



**ANNUAL REPORT
2005-06**

.....discover common ground.....

.....work across divides.....

Mission Statement

Bridging the Gap is a local community project serving the Gorbals area. We were established in 1998 to enable local churches (Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic) to work together to meet the local needs.

We aim to work across divides which are apparent in the community providing opportunities for people to discover 'common ground', irrespective of nationality, religion, ethnic and cultural backgrounds and age.

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Chairman's Remarks

This year saw Bridging the Gap registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee, with Charitable Status. This change reflects the growth in our activities and in our income; and in particular highlights the importance we place on our staff, as they continue to deliver exceptional service to this community.

We were very sorry to say "goodbye" to Lyn Ma, who has been with us from the beginning, and who moved on in January to a post in Anniesland College. Lyn left behind not only a considerable personal reputation, but also a well-trained band of successors, who have carried on, and developed, the work she began.

With the increasing demands on our services, comes the inevitable increasing search for more sustainable funding; and we are engaged in consultations which we hope will lead to that within the next few years.

Meanwhile, I now come to the end of my time as Chairman of the Board. I am more grateful than I can say for the privilege of being associated with this ecumenical initiative here in Gorbals; I know I leave it in good hands; and I am delighted to hand over to my successor, Steve Ebbitt of the Simon Community. My thanks, and good wishes, to all.

John Harvey (Chairman)

Co-ordinators Report

Bridging the Gap is all about building the community in which we operate. This year has seen an increase in all areas of our work with schools, Asylum Seekers and Refugee and with local community groups in the Gorbals. We have built strong links by joint working with the Citizens Theatre, Parents and Their Children's Hopes (PATCH), The Initiative and many other groups and organisations.

A very positive development on the education team is the forming of Bridging the Gap's 'Youth Steering Group', helping to shape our future work in schools.

The highlight of the Go 4 It project was the Award Ceremony as this was a time for the young people to be recognised and applauded by their parents, teachers and other members of the community.

Bridging the Gap works to ensure that while Asylum Seekers are here they are treated with respect and dignity. One woman said "I have no family here; Bridging the Gap is my family".

Our drop-in is changing and growing, gradually becoming an international meeting place for the whole community. A clear sign of the success and growth has been the way the volunteers have taken more responsibility for the drop-in by being more involved and committed. Working closely together has brought about a greater understanding of each other and celebration of our differences. "Who wants a garden with only one kind of flower?" *Isobel Smythe*

We are grateful to the Board of Directors who continues to support the organisation and staff. The staff have once again done invaluable work far beyond their remit.

Our work would be strengthened if we could achieve sustainable funding rather than funding on an annual basis, this would be the biggest challenge in the year ahead. Thank you to friends of Bridging the Gap who have given individual donations in support of our work and to all our financial supporters.

Finally many thanks to John Harvey who is stepping down as chairperson for Bridging the Gap. John's work and commitment to this project has been wonderful and we will miss him.

Tricia McConalogue (Project Co-ordinator)

Education Report

The schools work team have built on the success of last year's work and continued both the Citizenship and Peer Tutoring Project.

Peer-tutoring



Our peer-tutoring programme '**GO 4 IT!**' gave young people in Primary 7 the opportunity to prepare for transition to secondary school. Building positive relationships with older pupils, feeling comfortable in the secondary school building and getting to meet their new teachers enabled the young people to become more confident and relaxed about starting secondary school. The schools involved were Blackfriars, St. Francis and St. John's Primary Schools, Holyrood Secondary and Shawlands Academy.

The S4's tutored the P7's one to one in topics such as study skills and mindmaps. The aims of Peer tutoring were to give the young people involved increased confidence and self-esteem, improved study skills, higher academic aspirations and better relationships with peers and teachers. This leads to improved behaviour, better attendance, higher attainment and a smoother transition from primary to secondary.



Corrymeela 2006



At the end of the peer tutoring, we went to the Corrymeela Centre, Northern Ireland with the S4 pupils from Holyrood and Shawlands. The group shared the centre with a group of Northern Irish young people and worked on issues around sectarianism, prejudice, culture and identity. It proved to be valuable in integrating the two secondary schools we work with, Holyrood and Shawlands.

Awards Ceremony

Similar to last year, we held an Awards Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the 54 young people involved in the peer tutoring. Around 200 people attended the Oscars-style ceremony that saw Frank McAveety MSP, Rosie Kane MSP, Councillor James Mutter, Councillor Margaret McCafferty, Lorraine McIntosh and Laura McMonagle (both of River City) present certificates to the young people.



Citizenship

'What are you worth?' – our citizenship project ran for 4 weeks with two S3 classes from the Modern Studies dept. in Holyrood. Together we looked at; The UN Convention on the rights of the Child and its local relevance, how to make a contribution to community and responsibilities of a young citizen, making a learning tool for P7s (e.g.



bookmark 'Rough Guide to Holyrood',

'school – myths and reality'), tips on transition to secondary school, hopes and fears of going to secondary school. This was carried out during class time and also included a visit to Glasgow University. The project culminated in workshops at the Primary schools where the S3s presented the bookmarks to the P7's.



Steering group



The schools work team have been looking for new ways of involving the young people we work with in our decision-making and in planning future projects within the schools. Each year we work with a different set of young people, so after each year's Peer Tutoring we have no further contact with that particular group. This was highlighted as an issue by some of last year's peer tutors who are now in S5.

This year group were also involved in our first Citizenship project, therefore had been working with us for two years. In order to have some sort of follow up work with this group, it was decided that the most appropriate way was to set up a youth steering group, with a view to the steering group having a place on our Board of Directors. This has now happened and we have 8 young people on our steering group. The group also has two spaces on the Board of Directors of Bridging the Gap. The group have recently been trained in skills needed to take part in board meetings.



Asylum Seeker / Refugee Team report

Finding Common Ground and Celebrating Diversity...

What an incredibly busy year! This half of Bridging the Gap; Tricia, Roz, Alice and Moseka who is on student placement, have enjoyed strengthening our existing work to support the integration of asylum seekers and refugees with the Drop-in and Office Support but also with many short term projects.

Giants Garden Project



In June we worked jointly with the Citizens Theatre on The Giant's Garden Project. This involved primary 1's from St Francis and Blackfriars Primary Schools and 4 year olds from Oatlands and Adelphi Nurseries in creating a performance about sharing and integration. They produced birds and flowers and the performance was well received by parents and teachers. "This is the best play I've ever seen in a school" said one of the parents. We have also run a homework club for the children of asylum seekers and refugees who attend St Francis Primary. This helps them to keep up with their school work despite working in a new language.

Trips and Party's

SIP Integration Resources and Show Racism The Red Card (SRTRC) funded some joint work with PATCH (Parents and Their Childrens Hopes) to promote understanding between these two local groups. We had trips to Ayr Beach and Heads of Ayr Farm Park and three joint drop-ins with drama games, food, a sports day and break dancing display. This has since led to further joint involvement at our Christmas Party, an asylum issues workshop and their Women's Day all small steps towards integration.



Big Events & Storytelling



Ground Scotland.

We have had two big events each one involving nearly 200 people; our international celebration of music, food and dance as part of Refugee Week and our Christmas Party. Both were great nights, attracting a broad spectrum of the community.

Another highlight was a weekend of storytelling at Wiston Lodge which we shared with Common



"My family are a long way away. I have been a volunteer for three years. Bridging the Gap are my family now"

Corrymeela



One highlight was a 5 day trip to Corrymeela, Centre for Reconciliation in Northern Ireland for 15 people. This was great fun but also a very moving experience as children usually cooped up in the high flats enjoyed the freedom of the large grounds and beaches, and we came together with refugees who live in Belfast on joint activities. One participant said “It is like the United Nations here. This is how it should be, all of us sitting round the table together enjoying a meal, when we are from countries which should be enemies.”

Drop-In



Our volunteers at the drop-in are growing in number and strength. Our volunteer training programme has included sessions on first aid, food hygiene, soap making and arts and crafts and we have had two great weekends away for training and team building. Our thanks go especially to them, as without them the drop-in would not run. Each week our activities are run by different people, hair and beauty, international cooking, sewing, drumming, games and humanitarian aid. Our drop-in is attended by over 50 people each week and by several agencies who make it a kind of one stop shop. Our thanks to GASP, NASS Outreach team, Scottish Refugee Council, Social Work Department and Gorbals Community Police for providing this service. One aspect of the Drop-in has been hosting and facilitating the Scottish Refugee Council Framework for Dialogue Programme at which asylum seekers and refugees share experiences of issues which affect them and try to find solutions. This group has been working on the issues of volunteering, destitution and deportation.

“Once detained you always remember it. It is like a little bit of torture every day”

It has been a very difficult year for many asylum seekers in the Gorbals. Home Office Policy, poor legal representation and decision making have directly affected people who have become very much a part of Bridging The Gap. We feel bereaved when they are not permitted to stay, or no longer supported by NASS. A large part of our work this year has been fighting to keep families out of detention and supporting them when they have no money. We are grateful to the congregations of the churches and to individual donors who have made this possible.

It is as ever a tremendous privilege to work with the survivors of war and oppression who make it to this country. We are proud to be at the forefront groups in the Gorbals who are providing the welcome and sanctuary they deserve. One refugee told us, “When I first came here, the people in this office more than anywhere else showed me that I was worth more than nothing”.

A Drop-in Volunteer Tells Us.....

“It’s good to be a volunteer at Bridging the Gap because you can make contact with people from different countries and different cultures. I enjoy everything about it. I help at the drop-in, welcoming new people, sharing experiences, helping in the kitchen and with setting and clearing up. Recently I have been helping in the office too. We went for a volunteer training weekend at the Glassie Bunkhouse near Aberfeldy. It was good to learn about the childcare laws because it is different in our country to here. I enjoy working at the drop-in because when I do work for others I forget about my own problems. It is helping me to become more flexible, to work with people of all abilities and all cultures. We can still communicate even though we speak different languages. The office work is good experience for me too, helping me to improve my skills, putting into practice the things I have learned at college.”

Some people seeking asylum and refuge in the Gorbals also told us.....

“Of course there are some people who do bad things but they are a small minority, we should not all be judged because of them. We just want to live quietly and in safety with our children”

And Steering Group members told us this.....

“I became involved with the steering group after my work with peer tutoring finished. I still wanted to be involved with the work of Bridging the Gap and by forming the steering group I was able to. Since the Steering group was formed I have attended board meetings which showed me the full extent of Bridging the Gap's work. In order to gain experience and advice about board meetings the Steering group went on a residential, to Aberfeldy, which helped me gain more confidence when I was attending a meeting. The Steering group also went to Northern Ireland where we ran a workshop on sectarianism. This again gave me confidence and showed me that the young people involved in the workshop were interested in what we were telling them as they interacted in the activities involved. By working with Bridging the Gap and forming the Steering group I have been able to gain confidence and advise the board of director on young peoples view on the work of Bridging the Gap. The Steering group has also showed me that young peoples views do matter and are accounted for and I should therefore voice my opinion.”

“Since I’ve been involved in the steering group, I’ve been on a residential to be trained in Board meeting skills, I have been involved in meetings once every month to prepare me for the BTG BOD meetings which I have also attended. I have also helped out at other BTG events such as Christmas events and other work in primary schools. I enjoy working with BTG and feel over the past year I have learned loads of new skills.... overall its been a worthwhile experience.”

The People

Staff:

Project Co-ordinator Tricia McConalogue

Project Worker Alice Duncan
(Education/Asylum Seekers and Refugees)

Project Worker Terry Strain
(Education)

Project Worker Roz Adams
(Asylum Seekers and Refugees)

Bookkeeper Michael J McCafferty

Administrator Clemence Butoyi

Student Placement Moseka Mambi
(Asylum Seekers and Refugees)

Volunteers:

Bridging the Gap values the input and hard work of our volunteers. These volunteers come from many different origins- Scotland, Ireland, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Kenya, Sri Lanka and many others.. All have found a common ground in the Gorbals community.

Members:

Jean Munro
David Plizga
Rev. Ian Galloway
Hector Dickson
Alison Davis
Margaret Leyden
Tom Friel
Marie Shankly
Lily O'Donnell
Elen Mehari
Noni Moyo
Susila Selbakumar
Duncan Wallace
Pauline Edmiston
Toni Valentin
Michelle Gallagher
Emma Jane Farrell
Haley Morrison
Katy Campbell
Victoria McCartney
Lauren Hoare
Kayleigh Craig
Andrew Cavanagh
John Harvey
Fr Edmund Highton
Sheena Gilmour

The Network

BRIDGING THE GAP networks with other groups such as:

Gorbals Parish Church
Blessed John Duns Scotus
Citizens Theatre
Blackfriars Primary
St Francis Primary
St John's Primary
Holyrood Secondary
Shawlands Academy
South Addiction Service
The Initiative
TASK
SEAL
Gorbals Healthy Living Network
Gorbals Community Forum
Glasgow College of Nautical Studies
Reed in Partnership
Scottish Refugee Council
Strathclyde Police
Ethnic Minority Law Centre
Glasgow Asylum Support Project
NASS
Positive Action In Housing
Community Learning
Impact Arts
PATCH
Oatlands and Adelphi Nursery
Transformation Team
and others

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2006

	£	£	£
		31 March	31 March
		2006	2005
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Tangible Assets		2,377	3,652
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors and prepayments	20,741		8,766
Bank	5,198		32,620
Cash on hand	122		—
	<u>26,061</u>		<u>41,386</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Creditors	2,400		2,711
Deferred Income	—		19,951
	<u>2,400</u>		<u>22,662</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>23,661</u>	<u>18,724</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES		<u>26,038</u>	<u>22,376</u>
Deferred Grant		—	188
NET ASSETS		<u>26,038</u>	<u>22,188</u>
Reserves			
Brought Forward		22,188	13,537
Surplus for Year		<u>3,850</u>	<u>8,651</u>
		<u>26,038</u>	<u>22,188</u>

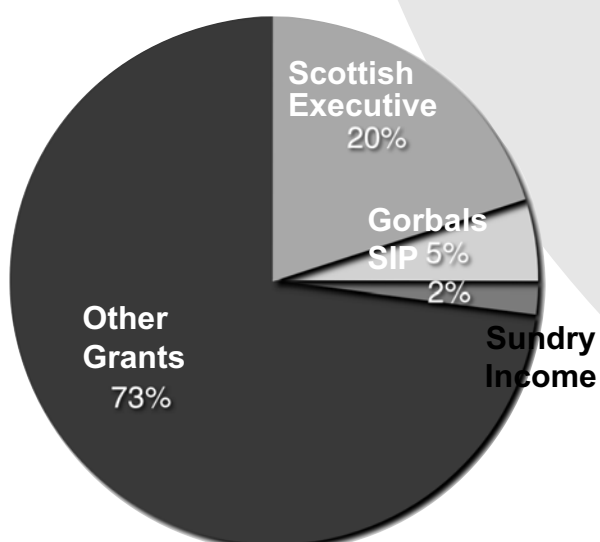
The financial statements were approved by the management committee on 7th June 2006 and were signed on their behalf by:

John Harvey Chairperson

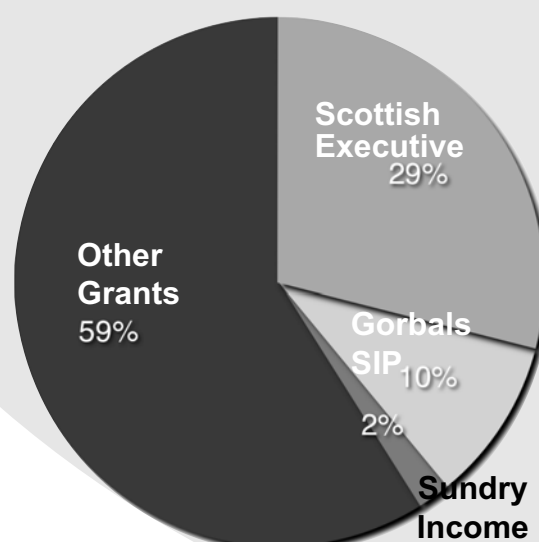
Andrew Cavanagh Treasurer

INCOME

2006



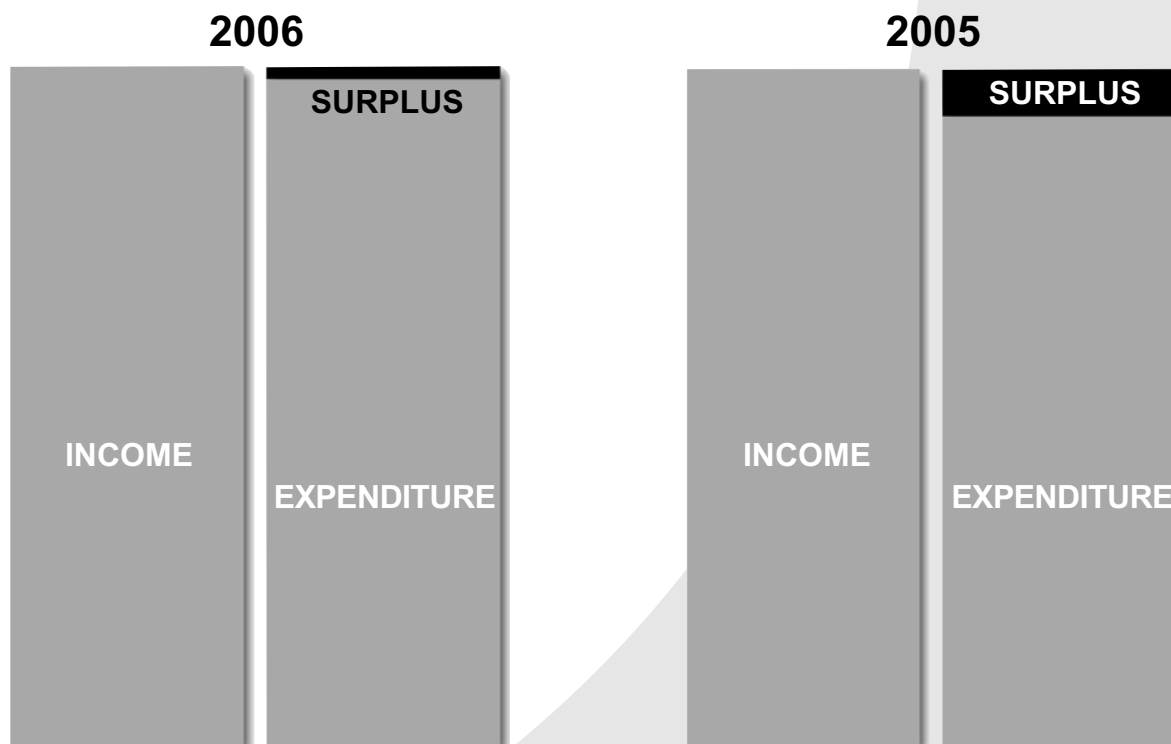
2005



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2006

	Total Funds 2006 £	Total Funds 2005 £
<u>Incoming Resources from General Funds</u>		
Voluntary Income	177,070	129,547
Investment income	<u>312</u>	<u>329</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>177,382</u>	<u>129,876</u>
<u>Resources Expended</u>		
Direct charitable expenditure	167,745	116,745
Governance Costs	<u>5,787</u>	<u>44,380</u>
Total Resources Expended	<u>173,532</u>	<u>121,225</u>
Net Resources for the Year	3,850	8,651
Balances brought forward	22,188	<u>13,537</u>
Balances carried forward	<u>26,038</u>	<u>22,188</u>

SURPLUS/DEFICIT



BRIDGING THE GAP is grateful to the following trusts and other bodies for funding support:

Glasgow City Council South Area Committee
Gorbals Social Inclusion Partnership
Scottish Churches Community Trust
BBC Scotland Children in Need
Show Racism the Red Card
Blessed John Duns Scotus
Parish Development Fund
Sense over Sectarianism
Gorbals Parish Church
Glasgow Key Fund Ltd
Allen Lane Foundation
Pastoral Care Trust
Scottish Executive
Robertson Trust
Waterside Trust.
Awards for All
Comic Relief
Tudor Trust

find us

**Greyfriars Centre
270 Ballater Street
Gorbals
Glasgow G5 0YT**



**T/F: 0141 418 0241
e: secretary@bridging-the-gap.org
www.bridging-the-gap.org**

Scottish Charity No: SC028657; Company No: SC284862