

# Glenthorne

## Guest House and Conference Centre



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### **WELCOME PROJECT REPORT 2022**

#### **Hospitality to asylum seekers and refugees**

The Welcome Project provides short respite holidays to groups of asylum seekers and refugees from the urban distribution centres throughout the mid and north of England. This report gives the details of the project's purpose and benefits, the activities during 2022 and the project finances.



## This years activities

Our first year after the Covid lockdowns! We have been delighted to offer breaks to 6 groups and one family who were able to come independently. This year we were able to welcome two groups and a family here in February! It was brilliant, with dry weather and some special visits to Dove Cottage and the Beatrix Potter attraction in Windermere.

Unusually, this year we had two groups of younger men that favoured more hiking and as you can see in one of the photos, a wild swim at Sour Milk Ghyll (not in February!).

We have been staggered to have asylum seekers from 17 different countries this year and for the first time a family from Kazakhstan and one from El Salvador.



I usually describe a typical weekend in this annual report but this time **I will let our visitors tell you in their own words:**

*I was most grateful for all the lovely people who were all very welcoming and we would all come down in the morning for breakfast and everyone was very polite and said "Good morning".*

*Waking up to the sound of sheep was very beautiful and pleasant for me.*

*Visiting all the places like the Wordsworth museum, the Beatrix Potter Attraction and also walking up the hills. Although they were very muddy, I enjoyed it a lot.*

*The boat ride from Ambleside to Windermere was amazing.*

*The three course meal at dinner every night was a five star experience! Being able to sit with others at the lounge each night after dinner brought back family memories back home.*

*I talked to the nature and had some beautiful experiences of visits. The way the group became one big family, looking and caring for one another, regardless.*

*For my daughter she said the best thing was the mountains, the animal life, the food, the rooms. She loves the rest room, the trip in the boat, the Peter Rabbit museum*

*I never feel happy like this days. Nobody look at me bad because most people here are respectful and kind.*



## **Purpose and Benefits of the Project**

The project is an initiative started by Glenthorne trustees to provide short respite holidays to groups of asylum seekers, refugees and those made destitute when their asylum claim fails. We sometimes extend the scope to include those who have volunteered or carried out relief work with refugees and asylum seekers. We have developed links with faith and community groups supporting asylum seekers in the urban areas across the mid and north of England.



The Welcome Project has run every

year since the pilot project in 2008. Over that time, **eight hundred and fifty men, women and children refugees, asylum seekers and befrienders from fifty eight countries have benefited from a respite break at Glenthorne.** The benefits include social integration, relief from stress, depression and anxiety caused by displacement, trauma and isolation, restoring faith in humanity, hope for the future and goodwill towards others.

## **Facts and figures for 2022**

Mid-week (3 nights)	February	Blackburn - Group
Weekend (2 nights)	February	Doncaster Conversation Club - family.
Weekend (2 nights)	February	Refugee Action York - Group
Weekend (2 nights)	May	Bradford BIASAN - Group
Weekend (2 nights)	June	Bolton BRASS – Group
Weekend (2 nights)	September	Doncaster Conversation Club - Group
Weekend (2 nights)	October	Rochdale, Together We Grow - Group

Number of guests:

Adult asylum seekers/refugees	42
Children asylum seekers/refugees (infant to 16 years)	23
Accompanying befrienders & volunteers	6
<b>Total number of guests this year</b>	<b>71</b>

## **Countries of Origin of asylum Seeker/refugee guests:**

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, China, Cuba, DR Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Ingushetia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Kurdistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Korea, Namibia, Pakistan, Philippines, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



## **Project costs and finances**

The costs involved include full board accommodation at Glenthorne and staff cost.  
Support for travel cost to and from Glenthorne.  
Spending money and sundry items for boat trips and bus fares.  
Hire of South Lakes Community mini bus.

(The cost activities and transport to Glenthorne for the Doncaster Together we Grow group visit was funded by the group organisers and are not included here).

Balance of fund 30/11/21	£34,521
Total project cost in 2022	12,922
Total income to Project, grants, donations since 30/11/21	£ 4,540
Balance of fund 30/11/22	<b>£26,139</b>

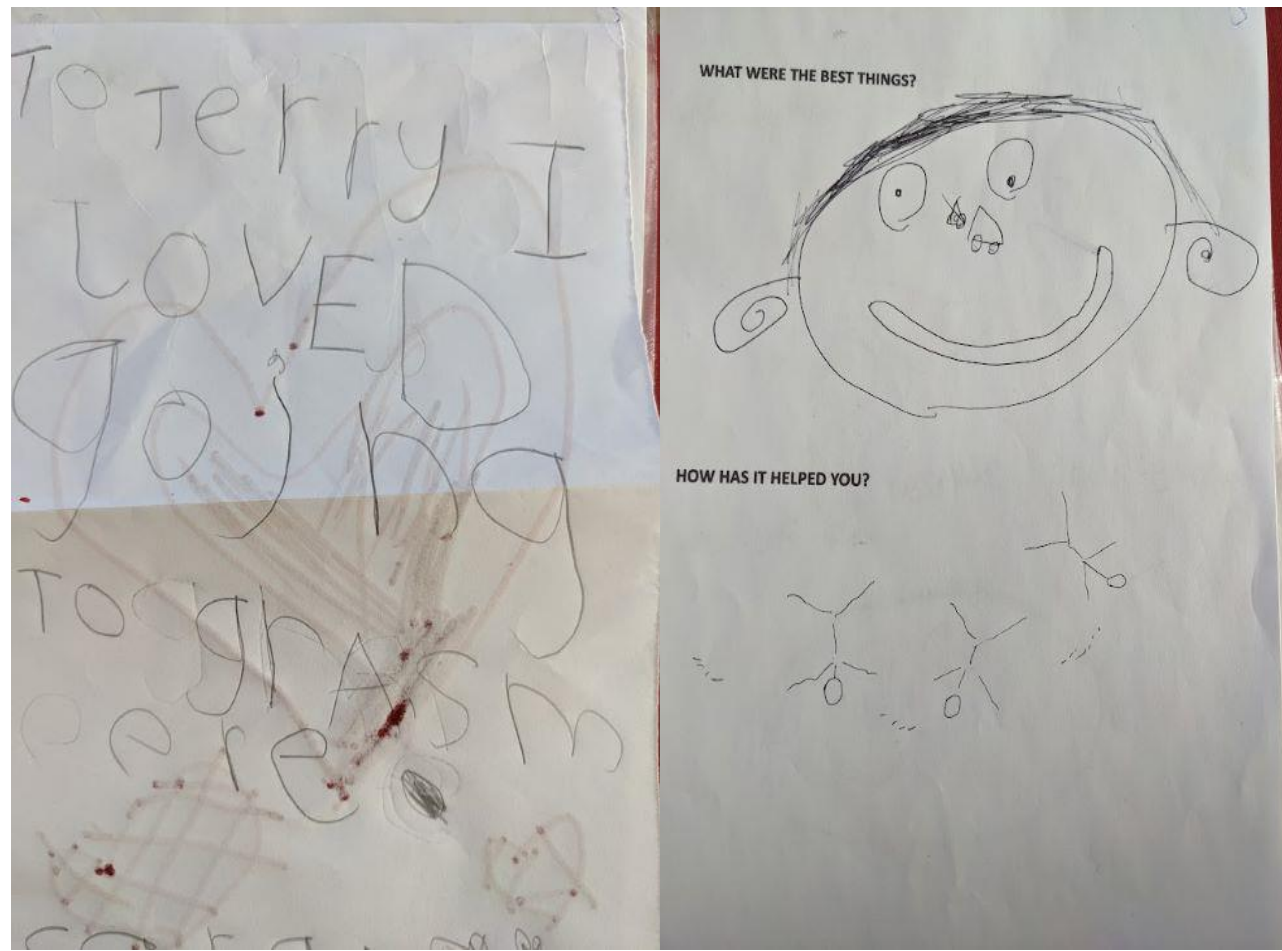
Average cost per person for a 2 day break	£171.89
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Here are some of the responses **from our younger visitors:**

The drawing on the right below shows action diagrams of somersaults drawn by one young boy. This promising 7 year old gymnast demonstrated his ability to do this physically in the lounge, and they really were somersaults not cartwheels!



The drawing of a red squirrel was sketched during the visit by a female teenager and the heart was on the front of a card to me from a small child.



**And the effect it had on them:**

*I am grateful for being able to see another side of life, one that doesn't revolve around opening thick brown envelopes from the Home Office, but embraces life and the hope that everything will be okay. Thank you.*

*This has been a life changing experience my family would never forget. I have learnt that God is everywhere from the lovely Quaker family and friends I met here. Coming home happy and fulfilled.*

*The time I stay here was relaxing and without worries. Also, a time of reflection, how to make a world a better place for everyone without violence.*

*Spiritually, I felt closer to God, I think it's a sign from him to say I did not forget you, I can hear your prayers and I love you.*

*The 20 minutes of silence gave me time to connect with myself and get clearance of issues spiritually.*

*I never feel happy like these days, nobody look at me bad ...*

*I've realised what peace means.*

*This visit has strengthened my resolve to be someone who I can be proud of – someone who helps and benefits others.*

*I saw my Mom laughing and enjoying her time, after so many years and I want to say thank you for making this happen.*

*It's making a big difference in my life, there is hope ...*





## **The Future.**

This project continues to inspire everyone who hears about it. Our trustees and staff feel that this project is a very important part of what we can offer at Glenthorne. We are fully committed to offer these breaks as long as they are needed and we are planning another full programme of visits throughout the coming year.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we get from charitable trusts, Quaker Meetings and individuals, without which we could not do this.



In the words of one of our recent guests:

*I really thank and appreciate with all my heart the people who donated to make other people happy despite not knowing them in advance and I hope to be a part of this programme one day to be a useful person who helps others as they did to me.*

Terry Winterton  
Friend in Residence.  
Glenthorne