

Annual Report 2009



Creating links between the offender and the community

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**“No money do they give or items of material worth
But give a far more precious treasure than any here on earth
A friendly word a friendly face, to make you feel you’re still part of the human race
For though you’ve done a wrong, its true
They’re there as a friend, not to judge you”**

**Extract from poem for a New Bridge befriender,
HMP Full Sutton**

“The Learning Shop gives me a kick start to the day. Remembering my first day I was really nervous and inside myself. Meeting people in The Learning Shop and taking an interest in my work natural conversing with people...brilliant staff and very attentive. Its made me have greater inner strength.”

HMP & YOI Low Newton, Durham

**“I have been at Thorn Cross for some time now. Its been a nightmare but I’ve got through it with help from New Bridge. ..got a job out of this so its all good for the future”
“Thanks for the help you have gave me while I have been at Thorn Cross and thanks for the work place, it couldn’t have been better” Thank you notes from prisoners, HMP & YOI Thorn Cross**

Chairman's introduction David Graham MBE

Reflecting on 2009, my first year as Chairman of New Bridge, there is a mixture of the familiar, with the inevitable change which is one of the few constants in our modern lives. We have the sadly familiar statistics of our growing prison population, in excess of 80,000, with an increasing number of people being given indefinite sentences. Prisoners are still being held far from home, increasing the feeling of isolation.

With this in mind New Bridge drew up a three year strategic plan which prioritised the expansion of our befriending service, which remains at the heart of our work. I am delighted to report that this has been an outstanding success. New Bridge is now responding to, and meeting the needs of, more prisoners, many of whom have nowhere else to turn.

This has only been possible by successfully recruiting additional volunteers. So successful have we been that two additional volunteer groups had to be established in 2009 and in London, two more for the start of 2010.

Complemented by our various mentoring programmes, now firmly established since their introduction in 2006, we are a recognised Befriending & Mentoring organisation. Feedback from users regularly confirms that our work does make a real difference in helping many to turn away from crime and make positive alternative choices.



Of course none of this would be possible without the unfailing dedication of all our volunteers and staff, and the support of our many funders. The economic environment of the past year has been a difficult one in which to operate for most organisations, not least charities such as New Bridge. The impact has been felt at corporate and individual levels.

Despite this, many organisations, large and small, and individuals, have continued to support our work. To **ALL** of you we say a heartfelt **thank you – we truly could not help those in need without your support, and as always we can promise that any donation will be appreciated and enable this vital work to continue.**

I must also thank my fellow Trustees for their continuing support and our colleagues who produce *Inside Time* a much valued monthly newspaper for prisoners. Their business success enables New Bridge to maintain much of its direct support to prisoners across the country.

David Graham MBE
Chairman



Chief Executive's Review of 2009

I hope you enjoy reading this report of our work in 2009. Like our new website, it contains feedback from our volunteers, partners and, most importantly, the offenders we help towards a crime free future.

My first thought on 2009 is that it has been a busy and successful year for New Bridge. One simple measure of that success is the fact that this report is four pages longer than its 2008 counterpart; we are doing so much more to help prisoners and offenders in the community.

The Trustees worked hard to set a new strategic plan at the start of the year and I can report that we have made good progress against the challenging aims we set ourselves.

The first aim was to expand and develop our core befriending service, which has been the heart and soul of New Bridge for over 50 years. I am pleased that 'the isolated prisoner' is getting more attention from policy makers. Prisoners must be encouraged to keep in touch with family and friends but we know too well that for many, family and friends soon drift away. This is why the befriending service is so crucial.

Our impressive results, thanks to our hardworking team and endlessly impressive volunteers, are outlined on pages 10 and 11.



Recruitment and training of volunteers is up, more prisoners are asking for the service and we need to bring in more resources to cope with the demand. With increasing numbers of life-sentenced and indeterminate-sentenced prisoners, that demand will only increase in coming years.

Next, we wanted to focus on mentoring services, giving offenders more focussed help both in custody and in the community. This is the first year of our Liverpool Mentoring Service (pages 12 and 13) and our management of Mentoring Services at HMP and YOI Thorn Cross in Warrington (pages 8 and 9).

This work builds on our expertise developed with the London Through The Gate and Swinfen Hall mentoring and befriending projects (pages 16 and 17).

I am particularly pleased that we have found this new focus for our work and I look forward to further developments in 2010.

Finally, I must thank our first class Board of Trustees. David Graham and the team have been an excellent source of support for me and the staff. Our staff team are incredibly hard working and resourceful and I never cease to be amazed by the outstanding work of our volunteers. I must also echo David's thanks to all our funders and supporters whose generosity makes our vital work a reality.

Chris Thomas
April 2010



Peta - A New Bridge Mentor Uncovered

Hi my name is Peta,

I am a volunteer mentor for New Bridge who works with lads on Unit 5 at HMYOI Thorn Cross, I have mentored lads on unit 5 now for just over 18 months. All the lads I have mentored (and there have been around 12 so far) have been unique and positively different. Some have had more complex problems than others; however all have been great to mentor. I thought I would write this to give an insight of why I mentor and how I came to mentor at Thorn Cross. After being what people label a troubled teen and forever bunking off school I was in and out of extremely boring jobs that had no future prospects. At the age of 23 I saw the light and bit the bullet! I went back to college to do my GCSEs. Surprising myself and my family I passed every one which boosted my confidence and spurred me on to do an access level 3 course (A level equivalent). I studied social welfare policy, psychology and criminology and became extremely interested in applying to universities to do a social work degree.



However, never having had any work experience in this particular field or social care, I decided to get in touch with the local Volunteers Centre and do some unpaid voluntary work to make sure I was making the right decision. They told me about the mentoring project at Thorn Cross. This immediately got my attention and so I applied. Successful with my application I completed the training course on how to mentor individuals who are in custody.



I met my first lad in rather funny and unusual circumstances, at a motorway service station! This was due to the fact that he was on his way back to Thorn Cross from his work placement interview and, in order to work out of the prison a couple of days later, needed a mentor to meet him in his own community. Having been unexpectedly thrown in at the deep end I was very nervous about meeting him and tried hard not to show it! He was lovely and there was no need to be nervous as he was very chatty and friendly. My mentoring role for New Bridge gave me the opportunity to mentor some fantastic lads on Unit 5 which has largely contributed to me applying to University to do my social work degree. Luckily I was accepted and have recently completed my first year.

Being a mentor at Thorn Cross has been an extremely positive experience for me and, hopefully, for the lads I have mentored. I personally think it is important that a mentor role is voluntary and unpaid as it clearly shows that we mentor because we want to and not because we are being paid to do so.

Peta

New Bridge at HMP & YOI Thorn Cross, Warrington

- We provide mentors to each young offender who takes part in the prison's High Intensity Training (HIT) programme.
- Our job is find each one a work or training placement towards the end of their sentence
- We then match them with mentors to help them make of the most of the placement
- During 2009, our team helped 168 young men at Thorn Cross.

Befriending

There is an increasing body of evidence that tells that having strong ties to family and friends is very effective in helping prisoners stay away from crime on release.

As at 1 September 2007, England and Wales had by far the highest number (9,481) of life-sentenced prisoners in Europe. It had more than Turkey (2,006), Germany (1,973), Italy (1,335) and France (527) combined (figures from Prison Reform Trust). England and Wales also has increasing numbers of prisoners on indeterminate sentences. This means that more prisoners find that family and friends drift away, leaving them isolated and struggling to maintain a positive view of the future.

New Bridge's befriending service has been able to offer prisoners a non-judgemental listening ear for over 50 years. Volunteers write and visit regularly, getting to know each prisoner as an individual with their own talents, potential and problems, and values them as such.

Volunteering as a befriender is long-term commitment for our volunteers; some have supported the same prisoner for over 10 years.

The table opposite shows the extent of our work in 2009.



New Bridge befrienders donated over 9000 hours in 2009, supporting isolated prisoners. For many, a New Bridge volunteer is the only link with the outside world.

Befriending Service in 2009

Active volunteers:	158
Support Groups:	16
New volunteers trained:	55
Prisoners receiving support:	319
Serving a life sentence:	130 (45%)
Serving an indeterminate term:	52 (18%)
Supported for over 3 years:	200

Liverpool Mentoring Project

“I just wanted to jot down my appreciation for the work of the New Bridge Project in Liverpool, and especially what Lee Jackson does in HMP Haverigg.

Lee has been visiting us for a number of months now and has not only assisted offenders with their multitude of issues on release, but he also offers support and outreach to offenders who have some time left to serve in custody. Although this type of support cannot be quantified in terms of outcomes, the sheer fact he has offenders queuing up to speak to him is evidence enough of his impact.

Lee brings the mentors, who will be supporting offenders on release, to visit them beforehand, sometimes on several occasions. In addition Lee had supported offenders on release to gain suitable accommodation and fed the details back to me. This gets recorded and goes towards HM Prison service’s KPT (key performance target) on Accommodation.

It is an excellent project with some good hard outcomes and on behalf of HMP Haverigg I want to thank you for your continuing support with this service. “

*Kev Brown,
Foundation
Centre Manager*



Liverpool Mentoring Project



- We provide mentors to support offenders, helping them to resettle into the city following a period in custody.
- Mentors get to know individuals in prison, help them set goals and support them on release.
- In our first full year, we received 57 applications from prisons throughout the North West and beyond.
- By the end of 2009, we were supporting 24 offenders in their desire to live a crime-free life

“I would not hesitate in recommending New Bridge to any prisoner at HMP Haverigg, and feel they offer an excellent service which produces results and rewards to those involved.” *Steve, HMP Haverigg*

Prisons Liaison Service, Liverpool

The Prisons Liaison Service works in partnership with Liverpool City Council to prevent homelessness among offenders resettling in the city. The project also helped with access to a range of other services in the community.

2009 saw a total of 123 referrals from 23 prisons. 97 men and 26 women were given help in finding accommodation and help with accessing drug, alcohol and mental health services.

After five successful years, the service was transferred to NACRO at the start of 2010.

The Learning Shop HMP Low Newton

The Learning Shop provides a calm, safe, stress-free, supportive and welcoming environment which helps some of the most vulnerable female prisoners in the country grow in confidence and develop life skills.

The project is open throughout the core prison operational hours plus two evenings a week, so that women may access the facility around their various commitments.

The project is based in a shared area with the prison library where good shared partnership is in operation. It utilizes I.T. based learning and offers a stable venue to regular users and new learners. The primary focus is to engage the women in activities and learning that will help increase their confidence and skills. In common with other New Bridge projects a dedicated team of staff work with individuals at their level, progressing at a pace determined by the learner in order that basic skills, confidence and self-esteem are enhanced. This process allows the women to progress to other opportunities in mainstream education and self-directed study.

Many women first arrive having been unable or unwilling to engage with other services at the prison. They are typically the very vulnerable women who are on 'Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork' known as ACCTs (an alerting system for those at risk from self-harming behaviour).

The Learning Shop



- Open five days and two evenings per week, providing up to 2,000 hours per month of purposeful activity.
- Relaxed, friendly environment.
- An open learning environment which encourages learners to be self-motivated.
- Individuals learn at their own pace with support from staff and peers.
- Excellent I.T. facilities enable women to complete Learn Direct courses.
- Stable staff team who are all graduates with an excellent assortment of qualifications e.g. psychology, counselling, informal education.
- Offers a consistent approach to learning within a relaxed environment.
- Jigsaw and puzzle facilities for vulnerable women and those within the Care and Segregation Unit.
- **Over 950 women were helped over the last year.**

London Through the Gate

Now in its second year, our London Through the Gate project helps short term prisoners, many of whom are experiencing the 'churn' of frequent short sentences.



Our volunteers befriend prisoners in custody and working in pairs, offer intensive support on release. The project deals with individuals who often have chaotic lifestyles involving drink, drugs and homelessness. Progress can be slow and setbacks are common.

George is 36 years old and has been in and out of prison since the age of 17. He is an alcoholic and rough sleeper. George also self harms and suffers from mental health problems.

Our volunteers started working with George in August and through his release in October. We were able to organise support from other agencies, take him to Alcoholics Anonymous and help with accommodation. Slowly George gained confidence and was able to see a brighter future.

London Through the Gate was working with 29 offenders by the end of 2009





HMP & YOI Swinfen Hall

HMP and YOI Swinfen Hall now has a capacity of 624 and holds young men serving sentences from four years to life.

New Bridge's role is two-fold: housing and mentoring. Our housing officer ensures that each prisoner leaves with accommodation. Our track record is a 100% success rate; no prisoner is released with 'No Fixed Address'.

Since 2007 we have operated a Mentoring Project at the prison. Our in-house mentors help prisoners set realistic goals and plan for the future.

"With John's help I've been able to learn interview techniques, how to construct formal letters, how to contact employers. John has kept me motivated and focussed and when, at times, I've had low moments in my sentence. I feel with his help I've been able to get to the next stage with regards to my future plans"

Linking with other agencies New Bridge also finds mentoring support for newly released offenders in their home areas.

New Bridge also trains and supports prisoners to be peer mentors on the R2R (Road to Resettlement) programme. The young men learn to support others as they plan carefully for their release, looking at accommodation, housing, family issues and other needs.

Family Matters

Family Matters is an accredited parenting and relationships course. New Bridge has been delivering the programme to men, women and young offenders in prisons since 1990. In 2009, a total of 190 prisoners gained the qualification.



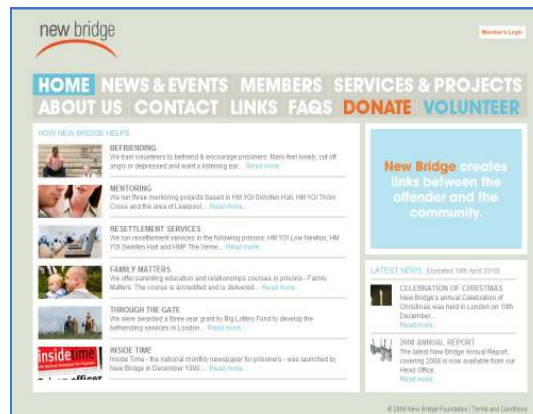
Trained volunteers and staff delivered the course in three prisons:

- HMYOI Castington, Northumberland
- HMP Bronzefield (women), Surrey
- HMP Holme House, Teesside

At HMP Holme House, New Bridge Family Matters courses form a key part of the Families and Children of Offenders work. We organised a series a successful Family Days in conjunction with the Visitor's Centre. Prisoners get the chance to play with their children; putting into practice, their learning from Family Matters

New Bridge website

The New Bridge website was looking dated and was not easy to navigate. After a special donation, we worked with design company *Hudson Fuggle* and on 1st September, our new site was born, full of news and case studies



Foreign National Prisoners

**HMP The Verne - Dorset
Foreign National Prisoners**

Foreign Nationals inevitably contend with special difficulties: language and communication with staff and other prisoners, culture, great distances from family and friends, loneliness and isolation. We have been running a weekly 'surgery' to provide support to foreign national prisoners at HMP The Verne, for over ten years. More recently, we have been asked to help at nearby HMP Dorchester. In August, a volunteer took part in a national conference in Oxford organised by AVID (Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees)

New Bridge work with Foreign Nationals in 2009

HMP The Verne

32 surgeries, which helped 172 prisoners
24 social visits to 60 different prisoners

HMP Dorchester

4 surgeries which helped 10 prisoners

Dorchester Hospital

7 visits to sick foreign national prisoners

Celebration of
Christmas

The Celebration of Christmas took place at St Georges Hanover Square, on 10th December. We were delighted to welcome our Patron HRH Princess Alexandra. With music from the Adventus Domini Choir and a moving appeal from former prisoner Alex Haydon, we raised a record £1,291 in donations on the evening.



Inside Time the first national newspaper for prisoners, was founded and launched by New Bridge in 1990. It distributes over 46,000 copies of each issue throughout the UK prison estate including Holding Centres and Special Hospitals.

2009 proved to be the busiest year and most successful year yet for *Inside Time* with poetry and education supplements and sufficient funding to publish two books.

The first of the two books was '*Inside Poetry*', launched July. It contained 213 poems written by 202 prisoners and a foreword by Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate (1999 – 2009). Free copies of *Inside Poetry* were donated to all UK prison libraries and sold to other individuals and organisations.



In November '*Inside Information - the Comprehensive Guidebook to Prisons & Prison Related Services*', was launched at an event held in the Old Court Room in London's historic Lincolns' Inn.

Free copies of the new guidebook were donated to libraries and chaplaincies in all UK prisons . Prison librarians were also provided with access to all fact sheets included in the guidebook so that prisoners would be able to have personal copies of the vital information contained within the book.

Many family members and friends of prisoners also contact the offices for help or ask for guidance or assistance via the website. Altogether the administration team handled over 7000 enquiries during the year and this is a similar figure to the number of daily 'hits' on the website. A very successful 2009!



Income

New Bridge relies on a large number of donors large and small to keep our services going. Our befriending service in particular receives no funding from the Prison Service or other statutory agencies. Listed here are all donors who were able to give us £1,000 or above, whether as a general donation or to support a specific project. We would like to express our gratitude to all of them and to the many other Trusts and individuals who have supported us over the year.

A B Charitable Trust
Astor Foundation
Austin And Hope Pilkington Trust
Barclays Capital
Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
C B & H H Taylor 1984 Trust
Charles Irving Charitable Trust
Cole Charitable Trust
Constance Travis Charitable Trust
Cooper Gay Charitable Trust
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust
George & Esme Pollitzer Charitable Settlement
Guidance Limited
Hadrian Trust
Lady Edwina Grosvenor Charitable Trust
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Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund
Leigh Trust
Norda Trust Formerly Pyke Charity Trust
Odin Charitable Trust
Porticus Uk
Rainford Trust
Saint Sarkis Charity Trust

Sir James Reckitt Charity
Twenty-Ninth May 1961 Charitable Trust
Van Neste Foundation
Wates Foundation
Zochonis Charitable Trust

Our projects were generously funded by;

Big Lottery Fund
HM Prison Service
Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales
Northern Rock Foundation
Stitching Benevolentia
The Tudor Trust

Summarised Financial Statements

Hon Treasurer's Report

The audited accounts for The New Bridge Foundation for the year ended 31st December 2009 have been reproduced in summary as has the independent auditors report. The accounts are consolidated; they represent both *New Bridge Foundation Ltd* and the subsidiary company, *Inside Time Ltd*. As *Inside Time Ltd* donate all profits to *New Bridge Foundation Ltd*, we are obliged to show all costs relating to *Inside Time Ltd* under 'Costs of generating voluntary income'

New Bridge Foundation Ltd and its subsidiary *Inside Time Ltd* ended the year with net assets of *TBC*

**Independent Auditor's Statement**

We have examined the financial statements of *New Bridge Foundation Ltd* and the subsidiary *Inside Time Ltd*.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The Trustees responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Auditing Standards are set out in the full report. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Report of Trustees is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept proper accounting records, if we had not received all the information we required for our audit or if information required by law regarding trustees' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed. We read the Trustees Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any misstatements within it.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Auditing Practice of the state of the charitable company's affairs and of the group as at 31 December 2009
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- The information given in the Report of Trustees is consistent with the financial statements.

Grant Harrod
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
49a High Street
Ruislip
Middlesex, HA4 7BD

20 April 2010

Financial Statements and Accounts



Volunteer for Prison

For more than 53 years New Bridge has been training volunteers to befriend prisoners through letters and visits. Often the prisoners who our volunteers befriend have no other contact with the outside world and, as such, the contact volunteers provide brings hope to otherwise forgotten men and women.

Volunteers are supported through monthly group meetings. We have groups based in Birmingham, Bristol, Durham, Exeter, Hampshire, Liverpool, Leeds, London, Manchester, Weymouth, and Wolverhampton.

We also need mentors to support offenders at crucial times in their sentences and for the first weeks of release. New Bridge mentoring projects are based in Liverpool, Warrington, London and the Midlands

If you think you have what it takes, or to find out more contact:-

new bridge

27a Medway Street

London, SW1P 2BD

Tel: 020 7976 0779

Email: info@newbridgefoundation.org.uk



Three ways to help New Bridge



Everyclick.com is a fundraising tool that enables any charity to raise additional funds. Every month 'everyclick' gives 50% of its gross revenue to charities listed on its website.

Go to <http://www.everyclick.com/uk/newbridge> and set 'everyclick' as your home page, selecting New Bridge as your charity. Every time you search the web, New Bridge benefits. There is no cost to us or you.



New Bridge now works in partnership with *Virgin Money Giving*, which makes raising money very easy by giving supporters the chance to donate on line and set up events to raise money. Call the office for details



More energetic supporters can help by taking part in sponsored treks or cycle challenges organised by Classic Tours, the originators of worldwide charity challenges. Call the office for details or log on to www.classictours.co.uk

new bridge

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**creating links between the offender
and the community**