



ANNUAL REPORT 2006-07



Mission Statement

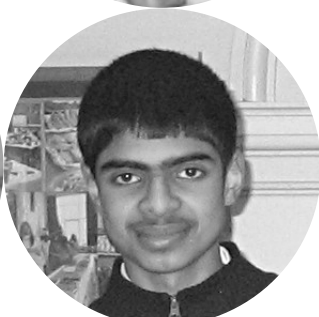
Bridging the Gap is a local a community project serving the Gorbals area. We were established in 1998 to enable local churches (Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic) to work together to meet local needs.

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

Contents

Page

1. Chairman's Remarks
2. Co-ordinator's Report
3. Schools Report
5. Asylum and Refugee Team Report
7. The People and The Network
8. Annual Accounts - Balance Sheet 31st March 2007 & Income
9. Annual Accounts - Financial Activities & Surplus / Deficit



Chairman's Remarks

Welcome to the annual report of Bridging the Gap

Over the past year, the demands on our services have certainly not diminished, but far from it, they have continued to grow and whilst the value of our work continues to be greatly appreciated and recognised, sustainable longer term funding still proves elusive. Such funding would enable BTG to forward plan and move away from short term survival. A significant application has been made to the Big Lottery and we are hopeful that we shall hear of a positive outcome shortly.

The past year has been a challenging time for Bridging the Gap and the Board has taken a long hard look at itself and its governance role and responsibilities, particularly taking into account the demands of OSCR, the new Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. The Board are well advanced in the process of putting in place a new sub-committee structure to better support the work and future development of the organisation. I believe this new structure will ensure that Bridging the Gap can look forward to the future with optimism.

Unfortunately and with regret, I am unable to continue in my role of Chair or remain on the Board and am standing down after 15 months. I have been hugely impressed by the commitment and passion which exists in Bridging the Gap and appreciate the opportunity I have had to witness its excellent work at first hand.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks and best wishes for the future go to all the refugees and asylum seekers, young people, volunteers, staff and Board members who make up Bridging the Gap.

Steve Ebbitt
(Chairman)



Co-ordinator's Report

Bridging the Gap has had another successful year. We continue striving to bridge gaps between different groups in the Gorbals community, who, although living in the same place, can be regrettably remote from each other. Both our work in local schools, designated Secondary Schools and with asylum seekers and refugees is developing and expanding, and two new members of staff have been taken on to help meet growing needs.

The schools work continues with its successful peer tutoring scheme and visits to Corrymeela. It benefits from its enthusiastic young people's steering group which has become more and more active, surpassing our expectations with its resourcefulness and creativity. We expanded our work this year by working with an additional two new primary schools.

We continue our work with refugees and those people in the Gorbals area seeking asylum, striving to provide them with support and friendship. Our weekly drop in centre provides a friendly, fun environment where people can come to relax, take advantage of the play area for the children and enjoy an international meal. Furthermore, those with worries or needing practical advice are encouraged to drop by Bridging the Gap's office at any time – our office door is always open. The role of our volunteers has also developed with new training opportunities being introduced. Through our activities we hope to continue making the Gorbals more hospitable for those who come here seeking asylum.

I'd like to thank the Board of Directors for continuing to support us. I'd also like to say a big thank you to all the staff here at Bridging the Gap. They continue to work tirelessly above and beyond their remit, with a fantastic enthusiasm and good humour.

Many thanks also to friends of Bridging the Gap who have donated generously over the last year. We continue to look for long term funding, aiming to develop a long term funding strategy in the next year.

Finally many thanks to Steve Ebbitt who is stepping down as chairperson of Bridging the Gap. Steve's hard work and commitment, particularly in support of myself has been great and we will miss him

Tricia McConologue
(Project Co-ordinator)



Schools Report

The past year has seen the schools team continue the Peer Tutoring and citizenship programmes and develop the young people's steering group. We have also been involved in a new area of work with the Way Ahead Group.

PEER TUTORING



Our peer-tutoring programme has previously given young people in Primary 7 the opportunity to prepare for transition to secondary school. This year as well working with Blackfriars and St. Francis Primary Schools, we extended the programme to include St Brigid's Primary in Toryglen and Holy Cross Primary in Govanhill. This was due to a huge increase in demand for places from S4 pupils. Once again the Secondary schools involved were Holyrood Secondary and Shawlands Academy. The S4 pupils worked with the P7s one to one, helping them to be more confident in moving to secondary.



Over 100 pupils took part in this and their achievements were celebrated at our annual Awards Ceremony. The ceremony took place in The Winter Gardens and over 300 people heard speeches from Frank McAveety MSP, Rosie Kane MSP and Councillor James Mutter. We also had some stars from River City to give out the certificates.



CITIZENSHIP

We worked in partnership with The Iona Community to deliver workshops to pupils on the theme of citizenship. These mainly focussed on Sectarianism. Through discussion, drama and groupwork the group looked at stereotypes and prejudices in more detail.



STEERING GROUP



This year the steering group went to on a residential to London to plan ahead and clarify their role within Bridging the Gap. The group is made up of young people who have been involved in our various programmes over past few years, some of whom have now left school. During the residential, the group were given a guided tour of The Houses of Parliament by Jim Fitzpatrick MP and also met with one of the founding members of Bridging the Gap, Fr Brian McGrath. The main focus of the group is to help us plan, evaluate and deliver some of our work.

CORRYMEELA

As part of our peer tutoring programme, we twinned Holyrood Secondary and Shawlands Academy for the tutor training. To further the relationship built between both sets of pupils and to encourage meaningful dialogue between young people of different cultures and religions we took the whole group to The Corrymeela Centre in Northern Ireland to meet up with a group of young people from Northern Ireland.

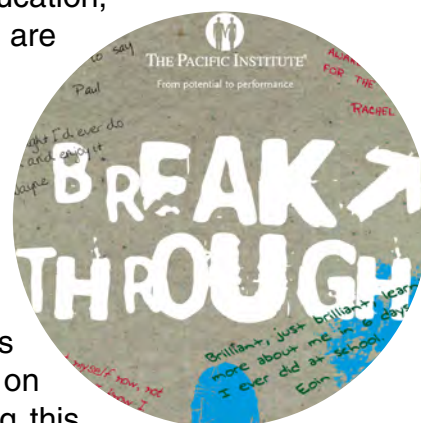
Together we took part in workshops based on sectarianism, culture and identity. In recognition of our contribution and commitment to developing anti sectarian initiatives we received an award from Sense over Sectarianism.



WAY AHEAD GROUP

Young people who are, or are at risk of being, not in education, employment or training and at risk of becoming socially excluded are a priority for the Scottish Executive.

One of the Secondary Schools we work with, Holyrood RC, have identified a group of S3s who are potentially in this category. In partnership with other agencies we deliver a programme of Personal, Social and Vocational Development to the group during class time. The Scottish Executive's Determined to Succeed strategy states that this type of work coming from outside agencies "can also help provide a more varied school experience focused on the needs and interests of each individual young person". During this programme, we deliver a personal development programme 'Breakthrough' – which aims to give young people the thinking skills they need to make the improvements they want in their lives enabling them to become self-motivated, lifelong learners.



The schools team wish to thank all of our partners, particularly the Schools.



Without the support and flexibility of each school and individual members of staff, Bridging the Gap would not be able to deliver the programmes mentioned. We look forward to the year ahead and to the continued success of our partnerships with Holyrood Secondary, Shawlands Academy, Blackfriars Primary and St. Francis Primary. Additionally, we would like to thank Holy Cross and St. Brigid's Primary Schools for the welcome we received when offering our Peer Tutoring programme to their pupils. We hope this will be a partnership that will continue to grow and develop.

Asylum & Refugee Team Report

A Year of Achievements April 06-March 07

Over the year the asylum & refugee team have worked with 216 individuals in many different ways:

April Citizenship classes ran for 4 weeks
Gorbals Framework for Dialogue representatives participated in the first Scottish Refugee Led Conference.

May Start of Framework for Dialogue 6 week Kitchen's Project (sharing stories and recipes)
What's Faith Got to Do With It? - Asylum team provided conference workshop on asylum issues.



June Gorbals Fair – A refugee on student placement organised volunteers to have stalls to run hair braiding and henna painting activities at the Gorbals Fair

July & August Summer trips – Summerlee, Sports Day in Glasgow Green, Chatelherault, Kelvingrove.
1 asylum seeking family got a week's break in Helensburgh thanks to West Kirk.

September A volunteer on placement from Gorbals Parish Church organised some men's activities at the Drop-in

October Storytelling weekend at Wiston Lodge joint with PATCH.
New project worker Linda started with focus on volunteer development.
Volunteer taster courses run jointly with ROOTS.

November Detainee Support Group of local volunteers founded with help of Scottish Refugee Council & CHCP-
Trained over next 7 months
Baby & Child First Aid, First Aid and Basic Food Hygiene Courses done by drop-in volunteers.



December One refugee's 1 year student Community Work placement at Bridging the Gap ended.
Christmas Party enjoyed by over 150 people

January & February On behalf of the Gorbals Integration Network BTG ran the 24 Module, 12 week Integration & Orientation Programme.

March International Women's Day celebration at the Drop-in
Workshop on asylum issues at TUC Women's Conference for International Women's Day



Our core activities have continued throughout the year:

English Classes have been run in conjunction with the Nautical College and TASK childcare at three levels 4 days per week during term times.

International Drop-in- There have been an average of 33 adults and 21 children attending the drop-in. Many adults have told us that this is one of few places they feel supported and relaxed and part of a community. Activities have included drama, arts & crafts, flower arranging and drumming, with regular attendance and support of Health Visitors, GASP & the Community Police



Casework - In Jan- March 07 we had an average of 28 people coming to the office for assistance each week. These requests have ranged from 3rd party reporting of crimes to finding new solicitors, to sorting out bill problems, citizenship test help and preventing homelessness.

Our **volunteer team** (on average 8 asylum seeker or refugee volunteers and 6 Scottish volunteers each week at the drop-in) have gone from strength to strength due to their skills, training and commitment and the focus of our new project worker.

Thanks to the generosity of many local people we have had a dried food store which has provided essential supplies to 13 asylum seekers who have become destitute during some stage of their claim.

One asylum seeker told us that despite being in London for 2 years, coming to Bridging the Gap was the first time she had really found help and support. She has since become a volunteer.



One Scottish mother who came to the storytelling weekend was very reticent about spending time with people seeking asylum. During the weekend she got to know some Turkish and Somali families, the kids did a play together and since then they have visited each others houses.

"I feel much better today because I was around people yesterday, making food and having conversations. It was good fun in the kitchen."

"The Drop-in is the only place my 4 year old gets to play"

"Storytelling was the only weekend away my son and I got last year"

"Bridging the Gap are my family in Glasgow"

We continue to feel very privileged to support the amazing diversity of people in the Gorbals Community and to provide opportunities for the indigenous community to welcome and get to know their new neighbours.



The People

Staff:

Project Co-ordinator	Tricia McConalogue
Project Worker (Schools)	Alice Duncan
Project Worker (Schools)	Terry Strain
Project Worker (Schools)	Claire Bonner
Project Worker (Asylum Seekers and Refugees)	Roz Adams
Project Worker (Asylum Seekers and Refugees)	Linda Ashby
Bookkeeper	Michael J McCafferty
Administrator	Clemence Butoyi

Volunteers:

Bridging the Gap relies upon the hard work of its volunteers who come from many different countries, but find common ground in the Gorbals community.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Linda Ashby.

Board of Directors:

Chairperson	Steve Ebbitt
Vice Chairperson	David Plizga
Treasurer	Andrew Cavanagh

Rev Ian Galloway	Lily O'Donnell
Fr Edmund Highton	Sheena Gilmour
Duncan Wallace	Hector Dickson
Margaret Leyden	Nonie Moyo
Scott Devlin	Jetmira Krasmiqi
Tom Friel	Laura Dolan
Elen Mehari	

In attendance	Pauline Edmiston
---------------	------------------

The Network

BRIDGING THE GAP networks with other groups such as:

Gorbals Parish Church
 Blessed John Duns Scotus
 Citizens Theatre
 Blackfriars Primary
 Holy Cross Primary
 St Brigid's Primary
 St. Francis Primary
 Holyrood Secondary
 Shawlands Academy
 The Initiative
 The Iona Community
TASK
 Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees
 Gorbals Healthy Living Network
 Gorbals Community Forum
 GCVS
 Volunteer Centre Glasgow
 Mohammed Sarwar
 Glasgow College of Nautical Studies
 Reed in Partnership
 Scottish Refugee Council
 Strathclyde Police
 Ethnic Minority Law Centre
 Glasgow Asylum Support Project
 NASS
 ROOTS
 Integrating Toryglen Community
 Community Health Care Partnership
 Impact Arts
 PATCH
 Adelphi Nursery
 Transformation Team
 Browsers
 East Belfast Area Youth Project
 Newry Outreach Project Northern Ireland
 Careers Scotland
and others.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2007

	31 March <u>2007</u> £	31 March <u>2006</u> £
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
Tangible Assets		2,377
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Debtors and prepayments	6,914	20,741
Bank	4,990	5,198
Cash on hand	131	122
	<u>12,035</u>	<u>26,061</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accruals and Deferred Income	9,050	2,400
Net Assets	<u><u>2,985</u></u>	<u><u>26,038</u></u>
<u>Funds</u>		
Unrestricted funds	2,985	23,416
Restricted funds		2,622
	<u><u>2,985</u></u>	<u><u>26,038</u></u>

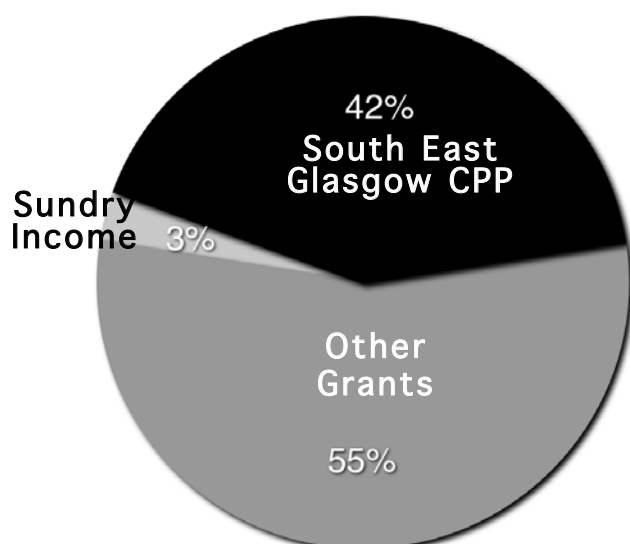
The financial statements were approved by the management committee on 12th September 2007 and were signed on their behalf by:

Stephen Ebbit Chairperson

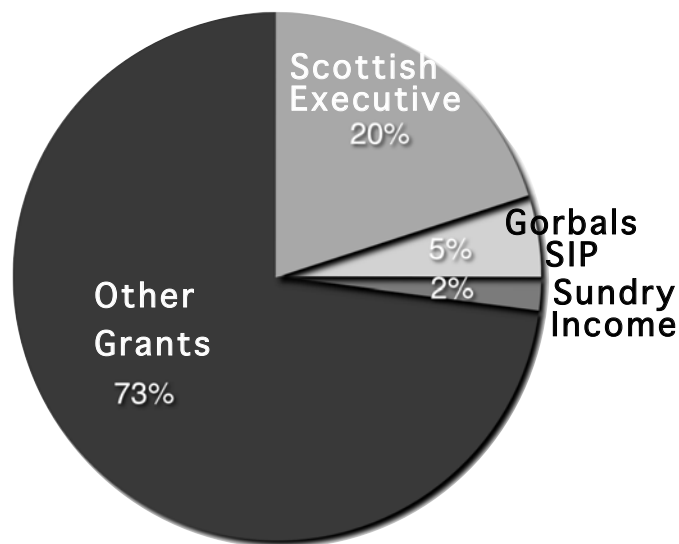
Andrew Cavanagh Treasurer

INCOME

2007



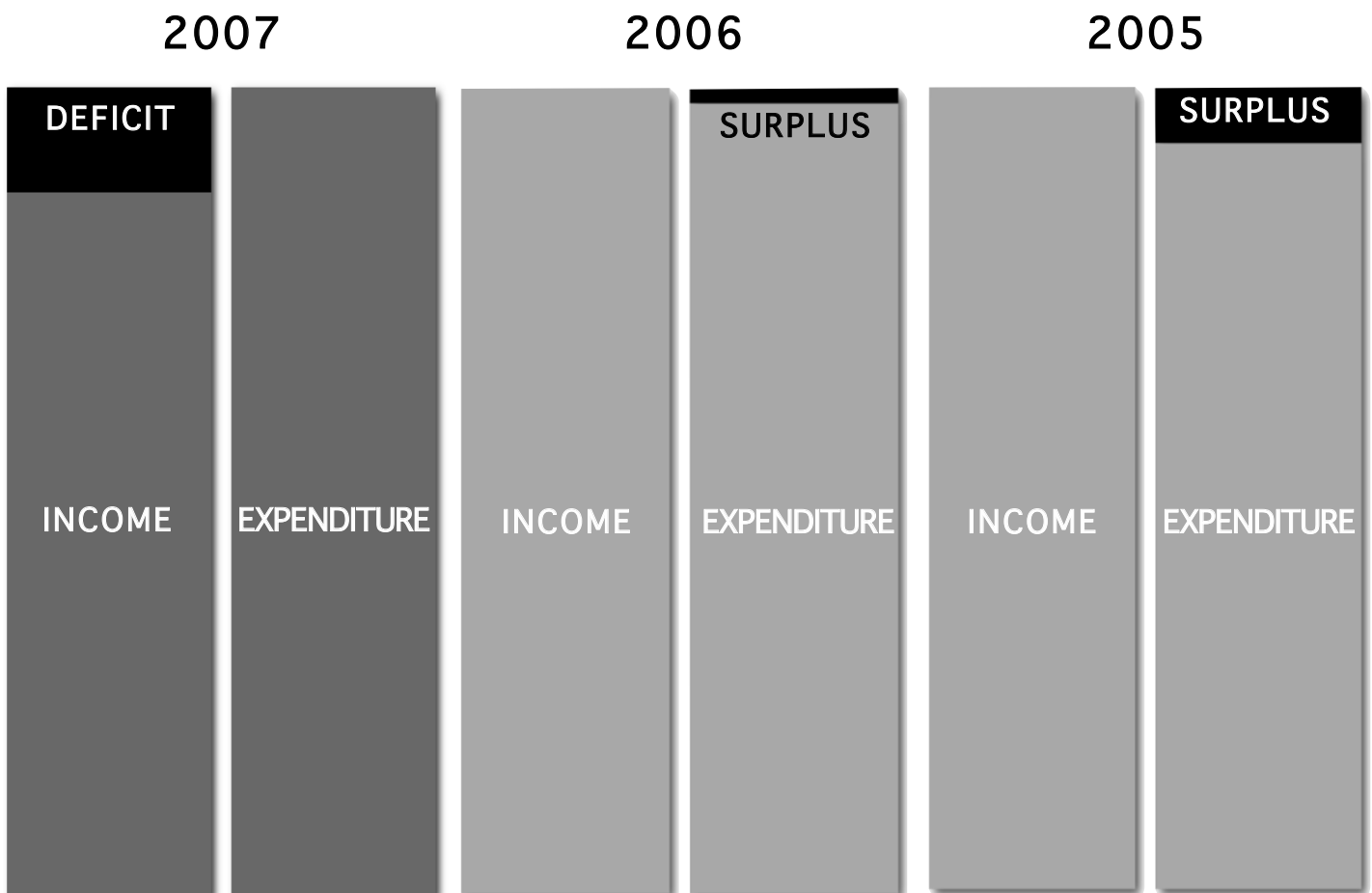
2006



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2007

	Total Funds <u>2007</u> £	Total Funds <u>2006</u> £	Total Funds <u>2005</u> £
<u>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds</u>			
Voluntary Income	153,064	177,070	129,547
Investment income	325	312	329
Total Incoming Resources	<u>153,389</u>	<u>177,382</u>	<u>129,876</u>
<u>Resources Expended</u>			
Direct charitable expenditure	173,731	167,745	116,745
Governance Costs	2,711	5,787	4,480
Total Resources Expended	<u>176,442</u>	<u>173,532</u>	<u>121,225</u>
(Deficit)/ Surplus for Period	<u>(25,053)</u>	<u>3,850</u>	<u>8,651</u>

SURPLUS/DEFICIT



Audit carried out by French Duncan LLP Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor.

BRIDGING THE GAP is grateful to the following trusts and other bodies for funding support: Glasgow Community Planning Ltd; Scottish Churches Community Trust; BBC Scotland Children in Need; Blessed John Duns Scotus; Parish Development Fund; Sense over Sectarianism; Gorbals Parish Church; Glasgow Key Fund Ltd; Allen Lane Foundation; Mary Andrew Charitable Trust; Hugh Fraser Foundation; Pastoral Care Trust; Scottish Executive; Robertson Trust; Waterside Trust; Awards for All; Comic Relief; Tudor Trust; Police Community Wellbeing Fund and Individual donations



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

