

ANNUAL REPORT



bristol hospitality network

solidarity · equality · mutual empowerment
hospitality · integrity · creative resistance



APRIL 2019 -
MARCH 2020

www.bhn.org.uk



In solidarity with asylum seekers
experiencing destitution



GROWTH AND CHALLENGES



Steve Watters
Chair of
trustees

It's a strange time to write an annual review. There is so much to celebrate from the past year. We welcomed new staff, including Lizzie as Maternity Cover Director and Helen in the new role of Member Volunteer Coordinator. And we have continued to develop our work and sought new collaborations, including working with MIND to develop the Member Listening Project.

However, since March 2020, COVID-19 has meant incredibly challenging times for all of us and especially our members, as we had to close our Welcome Centre and find other ways to deliver services. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported Bristol Hospitality Network over these past months. We couldn't have done any of it without you. Particular thanks go to our wonderful staff and member and non-member volunteers, who have worked tirelessly in difficult circumstances to ensure BHN can provide support to those that need it and continue to deliver our mission.

It has been my privilege to lead BHN in Rachael's absence. I was lucky enough to have a six week handover before Rachael started her maternity leave in January. It really helped me understand the values, culture and vision for BHN, but it also allowed me time to get to know BHN's members, their needs and the part BHN plays in their lives. My first impression of BHN was just how friendly the community was. I found real acceptance and joy at the drop-in on a Monday, and later learnt just how important that authentic community is for seeking asylum successfully.

One of many highlights has been getting to know our members. It has changed me and broadened my understanding, and for that I am eternally grateful. As we look to the next year, which has been changed beyond recognition by COVID-19, I know that these relationships will play a key part in seeing us through together as a community.

While most of this report focuses on April 2019-March 2020, we did want to highlight the more recent changes we have made to our services to continue to support our members in a changing environment. We have included examples in this report of how BHN has adapted to meet these challenging times.



Lizzie Briggs
Director
(Maternity
Cover)



hosting network

Through the host network and Men's house we **hosted 47 members last year, providing **9,947 nights of accommodation!****

We welcomed hosted members from 18 countries of origin.



■ Iraqi Kurdish	■ Syria	■ Afghanistan	■ Sudan	■ Egypt
■ Eritrea	■ Somalia	■ Iran	■ Palestine	■ Uganda
■ Nigeria	■ Congo DRC	■ Botswana	■ Kuwait	■ Jamaica
■ Chad	■ China	■ The Gambia		

'I live with a woman on her own and it is nice....I do not miss home so much because I am here at home already'

BHN member



BHN Men's house

The BHN house continues to provide a sanctuary for up to 10 men at any one time. The day to day needs of the house are supported by our live-in volunteer hosts, James and Susan. The Volunteer House Team support members of the house and are involved in the weekly house meals.

Graham joined the BHN staff team in March 2019 as Maintenance Coordinator, to oversee health and safety at the House.



host story

Sarah and Peter from Bishopston decided to host an asylum seeker through BHN after being impressed at the level of support offered to both asylum seekers and hosts.

BHN member Alex was hosted for two years.

Sarah says: "From very early on we felt comfortable with him...We thought it would be more difficult than it was...really, it's been an absolute privilege."

"If somebody opens their door to almost a stranger, that's like opening their heart to you. It is so profound...It was such a special feeling to be secure, to have a roof over your head, to have a place where you can sleep.. and share with a family, .it's an experience I can't put into words"

BHN member

Covid-19 update:

Bristol City Council temporarily accommodated a number of asylum seekers in hotels across the city when lockdown began. We have been working with the council to provide move-on accommodation through the expansion of our host network.

HELP team



Six HELP team volunteers supported 134 individuals across the year.

The HELP team support BHN members to move forward with their asylum claim and to find a route out of destitution.

This year, the HELP team's collaboration with Bristol Refugee Rights, improving guidance for social workers, saw us win the Golden Key Inspiring Learning award.

From April 2019 to March 2020

Four BHN members were able to move on into government support by making a fresh asylum claim

One BHN member got Leave to Remain

10 BHN members were supported to move on positively with friends

member story

Ahmed first came to BHN in 2016. We hosted him so he had some stability while he got his asylum claim back on track, then helped him with money, reporting to the Home Office, and getting mental health support. In 2019 he finally got his status, so now he's safe. He still supports BHN by volunteering as a barber at the drop-in.

welcome centre



**Our welcome centre is attended by up to
114 people a week.**

The Sewing group have been busy making aprons, bags, tablecloths, clothes and supporting other members to repair clothing. On the Art table we've had workshops on paper moulding, making campaign banners and glass decorations.

We've continued partnerships with ACE and Herbalists without Borders. We've had plenty of music from the Welcome Voices Choir and our own music group.



In June, the centre opened its doors to the wider public for Refugee Festival. 40 people visited us to find out more about BHN, have lunch and take part in workshops.

Covid-19 update:

The Welcome Centre was closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, solidarity payments were delivered throughout lockdown and members are being paired with volunteers for ESOL one-to-one mentoring.



volunteers

We were supported by 149 volunteers this year, including 67 members!

The majority of volunteers (103) were involved in the Welcome Centre.

Moveable Feast catered for 12 events this year, ranging from meals for 15 to 500 people. 20 volunteers supported these events, which have included a Peace Feast with Bridges for Communities, canapés for a leaving celebration, weddings and even a Shakespeare performance!

Moveable Feast was at the Refugee Festival Celebrating Sanctuary event again this year, providing a delicious hot lunch by donation for hundreds of people.



BHN Volunteers on a trip to Weston Super Mare



BHN Volunteers catering for Refugee Festival

A BIG thank you to all our volunteers

Georgiana

member leadership



Helen Kidan joined the staff team in September 2019 in the new post of Member Volunteer Coordinator.

Helen works with members to develop participation and leadership opportunities. Four member volunteers have fully funded places on Campaign Bootcamp training and four member volunteers are waiting to start a Sports Coaching course.

This year, we also developed a partnership with MIND. Seven members participated in four weeks of training, where they learnt about mental health and the 'ways to wellbeing'. The group have used this information to form a new BHN listening group to support other members.



Listening Volunteers receive certificates

Covid-19 update:

The member leadership group have continued to meet once a week, over video call.

BHN Listening Volunteers are providing support to members over the phone.

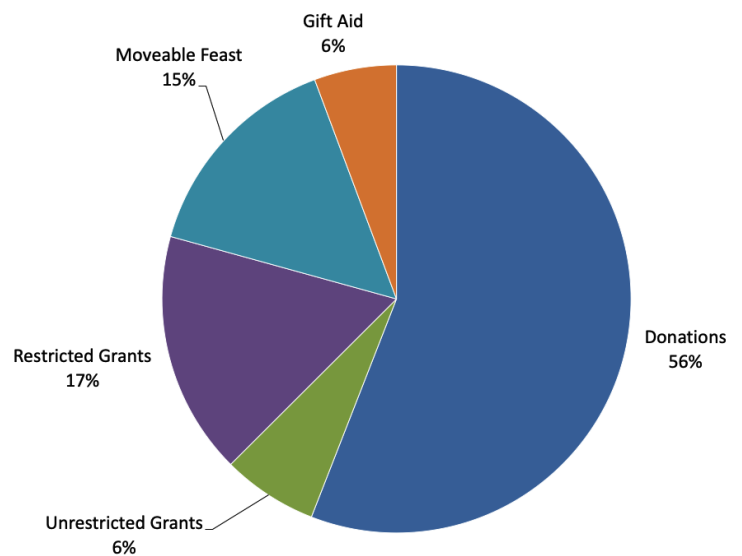


finances & funding 2019-20

Income - £152,000: 62% donations, 23% grants, 15% Moveable Feast

Just over half of our donations are from regular donors, to whom we are very grateful. Total income from Moveable Feast was £23,000, 60% more than last year

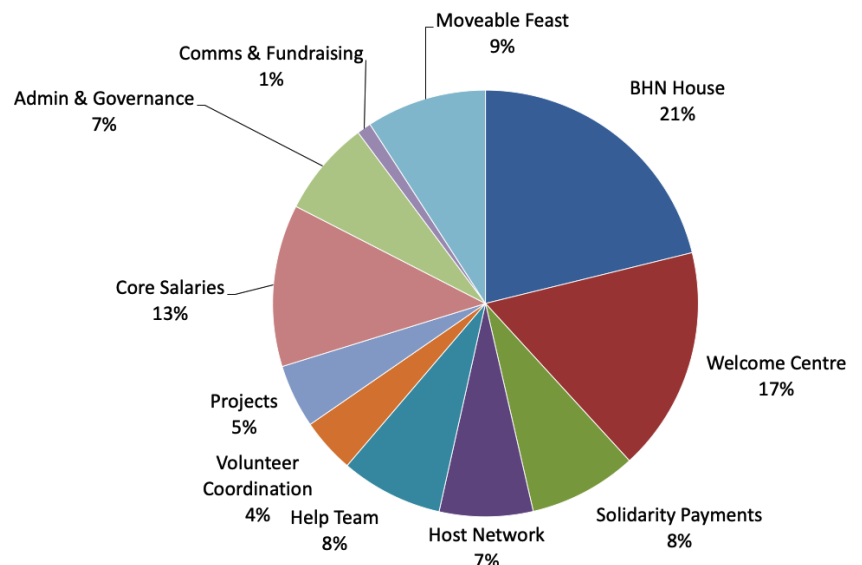
Income 2019/20



Expenditure - £172,000: 83% charitable projects, 8% overheads, 9% Moveable Feast.

We spent 18% more than last year, due to an increase in our staff team

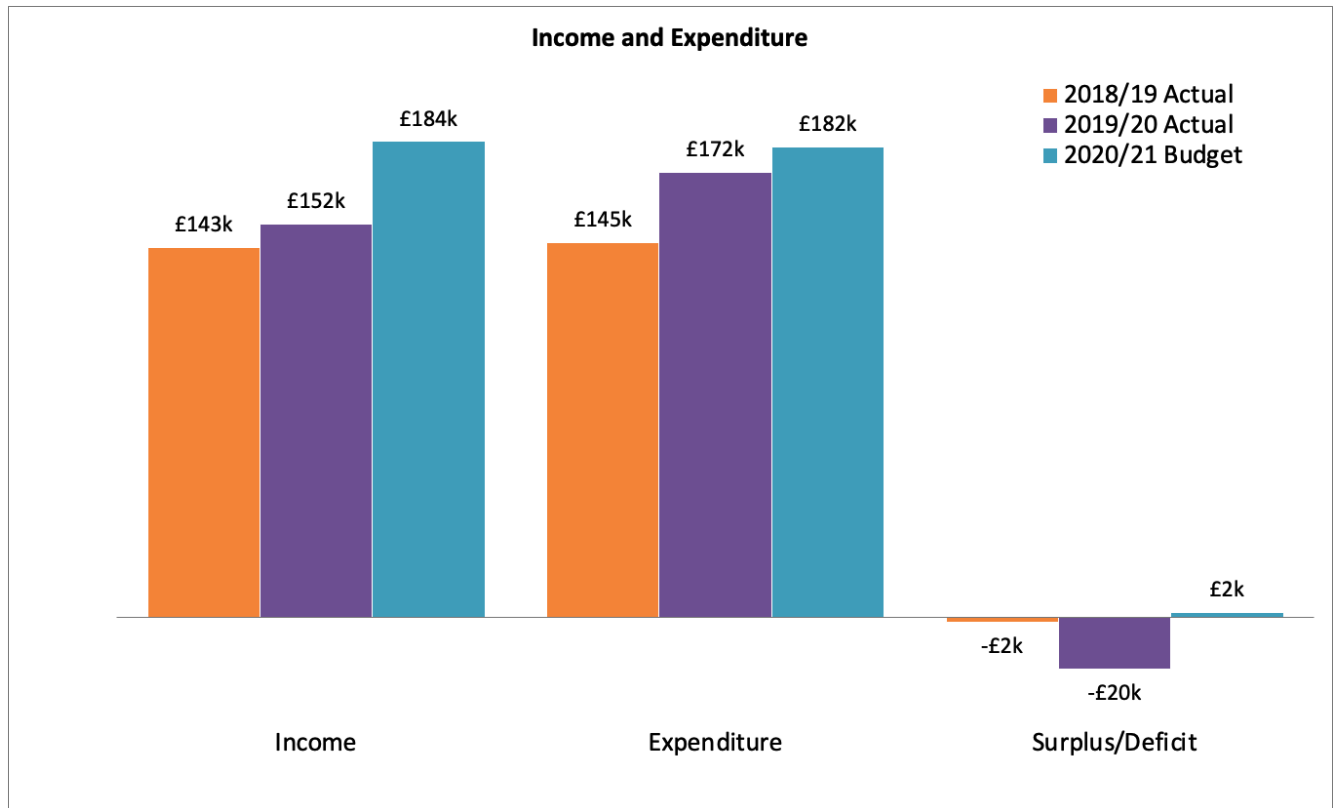
Expenditure 2019/20



We had a total deficit of £20,000, and ended the year with enough reserves to cover four months of running costs.



finances & funding 2019-20



thank you!

A huge thank you to The Burden Trust, Big Give, Brisdoc, Lloyds Bank Foundation, People's Postcode Trust, Swire Charitable Trust, Thresholds, One Percent Scheme, the Desmond Harris Trust and to our many individual donors, particularly those who donate regularly.

Many thanks are also due to our wonderful team of volunteers.
We are so grateful for your invaluable support.

Trustees: Laura Barrow, Oona Goldsworthy, Laura Harper,
Leila Nicholas, George Perry, Steve Watters, Sarah Webb



REGISTERED CHARITY #1138498



WWW.BHN.ORG.UK



BRISTOLHOSPITALITYNETWORK