



GATWICK DETAINEES WELFARE GROUP

Spring 2022



'Bird in a Red Sky' by Anita Klein.

One of the many art works in a forthcoming GDWG online Art Auction in May 2022

When we gave Little Amal a Refugee Tales welcome at the University of Kent last year, we could never have guessed that there would be a million children made refugees in Europe in a two week period in 2022. Seeing the war in Ukraine played out before our eyes on social media and in the news causes us to replay all the stories of all the conflicts that have been described in the visits room in detention. And we know that those who are currently displaced today may be people in detention in the future.

It is a time of immense pain for everyone for whom events in Ukraine open wounds of all the hurt of all past journeys to seek asylum. Our thoughts are with those fleeing now, those who have fled before and all those affected. We hope this newsletter celebrates the work of our volunteers and the hope they create in visits and in developing a vibrant community that makes new memories and creates new connections even in terrible times. Take care and thank you all.

Reflections

by Avril Loveless

In recent years I have listened to the podcast 'OnBeing'* in which the host engages in conversation with an astonishingly wide range of people 'pursuing deep thinking and moral imagination, social courage and joy, to renew inner life, outer life, and life together'. This week I found myself thinking back to a conversation which touched my experiences as a GDWG visitor and trustee particularly at this time of the Public Inquiry alongside the changes that the pandemic and Brexit have brought to our work.

Watching the witnesses and legal teams speak out at the Public Inquiry has been both harrowing and inspiring. I am proud to be part of an organisation such as GDWG which looks at the reality of detention with such care and longstanding commitment. It reminded me of an OnBeing conversation with Ariel Burger who is a rabbi, an artist, teacher and author of *Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom*. Wiesel, who survived the Holocaust, said "The key in all of this is, never allow anyone to be humiliated in your presence". Berger considered this to be a powerful starting point as we cannot be indifferent. We can't be a bystander. We can't allow things to happen without being implicated. He said, "And that's really fundamentally, I think, the shift between being a spectator and being a witness."

GDWG staff, visitors, volunteers, self-advocacy group and supporters bear witness: through a phone call; through the doors of the visiting rooms; through donations of clothes and phone credit;

through encouraging each other in local groups and networks; through meetings with policy makers and through taking the witness stand in a Public Inquiry.

Thank you.

<https://onbeing.org/programs/ariel-burger-be-a-blessing/>

Meet the New Trustee

By Laura Moffatt

For those of us who have the time and inclination to volunteer it's not difficult to understand why we chose Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group. Yes, as we all know it can be harrowing and a challenge as volunteer visitors but it is also rewarding, interesting and humbling. Our sense of injustice and unfairness drives us on to help those in detention. I know there are easier ways to volunteer but none as rewarding or as frustrating I suspect!



I have always been a supporter. GDWG is held in high regard, not only for the personal assistance to men in detention but also the amazing campaigning work to publicise the madness of pointless detention through Refugee Tales and countless other ways to change hearts and minds. As a Member Parliament for Crawley from 1997 until 2010 the work of GDWG has been of interest. In 2018 on retirement from the NHS as a General Nurse and finally having more time, I attended an induction to join the visiting team. As we all know it has been a struggle through the Pandemic but GDWG just found ways to work and keep the support going. I wanted to do more so when a vacancy arose on the Board of Trustees I applied.

After an application submission and a full interview on Zoom, I was accepted. The interview was thorough and rightly so, GDWG has an excellent reputation to protect. Joining the effective and well-informed Trustees was daunting but my first meeting with the Trustees as an observer soon settled my nerves. I am looking forward to playing my part to uphold the charity's guiding principles, speaking up when required and working together for the benefit of GDWG.

Bike Project Partnership

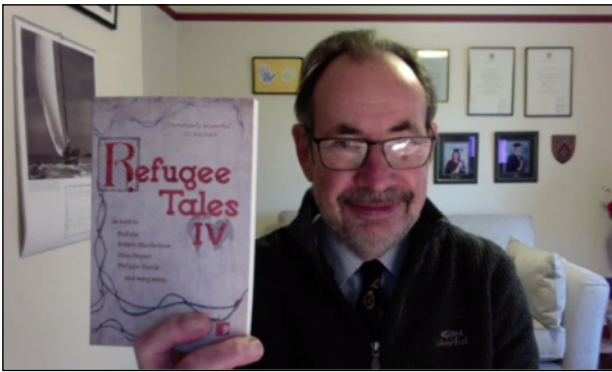
By Josie Wade

We feel very lucky to have partnered with the Bike Project recently. The Bike Project take in second-hand bikes, refurbish them and then donate them on to people seeking asylum and refugees living in London and the West Midlands.



London can be an amazing city, but it is expensive to get around! With asylum support at only £39.63 per week, a £1.65 bus fare is a significant dent in weekly expenditure. Bikes are a great way to get to know a city, and to save money travelling to college and appointments. The Bike Project also offer a Buddy Scheme for new cyclists to improve confidence and meet new people.

GDWG is currently able to make 20 bike referrals a year to the bike project. If you are supporting someone seeking asylum or someone who received refugee status in the last 2 years who you think might like a bike, please get in touch with the office and we will add them to our referral list.



Giving Support in the Time of COVID

By a GDWG Volunteer

Having been a regular visitor to Brook House, giving telephone support to detained people during the pandemic has been more challenging as important aspects of contact are missing. I quickly realised how much we all rely on the signals of body language and facial expression to determine the course of our conversations, particularly with people with whom we are unfamiliar.

Since before Christmas I have been supporting a detained person BM. A troubled young man with a difficult back story. I have never found telephone support that easy and had no strategies at my fingertips with which to address this but supporting detained people is an ongoing learning experience. The desperation in his voice was thinly disguised by irony and an unconvincing cheerfulness. At first I tried to take the lead in order to cover awkward silences, but we still struggled. So instead, I stepped back from initiating conversation and listened carefully, giving him the platform to steer the conversation to his own agenda. I realised then that BM did not want to talk about anything to do with his current situation or past life.

I explored the possibility of using Skype to talk to him. One short Skype session was enough to give us the connection we needed and made the following phone calls much easier. It helped us both and I now leave it to BM to call me by phone when he needs support. There is now a rapport between us which enables a conversation about

A Meeting with the High Sheriff

In December, Temi from our self-advocacy group met with the High Sheriff of West Sussex, Neil Hart. This was an online meeting that included David Herd, Professor of Modern Literature at the University of Kent. Neil Hart had previously met Anna, Director of GDWG, in a meeting at the GDWG office when Anna introduced Neil to the work of the charity. Neil appreciated receiving a copy of Refugee Tales. Temi spoke powerfully from his first-hand experience of having been detained. Temi and David appreciated Neil's interest in the experience of immigration detention. Following the meeting, we sent Neil Hart details of our monthly walks and in February he joined our Lewes walk where he met volunteer visitors, walkers and trustees for a walk across the Downs. We thank Neil Hart for his interest in our work.



everything except life in Brook House and the progress made by his solicitors. My aim is to subtly boost his self-esteem through these calls while ensuring we stay away from anything likely to cause him anxiety. Skype played an important role in developing this sort of understanding.

Brook House Public Inquiry

By Jamie Macpherson

The Brook House Public Inquiry was set up to investigate the abuse that took place at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre between 1st April - 31st August 2017. As a core participant, GDWG was asked if a volunteer visitor would be willing to provide a witness statement to the Inquiry. In February 2021 I was approached by Anna Pincus, GDWG's Director, and asked if I would be prepared to do this as I was a visitor to Brook House during the relevant period. I didn't hesitate to accept as I felt that the opportunity to present evidence on behalf of GDWG visitors to a public inquiry on such an important matter would probably not happen again.

I was informed that, because of Covid-19, the witness statement would be taken by the Inquiry legal team as a recorded video call. A list of topics that I would be questioned on was sent to me by the Inquiry two weeks before the date of the video call. Following discussions with Anna and GDWG's legal team, I prepared a draft document on the topics that I would like to include within the scope of the questioning. The witness statement was taken at the end of March 2021. I felt that the barrister taking the statement was courteous and helpful. He



was interested in hearing about all aspects of visiting people that are held in immigration detention and he gave me ample time to reflect and to answer fully. At the end of the interview, I was given the opportunity to make suggestions on how the experience of visiting could be improved, both for the people held in detention and for visitors. Following the interview, a draft written witness statement was produced by the Inquiry legal team for my agreement. There followed several submissions of amended statements before the final statement was agreed and signed in May.

At this stage, it was uncertain whether GDWG witnesses would be called upon to give oral evidence when the first phase of the hearings started in November 2021. By mid-November GDWG was informed that myself, Anna, and the Director of GDWG during the relevant time period would be called upon to give oral evidence in person. My hearing date was set for 8th December and again, two weeks before this date, I was sent a list of topics that the Inquiry counsel wished to ask me about. As well as my own witness statement, the bundle of documents that I

received also included Anna's witness statement, Home Office documents and G4S documents. GDWG's legal team helped me to prepare for the hearing and I familiarised myself with the documents beforehand. I confess that I thought that the experience of giving evidence in person would be a lot more daunting than it was. Everyone that I encountered at the hearing did their best to put me at ease and even though the Hearing room was full, I was only aware of the junior counsel asking the questions and the Chair.

The preparation for both the witness statement and the oral evidence was quite a lengthy process, but I would do it again without hesitation. It felt like an enormous privilege to represent GDWG visitors at the Inquiry and my hope now, alongside everyone else supporting people that are held in immigration detention, is that real change will happen to improve the current system.

Meet the New Member of Staff

By Hannah Carbery

Hello everybody! I'm Hannah and I am so pleased to have joined the GDWG team this year as one of the advocacy coordinators. I'll be working closely with Karris and Kasonga, as well as working on the school outreach programme. I'm looking forward to meeting more members of the GDWG community on walks, training sessions or elsewhere!

I was previously working as the Student Network Organiser at Student Action for Refugees (STAR). I started as a STAR student leader while studying History at the University of Nottingham. After fundraising for STAR, I eventually joined

the national team as a volunteer until a full-time position supporting student leaders appeared. Since then, I've also volunteered with many other incredible organisations, from working with primary school children to improve their confidence reading and writing at Literacy Pirates, to working in an 'intercultural maker space' for refugees at Habibi.Works in Ioannina, Greece.



In my spare time you'll find me reading whatever book I've picked up from my local charity shop. On my bookshelf you'll find a real mish-mash of poetry anthologies, popular fiction, autobiographies, philosophical plays and essays, or books on history. Now I'm reading 'The Brutish Museums' by Dan Hicks and 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn. I'm always happy to swap books and share recommendations if you have any!

This year I'll also be spending a lot of time on my new year's resolution to learn the flute. Since I was a child, I've been playing traditional Irish music at fleadh cheoil (competitions), pubs and even on Leicester Square stage! I've learnt the tin-whistle, mandolin, concertina, fiddle and now the flute!

If there's anything I can help with, please drop me an email. I'm sure I'll be meeting more of you soon but do feel free to introduce yourself before then. 😊



First Time Walker

By Lauren Powdrell

I first found out about Refugee Tales in 2020 when I wanted to learn more about immigration detention. When I ordered the book series and discovered there's a public walk that accompanies the storytelling, I was very intrigued. I had wanted to go on a walk for some time and I was really happy to make the pod walking trip in February 2022. I travelled all the way to London from Durham to join a day walk.

It was great to meet a small group of very friendly people with lots of different and interesting stories. The atmosphere was very inclusive and I felt comfortable immediately. It was inspiring to be around people who were so passionate, warm and friendly. Everyone mixed with each other - conversations were varied and wide-ranging. The diversity in the group and different motivations for going on the walk was really thought-provoking and what mattered was that we all came together. I came with two friends who weren't sure what to expect but also left the walk really enthusiastic to come to another in future.

The walk itself was really beautiful across Brockley 3 peaks. I do not know London very well and I really enjoyed exploring a new area outside of the centre. Jo was an excellent tour guide and it was so nice to engage in her passion for the area, while learning more about the local history. I'm really looking forward to joining more events in the future and thank you so much for organising such lovely activities.

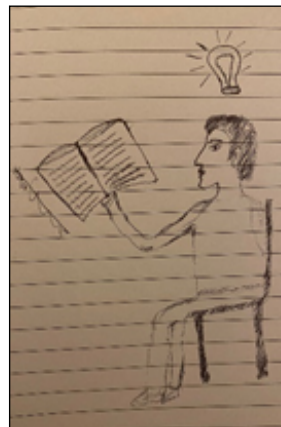
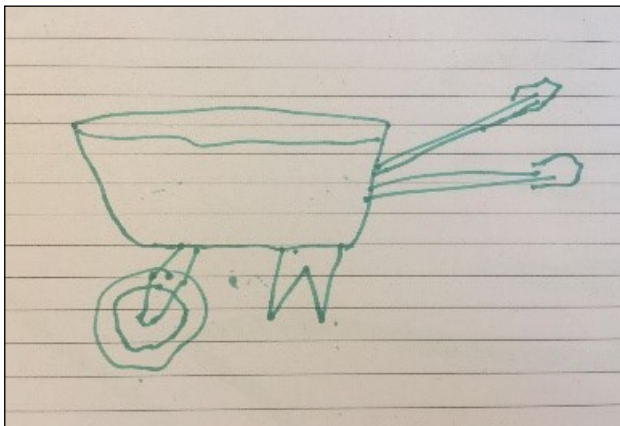
News From the Self-Advocacy Group: An Art Workshop with Ruby Wright

In early February, the Self-Advocacy Group met on Zoom, to take part in an art workshop run by Ruby Wright. Ruby has been a long-term supporter of Refugee Tales, having walked with us in July, and also designed our Christmas Cards. She created the workshop to be as inclusive as possible, only requiring paper and a pencil to take part.

The warm-up activities included one where we all drew our hands with the opposite hand. There were some very interesting results - safe to say none of us are ambidextrous! For the main session, Ruby explained that in many old-fashioned portraits, the subject would hold a meaningful object that was intended to portray ideals and information about the person. In our self-portraits, we all drew objects that are important to us today: footballs, trees, animals, books and mobile phones.

'I just drew like a cartoon, but I was proud of it. It was fun.'

'It was excellent. The lady was telling us good stories about her art. I really enjoyed it, man. I'm not good at drawing, I was laughing but it's all about trying.'



Do you like to sing or would you like to give it a try?

Come and Sing With Us!

As Anna mentioned before Christmas, we thought it would be great to start singing together again for a period in 2022. We were amazed to find out when we looked that we last sang as 'The Orchard Choir' in 2014. What a long time ago and how much has happened since!

This time, we thought we might sing as 'Orchard Voices' and avoid being a 'choir', in case anyone thinks we might be:

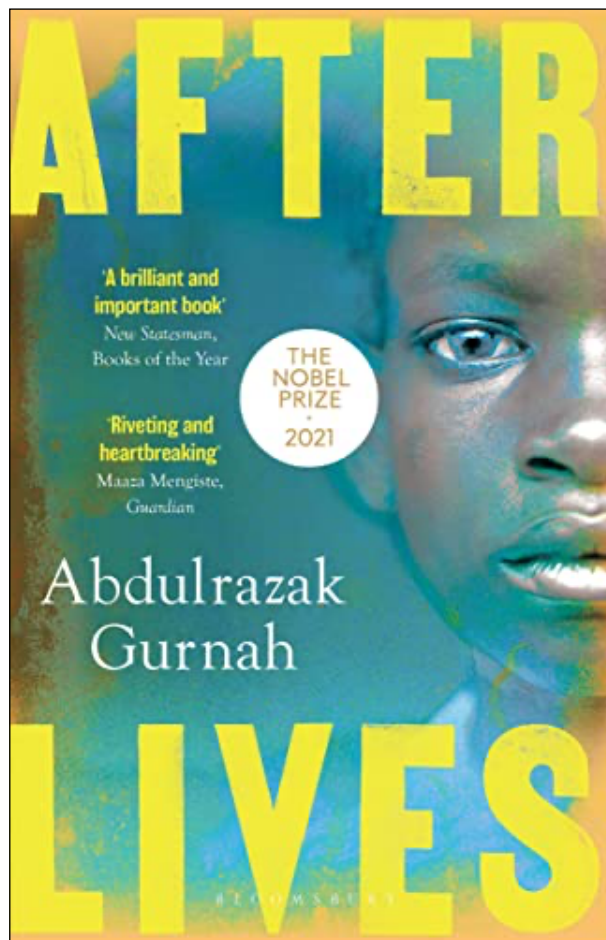
- a group of loud old men with fruity voices singing in Welsh
- rows and rows of posh people holding music books and singing in Latin, or
- an angelic cluster of children with ruffles around their necks in a big, old church.

We have pretty fluid ideas at the moment, but would like to provide an opportunity for people to come together and have a bit of fun singing simple music. Everyone is welcome (whether or not you think you can sing). If we feel confident enough, we might consider performing (briefly!) at Refugee Tales in July or on some other GDWG occasion. We aren't planning for it to be a permanent choir but would like to give it a whirl for a few months!

Rehearsals will probably be in the evening in Crawley. If you don't live locally, don't be put off, we may organise a weekend session during the day. As last time, George Fitzsimons will run the choir.

So we can gauge interest, please let us know (without commitment) if you think

you might be interested, or ask any questions you might have, by emailing george@fitzsimonsonline.com



'Afterlives' by Abdulrazak Gurnah Book Review

By Mary Barrett

Abdulrazak was one of the first of so many great writers to agree to write for Refugee Tales. In summer 2015 I can remember the hush in the beautiful barn in Chilham as he told 'The Arriver's Tale' with so much calm anger. The Tale ends 'I was released in 2011 only to return to the limbo I was in before. I am not allowed to work. I have now been here for eight years. I have no choice but to live where I am told to live and wait for the next hearing to allow my application to be considered. Do you know what limbo means? It means the edge of hell.' These

words could end the stories of so many supported by GDWG. When in 2020 'Afterlives' was published I was eager to read it, I had previously enjoyed others of his novels. In December last year, the Nobel Prize for Literature was announced, awarded to Abdulrazak Gurnah 'for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents.' I was so delighted to see that one of our Refugee Tales patrons had been so honoured.

'Afterlives' exemplifies the Nobel citation. It is an interlinked story set in the early years of the twentieth century in a fictional coastal town in East Africa. It is partly a gentle loving portrayal of ordinary people striving to live in poverty with a constant threat of sickness and disease. Colonialism dominates their lives and the First World War eventually overwhelms the characters. The impact of German colonisation is not as widely known, as Abdulrazak says in 'Afterlives': "The Germans and the British and the French and the Belgians and the Portuguese and the Italians and whoever else had their congress and drawn their maps and signed their treaties..." When the Germans arrived in that part of Africa, they did not expect to receive resistance. Time and again, the tribes fought against the Schutztruppe only to be savagely repelled. The invading force conquers in other ways too, bringing healthcare, schools, roads. They look for complete dominion. The conflict in Europe then opens another arena in East Africa where brutal war devastates the landscape.

'Afterlives' is filled with ordinary people, restless and ambitious: Ilyas who was stolen from his parents by the colonial troops, and so speaks German, eagerly joins the feared Schutztruppe Askaris, native soldiers with a reputation for inflicting unspeakable cruelties on their fellow Africans in the name of the German empire. Meanwhile, we meet gentle Hamza, an Askari volunteer who quickly realises his mistake. Hamza's story is the most compelling and disturbing in the novel, laying bare the abusive and complex desires that shape the intimate relationship between oppressor and oppressed. When he is assigned to be the Oberleutnant's personal servant, another Askari warns Hamza, "These Germans, they like playing with pretty young men." The officer is determined to teach Hamza German so he can appreciate Schiller, but also tells him he is "dealing with backward and savage people and the only way to rule them is to strike terror into them". Hamza does not have words for how the war ended for him. Returning to the town of his childhood, all Hamza wants is work, however humble, and security - and the beautiful Afiya.

The story ends as another war engulfs the world, we finally hear what happened to Ilyas whose life ends in the most unexpected and brutal way, but it is love of a son for his father that is the final word. This encapsulates all that is great about this novel, anger, cruelty and fear but above all humanity. I will not forget this story.

Afterlives is published by Bloomsbury.



Families and Immigration Detention

By Anna Pincus

The centres where GDWG visitors support people at Gatwick house men, but we hear through those we visit how detention impacts the women in their lives. We hear about the pain of separation from families formed in the UK. In *The Mother's Tale*, in 'Refugee Tales', Marina Warner, describes the impact of detention and the fear of re-detention on the family of a detained person in the UK. She describes this in terms of story. The mother, Cecilia, in the tale says:

My mother used to tell me stories,' 'but I don't remember anything. All I can think of is what might happen. How he might be taken again and sent back. How I would never see him again.'

For Cecilia, recollection of stories has ceased. When she tries to remember a song her mother sang she says she can no longer remember:

'I am afraid,' she says, 'all the time. It's all I can think of. And when I try to remember, my mind's a blank.'

The men we visit in detention frequently describe how living under immigration status insecurity creates stress in the family unit. Some people delay making commitments to their partners feeling shame that they are not in a position to provide for a family. Relationships cannot move on. Couples who have made a commitment may delay starting a family.

When people are detained, they may be placed in a detention centre far from home. There are no family friendly visiting days and there is no family fund to offer support with travel fares. A long coach journey can be difficult for people with

small children to face or to navigate if they have not travelled in the UK, do not speak English or do not have the confidence to undertake the journey. And the authorities use the fact of the separation to build a case against a detained person. It is hard to prove a claim based on the right to a family life if one of the parents has been detained for a long period and separation is seen to be the norm.

When the authorities plan to remove a person from the UK, the detained person is sometimes told in court that the family has two choices. The first choice is for one person to leave the UK and for family life to be carried on over Skype. The second choice is for all the family to relocate. Fathering via Skype is presented as an

alternative even though the reality would be fatherhood with an absent physical body. The suggestion of the disembodiment is inhuman and is experienced by the families involved as an insult, a rejection; a humiliation by the state.

Making Art for GDWG

By Ian Henderson

In May 2022 GDWG is holding an online art auction with a showcase of the art in the auction in an exhibition at Arundel Museum.

Following the successful fundraising auction of 2020, when I submitted various paintings from the South Coast Walk of 2019, I spoke to Anna about

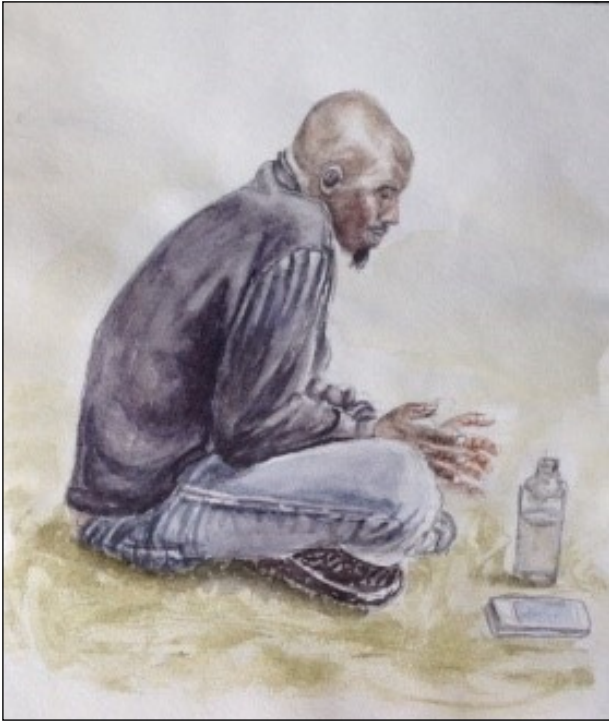


doing something similar this year. At that time, I had completed a couple of small paintings of members of our group:

I personally feel a strong connection with the people I walk with on our Refugee Tales Walk , there is always a sadness when it comes to an end, which inspired me to create a series of paintings.

Our walk around Canterbury in the summer of 2021 was somewhat different from our normal walk but nonetheless extremely enjoyable. Being in smaller groups did in one way create a greater bond with fellow walkers. The surrounding countryside was very picturesque, I found it hard not to be drawn into painting the wonderful views, as joint group leader I had to concentrate very much on the task in hand but managed to take a large





number of photos of our group. With help from Christina Fitzsimons and Anna Pincus who also provided photos, I was able to extend my paintings to include other groups. Also included are one or two oil paintings of the people who masterminded the walks, they have my total respect for their time and effort, which was enjoyable but hard work. Occasionally I joined them in the spring, they were amazing with apple orchards in full blossom, fields full of colour.

So far I have painted twelve pictures, possibly there may be more by the time of the exhibition and auction. They are mainly painted in oils although there are a couple of watercolours included. I work in a number of different mediums, soft pastel being another one but feel more comfortable with oils, loving the way that it is so flexible to work with. Normally I do relatively large paintings but in this series they start from 4"x 6" to one slightly larger, 23"X 33", the smaller ones are my little gems. Painting on this scale one can

only create an impression of the people in the painting but it's more about trying to create the atmosphere, although I would hope that you might be able to recognise individuals!

The paintings are unframed, but I have painted around the edges which creates a 3-dimensional effect, it also leaves the option for one to choose a frame of your own personal choice.

Arundel Museum

By Marian Webb

Arundel is the gateway to the South Downs National Park and our museum tells the history of this historic market town over the last 1000 or more years. Our wonderful new museum was opened by the Duke of Norfolk in 2013 having been in several places around the town for many years. It was designed and built to our specifications after years of fundraising and finally supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As well as our fascinating collection built around the history of Arundel as a port, the castle and an important town we have regular pop-up exhibitions throughout the year. We have a versatile room which we hire out for art exhibitions, talks, films as well as for private hire. We are delighted to be able to welcome Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group by housing their auction exhibition on 1st - 8th May.

We are always here to welcome visitors, every day from 10 am to 4 pm.

Birthday Detained

By Eva Twine

A birthday spent in immigration detention - everything about this feels incongruous and wrong; certainly neither the prefix "Happy" nor the notion of "celebrating" seem the least bit appropriate. Yet of course it is an all too regular occurrence - so how do people cope with it? Simply ignore the date because it feels insignificant amongst all the fears, worries and stresses that dominate being held in detention? Because it might feel twice as painful, twice as depressing to be reminded of the days and weeks and months passing that can never be regained? OR - is it a date to be anticipated and marked because it is the ONE fixed and personal date in an otherwise entirely uncertain present and future? After all, not even the Home Office has the power to take away a person's date of birth ...

It was this last scenario that applied to a young man I visited for many months last year; let's call him "B" as this little story is all about his birthday - and his birthday was indeed of great importance to him! He started mentioning the date to me several weeks ahead of time, so far ahead in fact that it still seemed a justified hope at that point that he would be released from Brook House in time to celebrate as a free man. That hope shrank with every passing week yet the birthday topic remained and, in addition to promising that I would definitely visit him on the actual day, I asked what else I could do to help him mark the day. To my initial dismay, he wished for a Birthday Cake, and it really pained me to have to explain that I was not allowed to bring any kind of food stuff into Brook House with me.

However, we plotted and came up with a plan: I might not be able to bring a cake, but I could provide a recipe and B would bake the cake himself! Detained people at Brook House are allowed to book space and time slots at an internal kitchen and ingredients can be bought from their shop, too. So, on my next visit I brought along a simple chocolate brownie recipe typed on a single sheet of paper - which had to wind its way through the usual security channels - and added a little money to B's account for the cake's ingredients. It might have caused a raised eyebrow or two and the odd smirk amongst the guards in visitors' reception, but I counted some genuine smiles and a couple of "what a good idea"s as a win instead.



And the Sunday of B's birthday turned out to be that very rare thing in a place such as an Immigration Removal Centre - a good day. Even though once again the small gift and birthday card I'd brought along wouldn't reach B for another 48 hours, I found him in high spirits; the cake baking attempt had by all accounts been a complete and utter disaster, blamed on my recipe of course rather than any lack of skill! But the endeavour had garnered a lot of attention amongst fellow detained people and guards alike and in turn generated a great deal of good will: B was presented with a "shop bought" alternative little cake, offered coffees and food and congratulated on his birthday throughout the day.

Did it take away from the injustice and waiting and misery of all those other days and weeks and months spent in detention? No, of course not, but I like to think that on that one Sunday in August as 'happy' a birthday as feasible under the circumstances was had.

Electronic Bail

By Marygold Lewis

On 31 August 2021, the UK government announced a change from radio frequency monitoring to mandatory electronic monitoring (also known as GPS tracking) for anyone who is considered to be a 'Foreign National Offender' and is liable to be deported, unless the Secretary of State deems it impractical or contrary to Convention rights of the relevant person. Because the Home Office has a very constricted interpretation of these exceptions, GPS tagging is very difficult to challenge. These new draconian measures will naturally have a large impact on the

detention community, although there are some who would still prefer to have a GPS tag than be confined to the prison-like conditions of a detention centre.

GPS tracking provides 24/7 real time location monitoring, and can track a person's every single move, as opposed to radio frequency monitoring, which has the more limited ability of being able to verify if a person is where they should be at any given time. Anyone being tracked in this way will have no idea when the tracking may stop, as there is no time limit (similar to the Home Office policy on length of detention, i.e. no limit).

According to BID (Bail for Immigration Detention), the consequences of a breach would lead to immigration detention or criminal charges. The concern is that this risks further criminalising people simply because they are subject to immigration control. GPS monitoring is far more intrusive, and closer to imprisonment, than curfews. It may well have a greater psychological impact upon the wearer. In addition, it effectively amounts to an extension of immigration detention outside the physical walls of immigration removal centres or prisons. This then becomes a diabolical conundrum whereby no one gains except possibly the Home Office, and they are on very shaky ground as this can only be interpreted as an infringement of human rights.

GDWG Poetry Meetings

By Margaret Lawrence

For me, Zoom meetings sharing poetry with other GDWG volunteers have been a highlight each week since the pandemic began. Members of this small group each



choose a poem or two to read to the others in an informal way.

We have drawn from a wide range of poets from the eleventh century Omar Khyaan and the early Persian poets right up to young Giovanni Rose, born five years into this century and winning the 2021 Foyles Young Poet of the Year for his poem 'Welcome to Tottenham'. Sometimes themes develop, highlighting the seasons or following mountain streams flowing into rivers and onward to the sea; remembered poems from childhood and modern verse with socio-political observations. Some favourite poets regularly recur and, out of all the poems ever written, one week two of us chose the self same poem!

We have developed friendship within the group and would welcome any new members who would like to join us. Thursdays at 1 o'clock for a 40 minute Zoom. Please contact the office if you are interested in joining.

Shopping with a Smile

By Stephen Klein

Many of us use Amazon for our shopping. Like me, you may hate its size and power, but use it anyway because it works. They have a charity tool which means that,

once set up, Amazon will send a small percentage of the cost of your purchase to the charity of your choice. The amount is 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees). I know it is not a vast amount, but it better than nothing. Josie has set up GDWG as a charity on the list and once you define it as 'your charity', giving is painless and cost free to you. It is very easy to setup. I think it took me about 10 minutes. And after that your Amazon shopping will be no different from before. We have produced an illustrated 'how to', which I have attached to this email. If you need some help, email Stephen.klein1950@gmail.com and I will happily hold your electronic hand.

This is what you do.

1. Open Amazon. But not the usual way. Use the url <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> When you are there set up a bookmark to that page. If you have a simple amazon.co.uk bookmark, delete it and then every time you go to Amazon it will take you to the smile.amazon page, which looks just the same.
2. Click on Accounts and then lists. About half way down you will find AmazonSmile. Click on that.

Your Account

Your Account

Your Orders

Your Lists

Your Recommendations

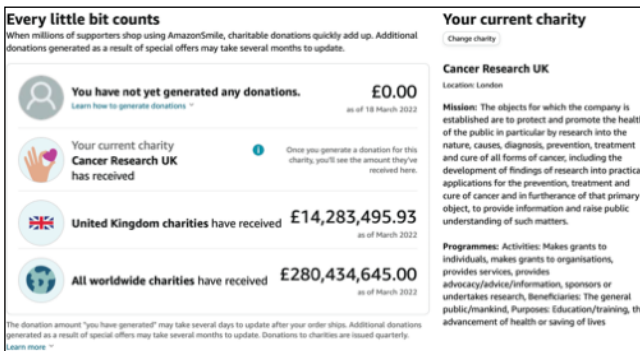
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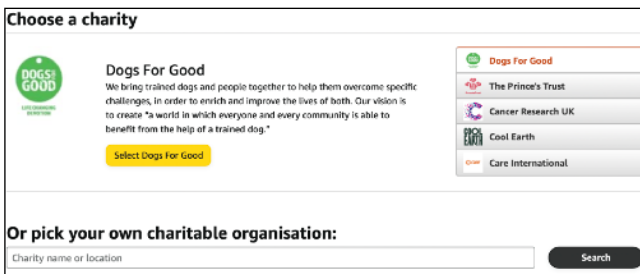
Memberships & Subscriptions

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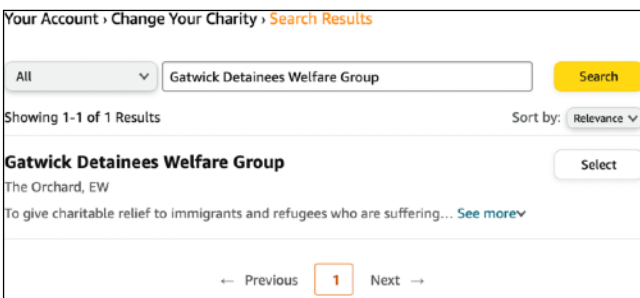
- Just below 'Your Current Charity', you will see a 'Change Charity' button. Please click the button.



- You will reach a subsequent screen asking you to choose a charity. Please type 'Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group' and press search.



- Please press the select button next to the GDWG entry. You may be asked to login again to prove that you are who you say you are. After



that, it is easy.

- From now on every purchase via smile.amazon.co.uk will donate money to GDWG. Painless giving!

Research Project on 'Experiences of Facing Deportation'

By Lauren Cape-Davenhill, PhD
Researcher at the University of Leeds

I'm excited to be collaborating with GDWG on the research project 'Experiences of Facing Deportation', focused on the experiences of people facing deportation after contact with the criminal justice system. This research matters because over the past two decades, various law and policy changes have resulted in tens of thousands of people facing deportation on the grounds of 'criminality'. This includes people who have grown up in the UK or have children here; people with offences linked to their immigration status; people with convictions for low-level and petty offending; and people facing deportation due to spent convictions in their countries of origin. Today, the majority of people in detention are categorised as 'foreign national offenders'; and thousands more people in this situation live with the threat of deportation hanging over them in the community. Fundamentally, deportation on the grounds of criminality functions as a 'double punishment', with people without British citizenship facing vastly different consequences to offending to the rest of the population.

I've been hoping to do research in this area since working as a caseworker with GDWG. As a caseworker, it felt like the grounds on which someone could be deported due to 'criminality' were constantly changing. I worked with people facing deportation as 'criminals' via Operation Nexus, a police-Home



Office collaboration which enables deportation on the ground of intelligence and circumstantial evidence which would not hold up in criminal court. It was impossible to ignore the issues of race and racism, given people I was supporting were almost all men of colour, often facing deportation on the basis of prison sentences for crimes with documented racial disparity in sentencing; or with convictions connected with precarious immigration status, such as documents offences. Until recently, there was also a reluctance in the NGO sector to recognise people with convictions in campaigning against detention, which tended to foreground refugees and often used language such as 'people in detention are not criminals', inadvertently further stigmatising people with convictions.

It's been great getting advice on my research design and methods from

GDWG's self-advocacy group - this is a sensitive research area and I want to make sure I'm doing it right! I'll be conducting interviews, focus groups and document reviews over the next 6 months, and look forward to working closely with GDWG and the self-advocacy group so that the research findings can support ongoing advocacy and campaigning. If you have any questions, or have faced deportation yourself and are interested in taking part in the research, please get in touch! My email is gylc@leeds.ac.uk

Edge of the World

By Chris Orange

Chris Orange is a photographer who has worked for several years with GDWG and we invited him to write about his new book as we feel sure you will love it!

'Edge of The World' is his brand new hardback landscape photography book.

Over the last five years I have travelled to many remote areas around Britain and Iceland, to experience the landscapes and extraordinary light that can be found in these locations, and capture them for others to enjoy, and hopefully tempt them to visit some of these wonderful places for themselves. Reaching these wild landscapes often involves hiking for miles, which is a huge part of the enjoyment for me. I have always loved the feeling of adventure, getting away from 'normal' life and seeking the contemplative experience which can be found on long hikes, a bit like a mini pilgrimage.

One of my favourite trips was the incredibly exciting trip to the remote Isle of St Kilda, which can be found 40 miles

beyond the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. It's a collection of tiny islands, where for 4000 years a continuous community of people could be found living, until 1938 when they abandoned the island due to the sheer difficulty of living in a place with limited food and 180mph wind speeds during the cold winter months. The island is still left as it was when the final residents sailed away for the last time, their abandoned homes now derelict, with the names of the last occupiers on plaques by their front doors. To experience St Kilda, and the surrounding sea stacks was breath taking, despite the boat ride being the worst 3 hours of my life - with seas so rough that I often wondered if the boat was about to capsize.

Capturing the 100 photographs for this new collection has been a complete joy for me, and to have them in a beautiful hard back book that I can make available



to everyone is very exciting. To see more about the book, please visit <https://beautyinthewild.click/>

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

By Marygold Lewis

In February, the GDWG staff were treated to an educational talk given by the highly motivated and enthusiastic Colin McFarlin, Waste Prevention Advisor for West Sussex County Council. We learned that a plastic tax will be introduced in April this year, which will motivate large shops to reduce their packaging. Also, that it is possible to recycle all your batteries and electrical items by placing them in a separate bag next to the rubbish bin, and they will be taken away. A host of initiatives has been introduced by different organisations and companies to collect items that we would otherwise throw in our bins, such as pens. We are hoping to implement this in the office by providing a pen pot for used pens, and having a separate bin for crisp packets, tin foil and wipes, which can go to teracycle sites, paid for by the relevant manufacturers. There are many items that can now be recycled in the following ways: Collection at kerbside, drop-off sites, take to local store, postal schemes, repair cafes, charity shops. If you are interested in learning more, please let Marygold know. Or if you live in Mid Sussex, you can also go to <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling/> ; or check your local council's website for schemes near you.

The Bone Sparrow

Our friends at Theatre Peckham are showing Pilot Theatre's adaptation of The Bone Sparrow, this April! Tickets are available to book now via this link: <https://www.theatrepeckham.co.uk/show/the-bone-sparrow/>

About the show: Subhi is a refugee. Born in an Australian permanent detention centre after his mother fled the violence of a distant homeland, life behind the fences is all he has ever known. But as he grows, his imagination gets bigger too, until it is bursting at the limits of his world.

The most vivid story of all, however, is the one that arrives one night. Jimmie, a scruffy, impatient girl appears from the other side of the wires, and brings a notebook written by the mother she lost. Unable to read it, she relies on Subhi to unravel her own family's love songs and tragedies.

Subhi and Jimmie might both find a way to freedom, as their tales unfold. But not until each of them has been braver than ever before.





The Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust