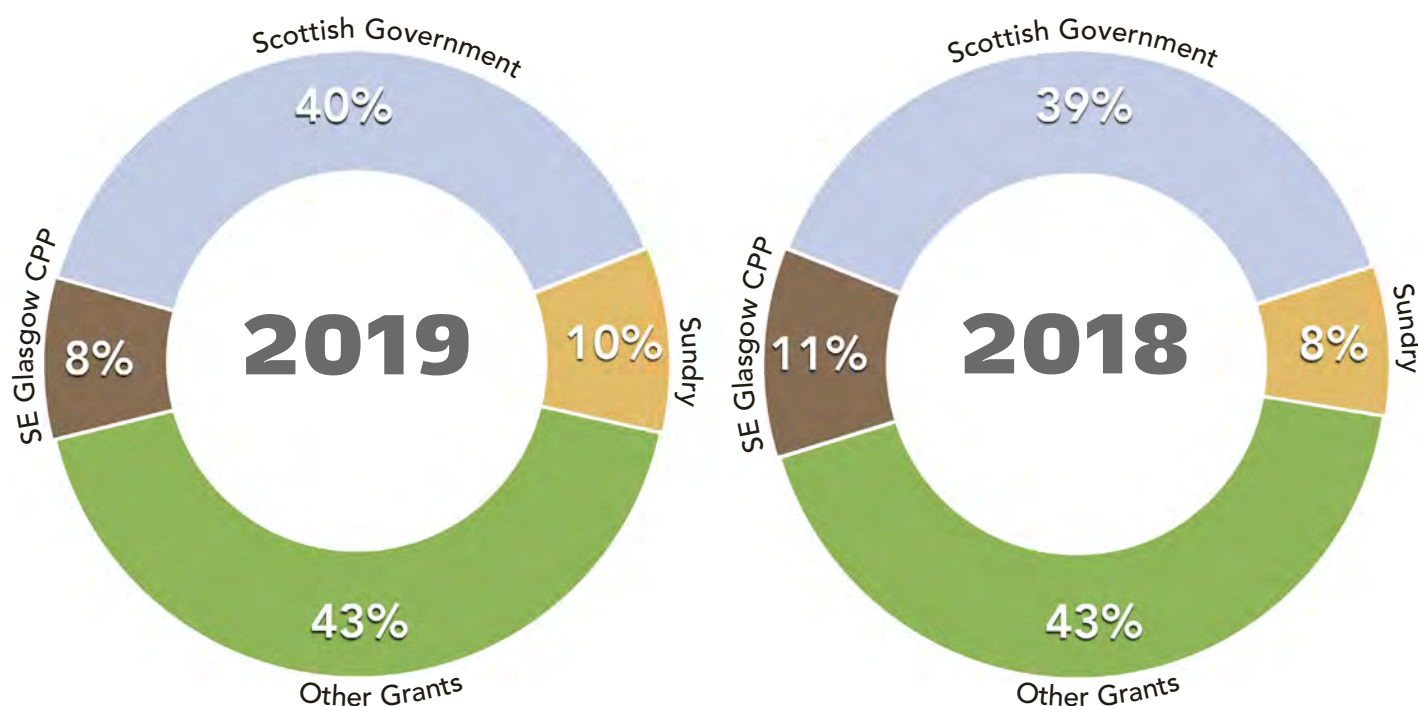
# Balance Sheet

**31st March 2019**

	31 March 2019 £	31 March 2018 £	31 March 2017 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Assets	13,979	4,103	1,436
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors and prepayments	42,599	9,207	7,607
Bank	160,368	110,123	116,122
	<u>202,967</u>	<u>119,330</u>	<u>123,729</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accruals and Deferred Income	<u>68,548</u>	<u>23,953</u>	<u>26,636</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>148,398</u>	<u>99,480</u>	<u>98,529</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds	133,363	96,458	79,058
Restricted funds	<u>15,035</u>	<u>3,022</u>	<u>19,471</u>
	<u>148,398</u>	<u>99,480</u>	<u>98,529</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th July 2019 and were signed on their behalf 3rd September 2019 by: Robert Gillies Treasurer

# Income





1998

# BRIDGING THE GAP

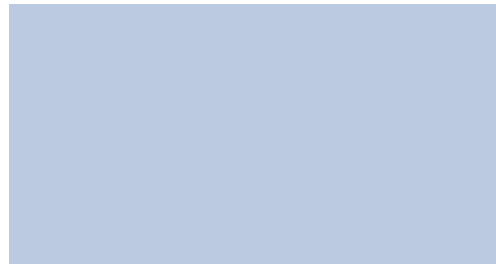
2018

## THE TIMELINE

Bridging the Gap emerged as a consequence of discussions between two significant individuals in the local community, namely Rev. Ian Galloway of the Gorbals Parish Church of Scotland and Fr Brian McGrath of Blessed John Duns Scotus Catholic Church. Few would have imagined that those conversations would lead to the creation of an organisation which would go on to affect so many peoples lives in such positive ways over the next two decades.

This is a timeline of some key moments in the 20 years of Bridging the Gap. There will be some missing from this for sure but if nothing else it helps illustrate the wide range of people and activities involved in the long and continuing success of the organisation. If there is anything missing then please feel free to drop us a note!

Those in bold are ongoing activities or people still involved.



Fr Brian McGrath & Rev Ian Galloway 1999

Early inter generational project



Sponsored bridge walk 2000



Iona trip for Primary pupils



One Gorbals One Community project



One of many Gorbals Fair contributions

1996

Conversations between Rev Ian Galloway and Fr Brian McGrath

1998

**Birth of BtG** – staff Lynn Ma, Christine Carson started

Lynn Ma and Christine Carson do the first school work using drama and music

1999

Reach for the Stars production bridging gaps between young and older people in the community.

2000

**Advocacy work started**

Sponsored bridge walk between young and older people

English Classes – until 2008

**Thursday Drop-in started in response to Asylum Seekers being housed in the Gorbals**

2001

Citizenship programme ins schools

Framework For Dialogue – became BIG Chat in 2015

P6 trip to Iona

Peer tutoring pilot – until 2003

First trip to Corrymeela – until 2008

Moira Lyndsay started – till 2003

2002

**Christmas parties**

Alice Duncan started – until 2008

2003

Br Joe O'Toole Acting Co-ordinator (volunteer) – until 2004

**Gorbals Fair participation started**

**Roz Adams started**

Marie McCormack started as volunteer

**Clemence Butoyi started work**

**Summer Trips**





Early Peer Tutoring project group

One of the on going Inter Faith events



Storytelling at Wiston Lodge

Early Peer Tutoring project group



Drumming activity at the Drop In

Peer Tutoring Awards Ceremony 2005



Kitchen volunteers at the Drop in

Stormont visit during Corrymeela trip



2004

Tricia McConalogue started as first paid co-ordinator

Peer tutoring full programme begins

Show Racism the Red Card – until 2009

Interfaith Week – some big events, some external, some in-house

Terry Strain started – until 2015

Moseka Mambi started – until 2006

2005

Giant's Garden Project with schools and Citizens Theatre

First Understanding Each Other project in schools each year

17th October UN day for Eradication of Poverty – ongoing

Citizenship programme and young people met with First Minister, Jack McConnell.

Young people visit Stormont in North Belfast

Storytelling Weekend

Anna Mathews started – until 2006

First Peer Tutoring Award Ceremony

Drop-in opened up to everyone

2006

Destitution Cupboard – ongoing

First 'Aim High' and health and wellbeing programmes in school with Glasgow Life

Peer Tutoring Programme expanded due to the request by other primary schools.

First Way Ahead group- Working with young people in the 2 secondary schools who were at risk of being, Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), and at risk of being socially excluded; a priority for the Scottish Government

Claire Bonner started – also in 2009

Michael McCafferty started – until 2008

Linda Ashby started – until 2010

2008

CPCK – Compassionate Parents, Cooperative Kids Parenting groups – until 2011

Youth steering group formed

Women's Group – then in 2011/12

Cait Brady started – until 2010





Understanding  
Each Other in  
the schools

At play with  
the Baby &  
Toddlers  
group



Out and  
about with  
the Mens  
Group

Best Of You  
training for  
senior pupils



Competition  
and fun at  
the Youth  
Works  
Games

Community  
dining at  
Come Dine  
With Us



Mentoring  
and anti  
sectarian work  
with primary  
pupils

Making  
bread with  
the High Rise  
Bakers



2009

**Vision Statement created**

**Collette Gallanagh started**

**Adult volunteers group is formed**

2010

**BIG Messy Play started at Drop-in**

Paddy Barbour & Michael Wilson started

**Catriona Milligan started work**

**Baby & Toddler group started** jointly with Gorbals Parish Church. Tuesdays and Fridays. Friday group – until 2019.

2012

Gorbals gathering – until 2013

**First Youth Work Games**

Different Paths Common Journeys started

**Men's Group**

2013

Ideas for Change – created **the Gorbals Timetable**

First Best of You group

**Megan Thomson, Mikey Snee started & Paddy Barbour restarted**

**Tackling sectarianism work supported by Scottish Government**

Schools work expands to take in 15 primary schools

2014

**Thriving Places engagement started**

**Co-ordinating the 3rd Sector Forum and representing it on GRG – ongoing**

Pecha Kucha events – also 2015

2015

**High Rise Bakers started**

**Marie McCormack started as staff member**

2016

**Come Dine With Us started**

ABCD training workshops held

1- 1 mentoring programme in Shawlands Academy started

**Bridging the Gap schools team included as part of timetable for first two weeks of S1 classes**

2018

Anti Sectarian programme extended to 4 other schools in Scotland at the request of Scottish Government

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bridging the Gap Celebration event



1998

# BRIDGING THE GAP

## THE CELEBRATION

2018



To mark the not insignificant achievement of 20 years of work, the staff and volunteers put out the call to everyone who has been involved over that period of time to come along and join in a celebration with some fun activities and to catch up with friends and even meet up with some new ones. The 6th October 2018 was the date at One Errol Gardens in the Gorbals. It was a birthday party with everyone welcome!



There was a wide range of interactive and entertaining activities on offer for all, many set up as market stalls, such as a Tombola, Guess the Weight of the High Rise Bakers Big Loaf, Pin the Tail in the Gorbals, Fishing Frenzy and Take Your Pick. There were also face painters and games for children of all ages.



In the midst of it all was a reflective speech from Ian Galloway, the chairperson of the board, who has been with the organisation from the start. There were also a few ad hoc interviews with some individuals who have been engaged in activities with BtG in some capacity. All expressing how their involvement with BtG has been such a the positive influence with their life.



A surprise flash dance sprung into life, coordinated and instigated by our partners at the Citizens Theatre Community Collective. Much energy was on display as the spectacle unfolded with the addition of multiple variations on the dance itself and even some free styling being let loose on the dance floor! An appropriate expression of the exuberance and spirit at the heart of Bridging the Gap.



There were many mugs on display also, of the commemorative type that is! Produced to mark the special occasion, they are in some way an entirely appropriate item and maybe even emblematic of something which has been at the heart of Bridging the Gap for these last twenty years, and that is, the opportunity to sit and chat together over a calming mug of some brew.







A key activity for the event was a large mural by Mikey Snee depicting the landscape within which BtG works which was to be populated by images of as many people as possible from the story of the organisation. A full rendition is of course on the cover of this annual report.

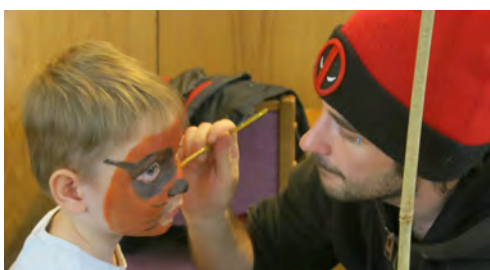
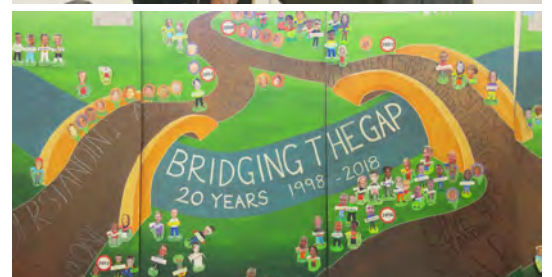
Over the course of the day, everyone was invited to have their photo taken and added to the mural to celebrate the continuing story of Bridging the Gap. Much posing, cutting and gluing ensued over the course of the afternoon, quickly filling areas of the mural with the friends of BtG. This process of filling the whole mural is an ongoing piece of work and is now adorning the wall of the BtG office.!

A small cinema was created with a continuous loop of a specially compiled epic of film footage from a range of BtG projects playing on a large screen over the course of the event.

To help keep folk ticking along with energy there was also a great deal of tasty treats and drinks available for everyone in the cafe. Much of it comprised home baking courtesy of the great efforts of BtG's volunteers and the High Rise Bakers no less. There was also the aroma of the Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony richly wafting around the dining area.

And being a birthday party there was of course a cake!

It was a very special afternoon and very fitting as a celebration of the good work of BtG with a great deal of informality and humour pervading the whole event. The imagination, hard work and energy of all who contributed to creating such an excellent event was very much appreciated by those in attendance and rewarded by the good spirit generated. A great mingling of people from the past and present, from organisations and partners, exchanging stories and renewing acquaintances in such a vibrant and busy setting hopefully bodes well for the coming years for BtG.





Bridging the Gap is grateful to all the trusts and other bodies for funding support during 2018-2019:



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