



ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08



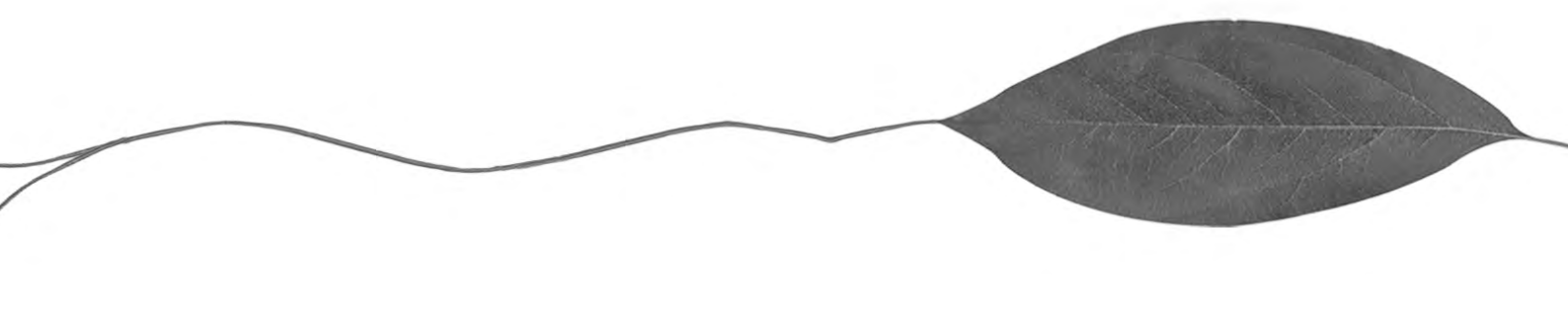
Mission Statement

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'.

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Chairman's Remarks

Welcome to the annual report of Bridging the Gap

It is a great pleasure to be writing in the Annual Report of Bridging the Gap 10 years on from its beginning. It was conceived in a conversation I had with Brian McGrath who was then the Parish Priest at Blessed John Duns Scotus. How could we find a way to demonstrate that our congregations, in an area with a history of sectarian divide, are now committed together to making a real difference to lives in our community based on need and not on background allegiance?

Today Bridging the Gap has a proud track record in making a real difference. Children who were at the start of their school journey 10 years ago have been assisted in their transition from primary to secondary school are now Peer Tutors passing on their experience to others.

People who arrived in Gorbals as Asylum Seekers with no English and suffering the effects of traumatic change now converse with ease and have moved on into education, voluntary work and employment.

As an organisation, Bridging the Gap has also matured and was a key player in the structure and development of the Gorbals Integration Network. It is also highly valued by schools who are our partners in supporting Gorbals children.

As a small charity within the voluntary sector we face considerable challenges. Planning and funding frameworks rightly demand good information on which to base their decisions and so our most recent staff post contains a monitoring and evaluation aspect to its work. The need to sustain work in the longer term within a diverse cocktail of funding continues to be a challenge, and this has proved to be an important aspect of the professional development of our staff team, who have contributed hugely to the achievements of the past year in developing finance.

Following a period of uncertainty in the wake of an unsuccessful Lottery bid, Bridging the Gap has recovered well and we look forward now to developing new ways of achieving our objectives as well as continuing the very high quality of work that we are already doing. None of this would be possible without the hard work of our staff and volunteer board members, to whom we express our gratitude, especially to those who have moved on in the course of the past year.

Rev Ian Galloway
(Chairman)

Co-ordinator's Report

It's been a very challenging year for Bridging the Gap. Despite some sad moments we're glad to say we have had some happy endings.

We got to a low point in our funding where we unfortunately had to let two members of staff go. Despite this and due to the hard work and commitment of the remaining staff we still managed to reach our targets and more importantly make a difference in the Gorbals.

On the Integration side we are delighted this year that more local Scottish folk have got involved. One local man who came to the Gorbals Fair and then to Bridging the Gap's Christmas celebrations said "I never knew this place was here, it's fantastic. It makes you realise there's a community within a community and I am really proud to be part of it".

It has also been great to be able to assist those Asylum Seekers who got positive decisions to move on with their lives. To see them relax and grasp the new opportunities open to them and finally becoming equal citizens.

Having more direct involvement in the schools this year, I have witnessed at first hand the difference Bridging the Gap makes to young people. On their first visit to Holyrood Secondary school, Five Primary 7 girls were so shy they walked behind each other keeping close to the corridor wall with their heads down. After a few weeks of Peer tutoring these 5 youngsters charged down the same corridor and felt able to approach teachers and introduce themselves. One woman who volunteered with both sides of the organisation and recently left to go to college said "I used to be really quiet but through volunteering at Bridging the Gap I have got more confident and have come out of my shell".

It's hard to choose only two examples from so many in 07/08. (Read on for fuller accounts of our work)

Meeting this year's challenges has made Bridging the Gap a stronger, tighter and more robust organisation. We have been fortunate to get a degree of funding which secures some areas of the organisation for the next three years.

As Co-ordinator I would like to say that this wouldn't have been possible without the flexibility, extra hours, commitment and passion of the staff team which I feel privileged to be part of.

I would like to thank the Board the Directors and the funders for their support and belief in our work. I would also like to thank the organisations that have partnered us in joint projects, our volunteers and the local churches and congregation for their continuing support.

Tricia McConalogue
(Project Co-ordinator)



Schools Team Report

In 2007-08 we continued our work with local schools in the following areas; Peer Tutoring, Citizenship and community building, anti-sectarian initiatives and other curriculum based group work as part of the Scottish Government's 'More Choices, More Chances' strategy. Fundraising once again proved to be a challenge for us, however we were successful in securing a new stream of funding from The Paul Hamlyn Foundation and The Moffat Trust as well as receiving continued support from existing funders.

PEER TUTORING

A major "gap" is between Primary and Secondary school. Our peer-tutoring programme gives vulnerable young people in the last year of Primary school the opportunity to prepare for the transition to Secondary school.

"A very worthwhile project. My son feels much more equipped to start a very important period in his life." Parent.

Building positive relationships with older pupils, feeling comfortable in the Secondary school building and getting to meet their new teachers enables the young people to become more confident and relaxed about starting Secondary school.



In our peer-tutoring programme we continued to work with Blackfriars and St. Francis Primary Schools in Gorbals, St Brigid's Primary in Toryglen and Holy Cross Primary in Govanhill as well as both Secondary Schools, Holyrood and Shawlands Academy.

This has been a successful year in terms of numbers taking part - in total we had 91 young people complete the programme.

Each year we hold an Awards Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of all young people involved. This year's was held at Hampden Park – Scotland's National Stadium, a fitting venue for the participants. Around 300 people heard speeches from Frank McAveety MSP, Councillor Anne Marie Millar and Councillor Gordon Matheson in his role as Executive member for Education and Social Renewal. We also had guests from 'River City' to present the young people with their certificates.

"BTG was great, I got more confidence, I made new friends and I got the chance to help someone else fit in – my Primary 7!" S4 Pupil.



Feedback from parents and young people was extremely positive.



CITIZENSHIP

Our citizenship and community-building programme aims to engage with young people and raise their awareness of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

In partnership with The Iona Community we delivered workshops to pupils on the theme of citizenship. These mainly focussed on Sectarianism. Through discussion, drama and groupwork we looked at stereotypes and prejudices in more detail with 2 groups of S3 pupils from Holyrood Secondary



CORRYMEELA

The foundation of our schools work is to provide opportunities for young people to meet and learn together.

As part of our peer-tutoring programme the S4 pupils from both Holyrood and Shawlands went together to the Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. During this weekend the young people met other young people from one of our partners – The East Belfast Area Youth Project. Bridging the Gap and Corrymeela staff delivered a programme that included team building and discussion based activities around themes of prejudice and sectarianism.



“The impact of the visit to Corrymeela cannot be overlooked in this regard and it made a deep impression on them. In my opinion it fulfils a great need. It is particularly to be commended in encouraging pupils from both denominational and non-denominational schools to work together and learn from each other’s experiences.” Monica Dickson, Depute Head, Shawlands Academy

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 Government.



One of the Secondary Schools we work with, identified a group of S3s and asked Bridging the Gap along with other agencies such as GSERA and Social Work Department to deliver a programme of Personal, Social and Vocational Development (PSD) to this group during class time. During this programme, we delivered a personal development programme – Go For It - 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. This is the second group we have worked with and will continue to work with them in their 4th year at school also. The first group we worked with successfully received an Intermediate 1 qualification in PSD.

“It is one of the few things I have done that has felt worthwhile, I wouldn't trade anything for the experiences I have had while participating in the programme (and beyond), and I'll tell you that for free.” S4 pupil

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 our programmes. We look forward to the year ahead and to the continued success of our partnerships with Holyrood Secondary, Shawlands Academy, Blackfriars Primary, St.Francis Primary, Holy Cross Primary and St.Brigid's Primary.



Asylum & Refugee Team Report

A year with the asylum and refugee team.

Our Regulars...Throughout the Year The Drop-in has run every Thursday in term time with an average of 56 people each week. Framework for Dialogue Meetings happen every fortnight and Gorbals Integration Network Meetings Monthly, volunteers meet every 6 weeks. The Office has been open Monday-Friday providing individual support, signposting and advocacy to an average of 27 people per week.

April Celebration at the end of IOP (Integration & Orientation Programme)
Detainee Support Group Training (April-June)
Meeting with Borders & Immigration Agency Regional Director Phil Taylor
Research Group – Doing It Ourselves
Jewellery Making for Gorbals Fair

May & June Student on work placement at Drop-in
Volunteer Led Celebration of BTG at Gorbals Fair
Volunteer Led Celebration Of Refugee Week

July Joint Drop-ins with PATCH doing cold baking and photography
Sports Day, Ayr Beach Trip, Blair Drummond Trip, Film Showing

August Trips to Chatelherault, Strathclyde Park,
Framework for Dialogue group to Mugdock Park
English Classes and Drop-in start back

September Women's Group Starts
Framework for Dialogue Development Day
Staff do Non-Violent Communication Training

October AGM
Framework for Dialogue Women's Issues Meeting
Volunteers on Current Issues in Asylum Training
Graphic Design Student project based in the Drop-in
Impact Arts run volunteer training tasters
Staff on holistic leadership Course

November Staff and Volunteer visit Scottish Parliament
Staff training in visual approaches to evaluation

December English Class Certificates Presentation
Christmas Party for over 200 people

January Staff attend Moving On seminar at Scottish Refugee Council for Legacy Case Review People.
Burns day celebration at Drop-in with trainee ministers

February Women's Group second pilot project starts & visits Women's Library
Staff on Graphic Facilitation training

March Women's Group run International Women's Day Celebrations at Drop-in
Storytelling weekend residential at Wiston Lodge





"The Drop-in is the only place my 4 year old gets to play- I couldn't get a nursery place for him"

It has been a good year for many asylum seeking families who have been here for many years as they finally got leave to remain under the BIA legacy review – Our work has responded to this change by focusing on Moving On issues, the transition to work, mainstream benefits and mainstream housing, while still supporting those who are waiting for a decision. Our Drop-in activities have included drumming, African & Scottish dancing, Banner Making, Photography background making, Sports Day, Eritrean Day, Drama, Magician, Fire Safety, Hair and Beauty, Turkish Day, Bingo, Burns Day & Singing. We have been lucky to have a queue of people willing to cook each week; delicious food from all the corners of the globe. We have had visits from many agencies advertising their courses and services and regular attendance from Health Visitors, SRC and GASP as a one-stop service. We are delighted that more and more local Scottish Gorbals People are joining the Drop-in and becoming regulars, enjoying the amazing multicultural Gorbals. Without our volunteers we could not manage to run the fun drop ins every week.



Not only am I impressed by BTG I have learned much from the whole team which will enrich whatever parish I serve in. Iain Tough, Probationary Minister/Volunteer.

One Scottish volunteer told us, "when the BNP woman came round with leaflets I tore it up in front of her and told her I work with these people"

This year training consisted of:
Food and Hygiene (certificated) for 4 volunteers, Asylum Issues for 4 volunteers, 2 separate 12 week courses on First Aid and Child and Baby First Aid (certificated) for 12 volunteers, Digital Camera course

An Algerian woman about Bridging the Gap, "You never forget those who stand with you when you need them. You remember them all your life"



for 8 volunteers, Impact Arts Workshops for all volunteers, College Flower Arranging course for 2 volunteers, Understanding Cultural Diversity & Migration training for 5 volunteers and Child Protection 3 day course for 5 volunteers.

Many volunteers have moved onto to College courses, paid employment and to University, a sign of successful capacity building. We are lucky to have so many strongly committed, hard working and highly skilled people from all walks with one main thing in common and that is their love for BTG service users. As in previous years we have found the most rewarding work in small groups especially on residential

"I like cooking because maybe if someone does not have enough at home they can come to get a meal here. It makes God happy. If I had money I would pay for the ingredients myself" Iranian Volunteer



If it wasn't for people like you I wouldn't be where I am. John, BTG Volunteer who has moved onto full time work.

I used to be really quiet but through volunteering at BTG I have become more confident. Yasmin, Volunteer who has gone on to College.

where people can really get to know each other and find common ground. Our new challenges are to access people dispersed to the Gorbals under the New Asylum Model and to build stronger links with the indigenous community. It has been a pleasure and a privilege again this year to work at BTG and with the Gorbals Community.

The People

The Network

Staff:

Project Co-ordinator	Tricia McConalogue
Project Worker (Schools)	Terry Strain
Project Worker (Schools)	Alice Duncan
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	Rev Ian Galloway
Vice Chairperson	Scott Devlin
Treasurer	Andrew Cavanagh
Fr Edmund Highton	Lily O'Donnell
Duncan Wallace	Sheena Gilmour
Margaret Leyden	Hector Dickson
Tom Friel	Nonie Moyo
Elen Mehari	Jetmira Krasmiqi
Laura Dolan	
In attendance	Pauline Edmiston

BRIDGING THE GAP networks with other groups such as:

Gorbals Parish Church
Blessed John Duns Scotus
Blackfriar's Primary
Holy cross Primary
St Brigid's Primary
St. Francis' Primary
Holyrood Secondary
Shawlands Academy
Adelphi Nursery
Bookstart
Browsers
Cardinal Winning Pro Life
Careers Scotland
Citizens Theatre
Community Health Care Partnership
Culture and Sport Glasgow Youth Services
East Belfast Area Youth Project
GCVS
Glasgow Asylum Support Project
Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees
Glasgow College of Nautical Studies
Glasgow Volunteer Centre
Gorbals Community Forum
Gorbals Fair Management Committee
Gorbals Health Visitors
Gorbals Healthy Living Network
Gorbals Integration Network
GSERA
Impact Arts
Integrating Toryglen Community
Iona Community
National Asylum Support Service
PATCH
Reed in Partnership
ROOTS
Scottish Refugee Council
Strathclyde Police
TASK
The Volunteer Centre
Transformation Team
UNITY
.....and others.

BALANCE SHEET

31st MARCH
2008

	31 March 2008 £	31 March 2007 £
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Debtors and prepayments	11,935	6,914
Bank	52,934	5,121
	<u>64,869</u>	<u>12,035</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accruals and Deferred Income	<u>6,861</u>	<u>9,050</u>
Net Assets	<u>58,008</u>	<u>2,985</u>
<u>Funds</u>		
Unrestricted funds	9,874	2,985
Restricted funds	<u>48,134</u>	
	<u>58,008</u>	<u>2,985</u>

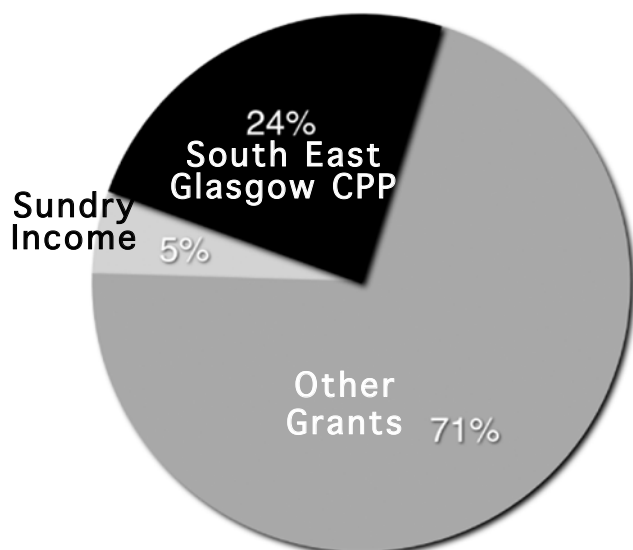
The financial statements were approved by the management committee on 12th September 2008 and were signed on their behalf by:

Rev Ian Galloway Chairman

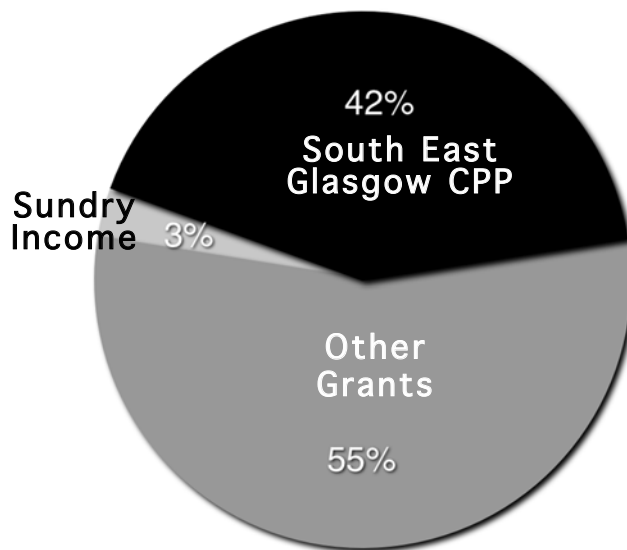
Andrew Cavanagh Treasurer

INCOME

2008



2007



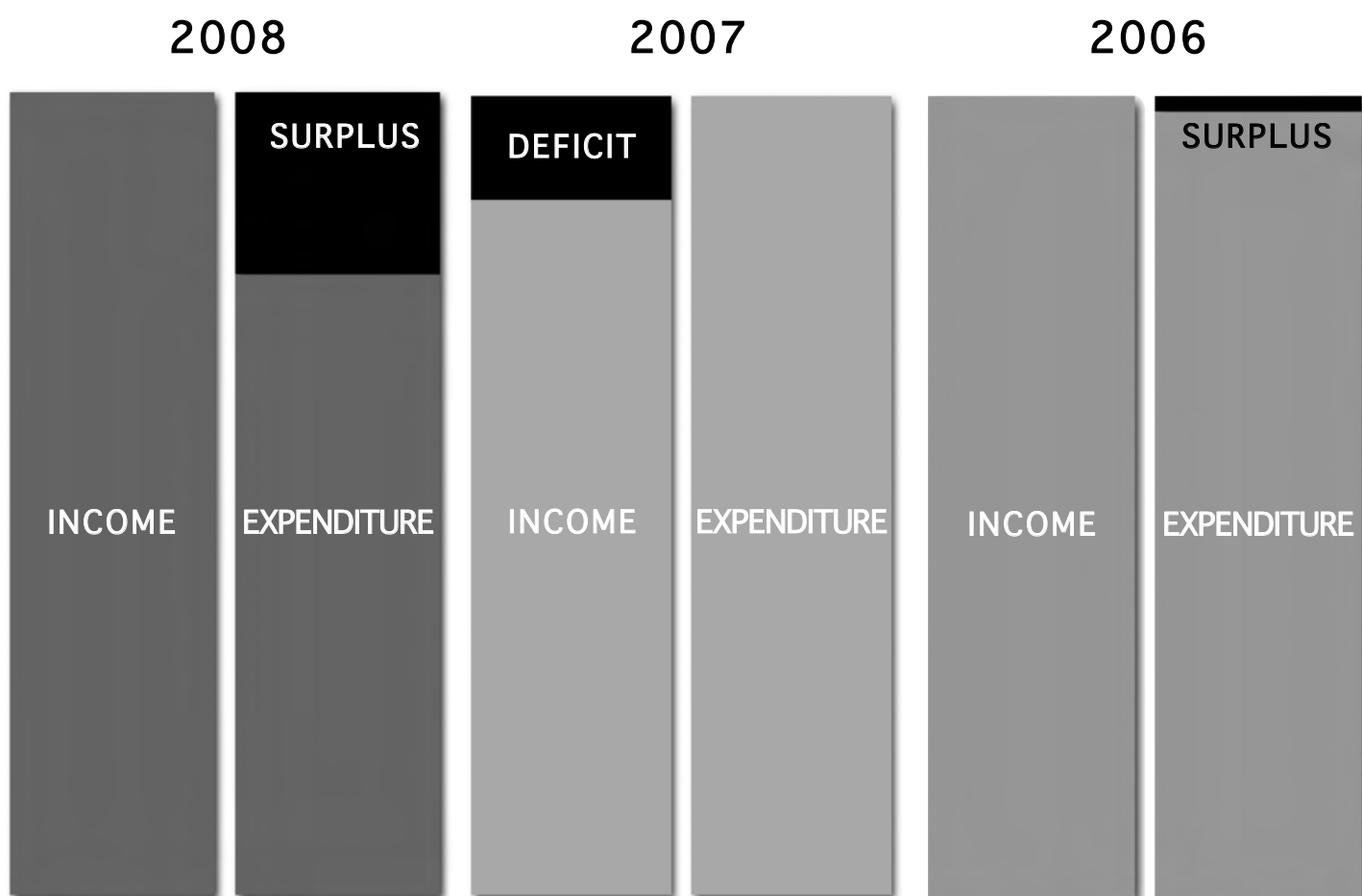
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED


31st MARCH
2008

	Total Funds 2008	Total Funds 2007	Total Funds 2006
	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>			
Revenue Grants	242,049	153,064	177,070
Interest	481	325	312
Total	<u>242,530</u>	<u>153,389</u>	<u>177,382</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Charitable Activities	184,388	173,731	167,745
Governance Costs	3,119	2,711	5,787
Total	<u>187,507</u>	<u>176,442</u>	<u>173,532</u>
(Deficit)/ Surplus	<u>55,023</u>	<u>(23,053)</u>	<u>3,850</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:

Allen Lane Foundation
Awards for All
BBC Scotland Children in Need
Blessed John Duns Scotus
Comic Relief
Endeavour Scotland
Glasgow Community Planning Ltd
Gorbals Parish Church
Hugh Fraser Foundation
Parish Development Fund
Scottish Refugee Integration Fund
Scottish Churches Community Trust
Scottish Government
Sense over Sectarianism
Southside Central Area Committee
Strathclyde Police
The Moffat Trust
The Paul Hamlyn Foundation
The Robertson Trust
The Waterside Trust
Tudor Trust
Individual donations

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Company No: SC284862