



# Annual Report 2025

*“ The care, support and guidance I receive through New Bridge and my wonderful volunteer is so powerful. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of your life-changing charity. ”*

# Foreword

“ I would just like to say a big thank you to all at New Bridge, for the work you do with all the support you give. I really believe that many prisoners will go on to be better people and live lives away from crime. Little things make a big difference and New Bridge has done that for me, help me become the better person I am and I will continue to improve to be the best person I can. Thank you. ”

“ My befriender has made a massive difference to me. She I know would play down her part and say she’s only just written. However, trust me, sometimes an encouraging word or friendly advice is enough to help you to just keep going. ”

**2025 was a busy year at New Bridge, where we saw constant demand for our service from across the prison estate, which we worked hard to meet by recruiting and training more volunteers than ever. We supported almost 800 people in prison over the course of the year, and grew our volunteer community to 350.**

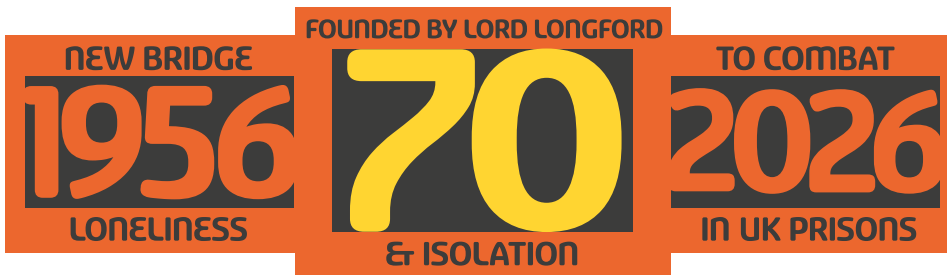
Our annual service evaluation, conducted through our partnership with Arden University, indicated that the impact of our work is remaining steady and consistent even as we grow to support more people.

The people we befriend wrote to us regularly, expressing their thanks for the service our volunteers provide, explaining what a difference it has made to their life to have that regular contact established with a non-judgemental person with whom they share interests and can discuss their feelings. You will find many moving quotes to this effect dotted through this report.

Our volunteers continue to inspire us with their dedication to the people they befriend, with their letters, emails, phone calls and visits helping to remind people in prison that there are those on the outside who care about and are interested in supporting them as they progress through their sentences. **However in 2025 we also saw many volunteers go above and beyond their befriending role, taking on fundraising challenges, or helping us discover new opportunities for advertising our volunteering role to new audiences.** We are so grateful for all the ways in which our volunteer community engage with and support our work.

We continued to navigate a challenging fundraising landscape, **but worked hard to diversify our income,**





“ All of the befrienders I’ve had over the years have been kind, caring, and very supportive, it’s helped me as being in prison is a lonely place itself not to mention challenging as well along the way and to be able to just chat to an outside person helps a lot I have found. ”

and saw increased success across multiple funding streams, as well as the inclusion of a new one in some generous corporate donations and a donation from Inside Time, the prison newspaper (a subsidiary of New Bridge).

We enjoyed bringing our volunteer community together for our annual conference, hearing from some inspiring speakers across the criminal justice system and getting the opportunity to connect with each other.

As we put together this report in 2026, we are officially celebrating the 70th anniversary of New Bridge being founded by Lord Longford. We are delighted to be able to continue his legacy of ensuring that people in prison are not forgotten by society, providing the connection which he identified as being so vital seven decades ago.

As part of our activity to mark this milestone, we invited service users to submit an entry to a

competition to design a commemorative logo for our reports and publications this year. We received lots of fantastic entries, and the two winning designs are proudly displayed above.

We know that our work is far from done, and that we need to be ready to support even more isolated people in prison as the prison population rises. We are working hard to secure the funds that we need to continue operating into our 71st year, and are grateful to all of our funders and donors for their support and belief in the power of what we do.

Finally, a huge and heartfelt thank you to our small but highly-committed staff team, and all of our volunteers, for their dedication to New Bridge’s mission.

Helen Boothman  
Chair

Lucy Ball  
CEO

# 2025 in Numbers



We ended the year with  
**610 people**  
befriended across  
prisons in England  
and Wales



We befriended  
**785**  
people over the  
course of the year



**724**  
phone calls  
were made  
(up from 368 in 2024)



We received  
**278**  
applications from  
people in prison



**317**  
people in prison were  
matched with a volunteer  
(up from 313 in 2024)



**12,772**  
letters and emails  
were exchanged between people  
in prison and their volunteer

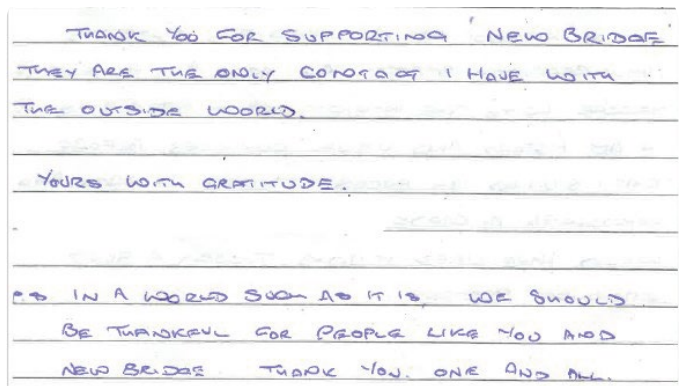


We trained  
**140**  
new volunteers  
(up from 100 in 2024)

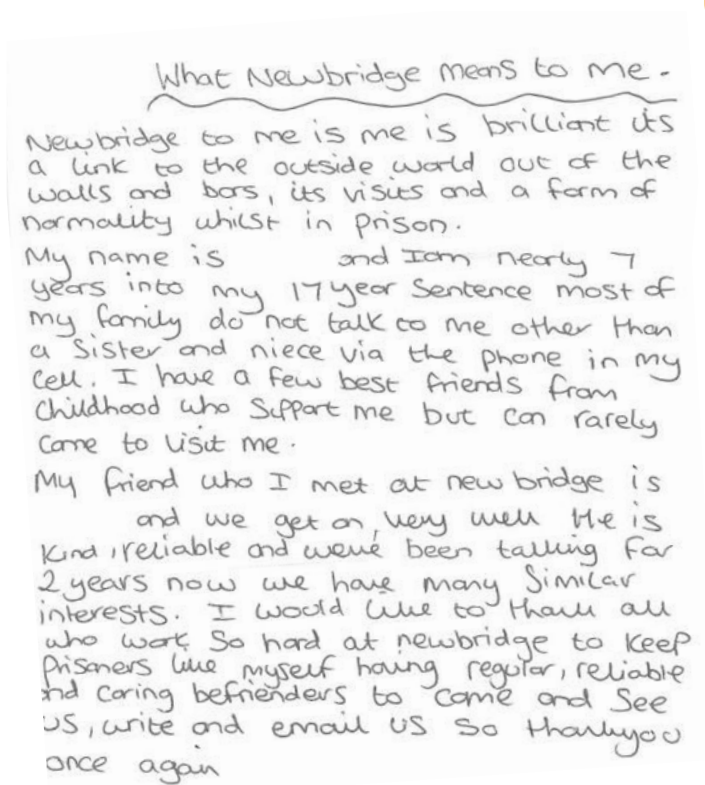


We received  
**219**  
applications  
from volunteers  
(up from 123 in 2024)

“ My befriender is awesome, she is kind and offers advice when I need it. I look forward to her visits when we can chat about anything. I feel a lot more hopeful and de-stressed since having a befriender and promote it to others. It helps normalise my behaviour and makes me certain I won't offend again. ”



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING 'NEW BRIDGE'  
THEY ARE THE ONLY CONTACT I HAVE WITH  
THE OUTSIDE WORLD.  
YOURS WITH GRATITUDE.  
IN A WORLD SUCH AS THIS WE SHOULD  
BE THANKFUL FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND  
NEW BRIDGE THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.



What Newbridge means to me.  
Newbridge to me is brilliant its a link to the outside world out of the walls and bars, its visits and a form of normality whilst in prison.  
My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am nearly 7 years into my 17 year sentence most of my family do not talk to me other than a sister and niece via the phone in my cell. I have a few best friends from childhood who support me but can rarely come to visit me.  
My friend who I met at new bridge is \_\_\_\_\_ and we get on very well. He is kind, reliable and we've been talking for 2 years now we have many similar interests. I would like to thank all who work so hard at newbridge to keep prisoners like myself having regular, reliable and caring benders to come and see us, write and email us so thank you once again

“ One of the men I befriend was seriously depressed when we first started writing. He had just been sentenced and had a long sentence ahead of him, he was diagnosed with multiple personality disorders, and was suicidal. Regular writing and support - in both directions - allowed him to relearn that his life had value and that he mattered to people, as well as caring about numerous others in his life. We discussed him potentially asking for a prison move, which he did, and he has thrived ever since. He is now an active member of the prison community, designing and running courses to target his offending behaviour, and planning for a future (one he now believes is possible). ”

“ Making a connection with individuals who have little or no social network, without judgement. I have five befriendees and we never seem to run out of things to say! I like that New Bridge volunteers are diverse and approach the role from a different angle, but with the same core values. The support groups include new and well established volunteers and we are all learning from each other. ”

# Who We Are

“ *It is just having someone to connect with. I no longer feel as hopeless about my future. It is nice to know that there is someone who thinks or cares about me.* ”

The New Bridge Foundation is a charity which was founded in 1956 with the intention of using volunteers to support people in prison to resettle back into the community after release, by prominent prison reformer Lord Longford. Over the years we have run a variety of additional projects to support people to this end, including Through The Gate programmes and family support programmes. However **our core offering since our inception has been a befriending service** delivered by volunteers, which we continue to run today. **For 70 years, our volunteers have offered a bridge to the outside world** to people serving prison sentences across England and Wales by offering non-judgemental social contact to some of the most isolated and vulnerable in our society.

We are proud to have Michael Spurr, CB (former CEO, HMPPS) as our President, and Professor David Wilson (criminologist, author and former prison governor) and Reverend Jonathan Aitken as our Vice Presidents, as well as a royal patron in HRH Princess Alexandra.

## Our vision:

Every person in prison feels a meaningful connection to the outside world.

## Our mission:

We match people in prisons with trained volunteers who offer long-term support through a combination of correspondence and visits. This provides people in prison with a bridge to the outside world, along with an increased sense of value and potential for their future.

## Our values:



### Non-judgemental

We believe every person has value.



### Inclusive

We accept applications from any person in prison, and any volunteer who shares our values.



### Independent

We are wholly separate from and not influenced by the criminal justice system.



### Prisoner-led

Our volunteers shape their support, correspondence and visits around the needs of the person they support.



### Constant

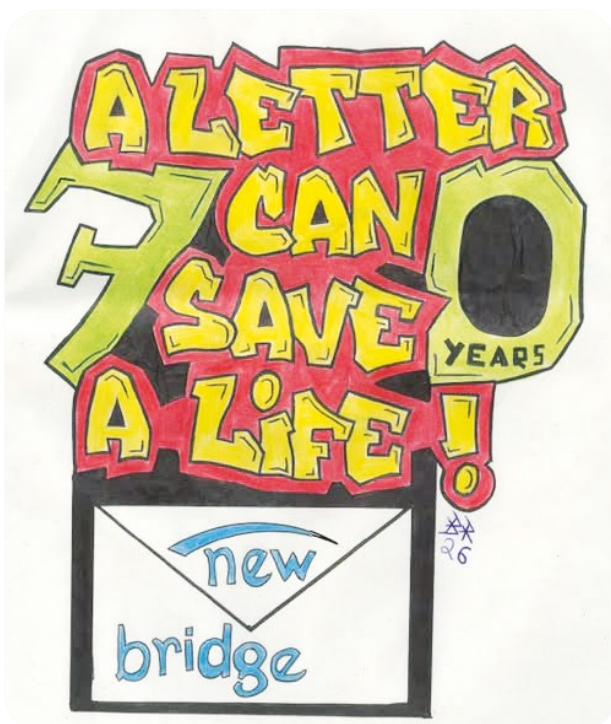
We provide a reliable connection between those inside and outside prison.

“ Before having a befriender each day was the same, but now I have letters to look forward to, have a laugh, let someone new into my life, makes me feel more positive about things. ”

## What we do

Every person we support is matched with a trained volunteer, with whom they communicate through letters or emails. Once they have been writing for at least 6 months, the volunteer can start visiting the person in prison, making 3-4 visits per year.

Every volunteer is part of a Volunteer Support Group, which is Chaired by an experienced volunteer. Each group meets once per month and every group member attends to discuss their correspondence and visits and have the opportunity to raise any concerns about the relationship or their befriender's welfare in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Support groups are spread across the country, and volunteers can choose to join one locally that meets in person, or one that meets via zoom with volunteers from across the country.



## Volunteer Profile

### Abi



**How long have you been volunteering with New Bridge?** 11 months

**How many people are you currently befriending?** 1

**What's your favourite thing about volunteering with New Bridge/what's your best memory of volunteering with us?** My favourite memory has to be when my support group chair, Ben, invited his former befriender to one of our support group meetings. It was very insightful and inspiring to hear about his journey towards therapy while in prison. It was meaningful to see him reflect on his past with insight, maturity, and growth as well as to hear firsthand how much of a significant impact New Bridge had on his journey.

**Why do you think other people should consider volunteering?** Being able to directly support a person in prison has shown me the importance of emotionally showing up and supporting someone's wellbeing as well as the positive and significant impact it has on their mental health. If you are looking to pursue a career within the criminal justice system, New Bridge provides you the opportunity to connect with prisoners without any power dynamics at play. You can build skills such as empathy, active listening and rapport while also maintaining professional boundaries. I think having an understanding of a more holistic and person-centred approach is just as important.

**Are there any other reflections you'd like to share?**

New Bridge is a very lovely charity, I feel supported every step of the way from attending monthly support group meetings to conversations with my group's chair. Attending Prison Social Days has also massively impacted my perception and confidence in pursuing a career in the CJS.

# Service Users

“ *I used to feel really low and ashamed because of my offending but my befriender has helped me see there's some value in me and that there's good in me. I'm not perfect but I keep trying to better myself which is the main thing.* ”

**Our service is person-centred rather than place-based, so we accept applications from any person in any prison in England and Wales.** This also means that volunteers will continue to support the person wherever they may get transferred across the prison estate. We know this sense of continuity and belonging is important to the people we support, who can often lose access to good support (through prison staff or other charities) when they move prisons.

During 2025 we received new applications from 278 people in prison, and over the course of the year we made 317 new service user/volunteer matches.

“ *When I am having a bad time I can always write to her, and put how I feel and what is bothering me, and she will always write back with kind words.* ”

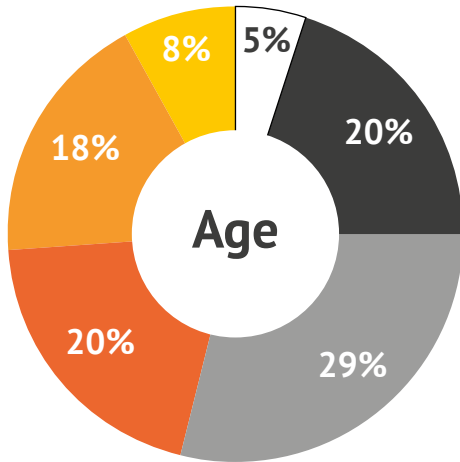
“ *When I write in my letters about something that I've done and I get praise from them it's really nice – I find it hard to praise myself – and it makes me feel more confident in myself.* ”

We know that our service users value having a befriender, and the connection that our volunteers provide. They are also happy to recommend us to others: around **25% of the people we support heard about us through another service user.**

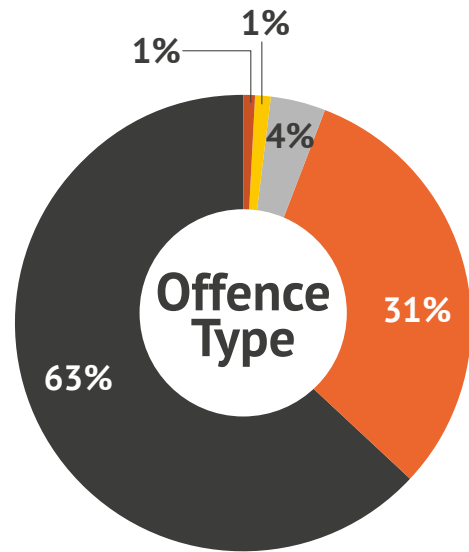
Once a person has applied to join our service, we are committed to supporting them for the long-term. Whilst they are on the waiting list for a volunteer we will send them regular letters, along with birthday and Christmas cards. If a service user's befriender decides at any point that they are no longer able to volunteer, then we will match them up with a new befriender as soon as possible.

**Service users and their befrienders often stay in touch after release from prison,** and at the end of 2025 we were facilitating 40 connections between service users in the community and their befrienders.

We are also always delighted when former service users continue their engagement with New Bridge after release, and 2025 saw two people join a panel discussion at our annual volunteer conference, where they spoke about their experiences of prison and being befriended, and answered a raft of questions from volunteers. **Another former service user helps deliver our training sessions to prospective new volunteers.**



- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- 66+



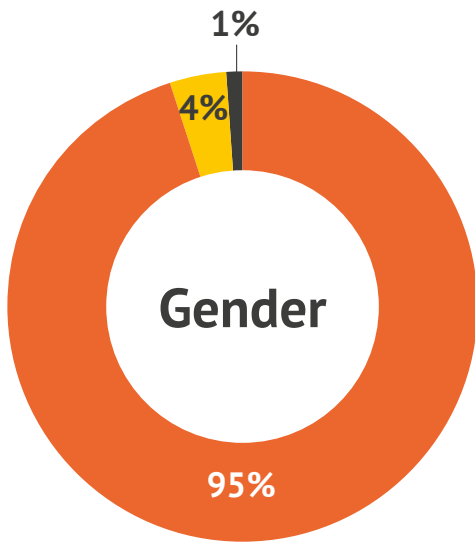
- Misc against society
- Criminal damage & arson
- Possession of weapons
- Robbery
- Drug
- Violence
- Theft
- Sexual

**25%** of the people we support heard about us through another service user

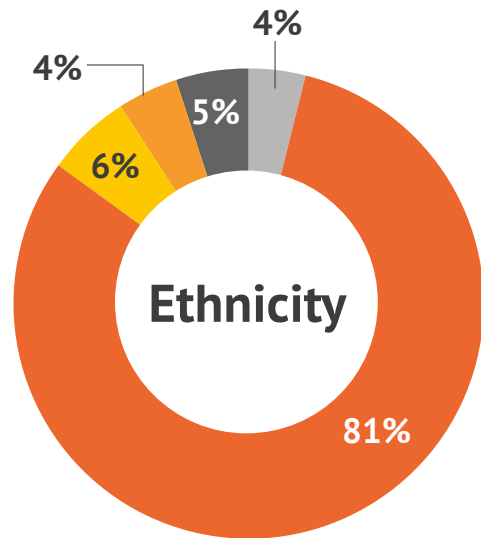


“ It has made me feel much more positive as it's gave me the confidence that I can meet new people and they will see me for the man I am now not the man I was. ”

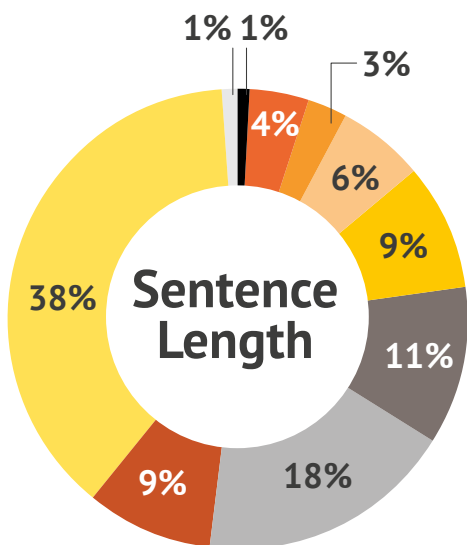
Firstly, I would like to thank New Bridge and all the volunteers who take their time to keep people connected in prisons all over the U.K. The care, support and guidance I receive through New Bridge and my wonderful volunteer is so powerful. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to be apart of your life changing charity.



Female Male Transgender



Other Asian/Asian British White British Black/Black British White Other Mixed



6 months - 1 year 7-10 years 1-2 years 10-14 years 2-4 years 14+ years 4-5 years Extended determinate 5-7 years Indeterminate Recalls



I FOUND THAT ON MY VISIT WITH JOHN, IT FELT LIKE HAVING A VISIT FROM A OLD FRIEND. WE WERE AT EASE AND CONVERSATION JUST HAPPEND. JOHN BOUGHT US BOTH SOME LUNCH AND A DRINK WHICH WAS FANTASTIC TO EAT WITH EACH OTHER. I AM SO GREATFULL FOR HIM TRAVELING SO FAR FROM LONDON FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS VISIT. I HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF RESPECT TOWARDS HIM.

## Service User Profile



As New Bridge celebrate their 70th anniversary I'm reminded of their support of me for the last 40 years, where as a Life sentenced prisoner I could not have survived without them.

Their visits, their letters to me, all helped me to change. Each visitor that came to see me, each letter written, taught me a lot about trust, loyalty and sacrifice, when it came to helping and supporting others such as myself.

Before New Bridge, I was angry with the world, full of hatred for people and the world, where exploding violently meant nothing to me, but all that changed when a letter of mine to New Bridge, asking for a visitor, was answered.

My first New Bridge visitor supported me for 27 years before retiring; but her loyalty to me saw her continuing to visit and write to me until she became too ill to do so.

My visitor helped to encourage me to re-unite with my family, to control myself, and to talk to others about my problems instead of bottling things up and exploding every 3 months.

Her loyalty and support helped to make me a better young man; I learned to communicate, to trust others, and to ask for help when I needed it the most – hence my taking part in prison education.

New Bridge has now given me 5 very different visitors over the years and each one of them have continued to help and support me into becoming a better person. My growth, as my sentence became longer, and longer, is a credit to all the New Bridge visitors, and their team, as I continued to progress without relapsing when things went wrong for me.

Today, I have another New Bridge befriender who I have yet to meet, and yes, I'm sure she will be as helpful and supportive as all the others have been over these last 4 decades, as I now find myself in an open prison, preparing for eventual release – without all at New Bridge, I would never have made it, so to all of you, I wish you a very happy 70th anniversary, hoping that the next 70 years will be as good to others, as they have been to me. Thank you.

# Service Evaluation

“ *When I came in to prison my future looked bleak, now I have a better future I feel [more] confident in [myself], thanks to my befriender.* ”

As part of our strategic goal to better understand and deepen our impact, we entered into a partnership with the School of Criminal Justice at Arden University, who have helped us to design and run our annual service evaluation for the last three years.

## We were delighted to see the following results in our most recent evaluation:

**Q.** Have you noticed any changes in the way you feel about **getting through your sentence** as a result of getting a New Bridge befriender?

**87%** **felt better or much better**  
(matching 2024)

**Q.** Have you noticed any changes in the way you feel about **the future** as a result of getting a New Bridge befriender?

**79%** **felt better or much better**  
(up from 77% in 2024)

**Q.** Have you noticed any changes in **how connected you feel to the outside world** as a result of getting a New Bridge befriender?

**73%** **felt better or much better**  
(down from 83% in 2024)

**Q.** Have you noticed any changes in the way you feel **about yourself** as a result of getting a New Bridge befriender?

**80%** **felt better or much better**  
(down from 83% in 2024)

We know that the development of pro-social attitudes and the improvement of self-image are continually linked with successful rehabilitation and reduction in reoffending, so we are pleased to know that our service is having this impact. Many respondents reflected on how their volunteer had helped them to change, by considering their future and the kind of life they would like to live. They credit them with helping them to see beyond their convictions to the opportunities for change that are available to them.

Many of the respondents reported having limited contact with family or friends. However, even those with some family contact articulated the difference their volunteer made in enabling them to authentically express their feelings and emotions:

“ *I can give a natural response that won't be clouded by any history or be too judgemental.* ”

“ *There's things I talk about with my befriender, especially about prison life, which I haven't shared with my mum for example.* ”

We were also interested to hear the range of topics that respondents reported discussing in their conversations with befrienders:

Topic	Frequency	Topic	Frequency
Prison Life	136	Jobs/Employment	8
TV	133	Gym/Keeping Fit	7
My Future	132	My Problems	7
Music	113	History	7
Sport	78	Places to go	6
Politics	65	Religion/Faith	5
Life in General	25	Science and Technology	5
Travel	15	Cars	3
Books/Reading	15	Gender/LGBTQ+	2
Hobbies	13	Poetry	2
Animals/Pets/Wildlife	12	Weather	2
Family	12	Clothes	2
Food and Cooking	12	Internet Culture	1
Education (University)	12	Famous People	1
Films	11	Fishing	1
News/Current Affairs	11	Geography	1
Video Games/Gaming	10	Slimming Injections	1
Arts and Crafts	10	DIY	1
Nature/Outdoors	10	Sewing	1
Volunteers Life	9	Military	1
Holidays	9	Languages	1
Gardening	8	Visits	1

You can read the full service evaluation report on our website:

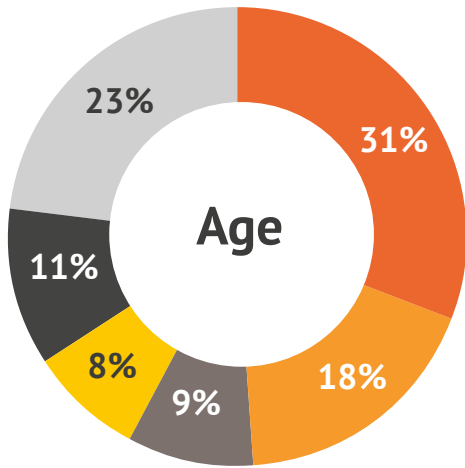
<https://www.newbridgefoundation.org.uk/service-evaluation-reports>

The Prison Reform Trust's report 'A Long Stretch: the challenge of maintaining relationships for people serving long prison sentences' (published November 2024) specifically recommends New Bridge as a tool which all prisons should seek to roll out in order to better support isolated people in prison.

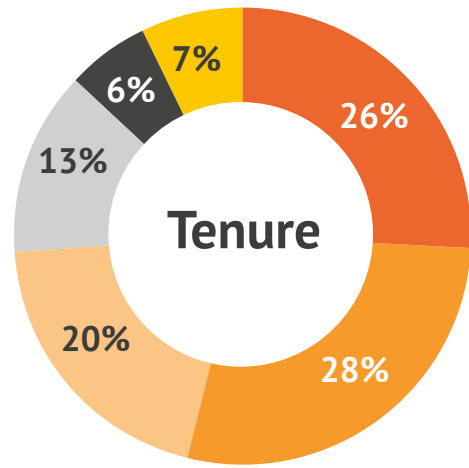
# Volunteers

“ You meet people you would never ever have otherwise met and been involved with. It is without doubt the best thing I have ever done. ”

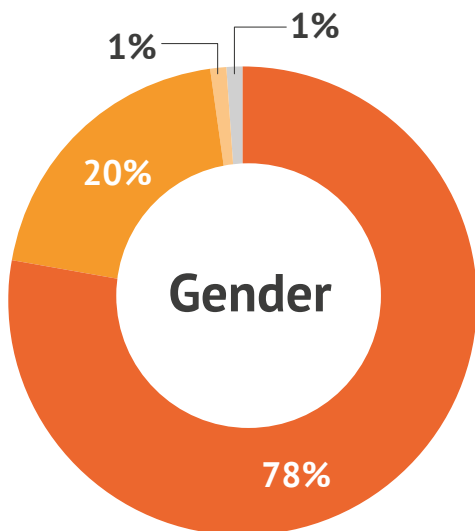
“ I love the moment when I receive a letter in the post, sitting with it, reading it, and feeling totally in tune with the person on the other end. Sharing an hour or two of our lives each month is so little for the rewards that you reap from it. ”



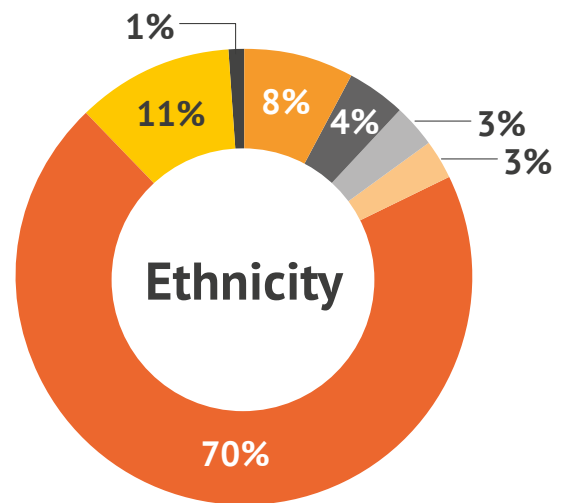
■ 18-25    ■ 36-45    ■ 56-65  
■ 26-35    ■ 46-55    ■ 66+



■ Less than 1 year    ■ 6-9 years  
■ 1-2 years    ■ 10-15 years  
■ 3-5 years    ■ 16+ years



■ Female    ■ Prefer not to say  
■ Male    ■ Transgender  
■ Other (Please specify)



■ Other    ■ Asian/Asian British  
■ White British    ■ Black/Black British  
■ White Other    ■ Mixed  
■ Prefer not to say

**Our volunteers come from all walks of life, but have one thing in common: a belief in our mission.**

Our volunteers are on the frontline of our work, delivering constant, reliable support to our service users. They give their time and compassion through the highs and lows experienced by the people they support.

In turn, we ensure that our volunteers are supported: each person is a member of a volunteer support group which meets once per month and provides the opportunity to discuss their correspondence and visits and raise any concerns about the relationship or the person in prison's welfare in a friendly and encouraging environment. Support groups are spread across the country, with a mixture of virtual and in-person settings.

“ *The monthly support group meetings are lovely really makes you feel part of a community, everyone is so nice and welcoming.* ”

At a time when interest in volunteering has waned at a national level, still struggling to reach pre-pandemic levels, we are delighted to see sustained interest from people across the country in joining our community of dedicated volunteers. **In 2025 219 people applied to volunteer with us** – a 78% rise on the previous year, and **we have trained 140**, a 30% increase on 2024's trainees. **In the first 4 months of 2026 we received 77 volunteer applications** and are pleased to see this sustained interest in our befriending role.

Our volunteering offer is very flexible, with letters and visits being organised around each volunteer's own schedule. This flexibility has helped people to continue in their role for long periods of time, fitting it in around their work, studies and personal lives. We gave out long service awards in 2025 to 8 volunteers celebrating 10 years with us, 2 celebrating 15 years, and 2 who had reached 20 years! This long service is testament not only to the flexibility of the role, but to the enjoyment that volunteers draw from building long-standing social connections with the people they support.



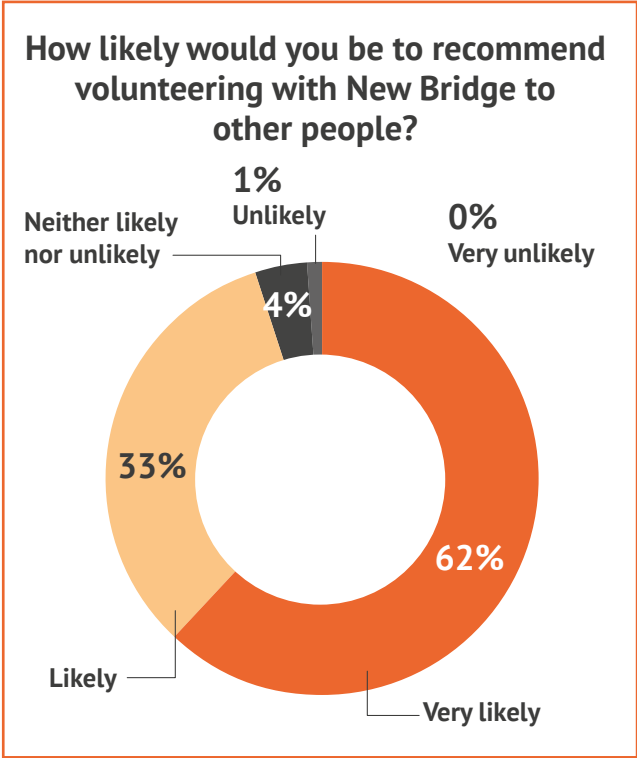
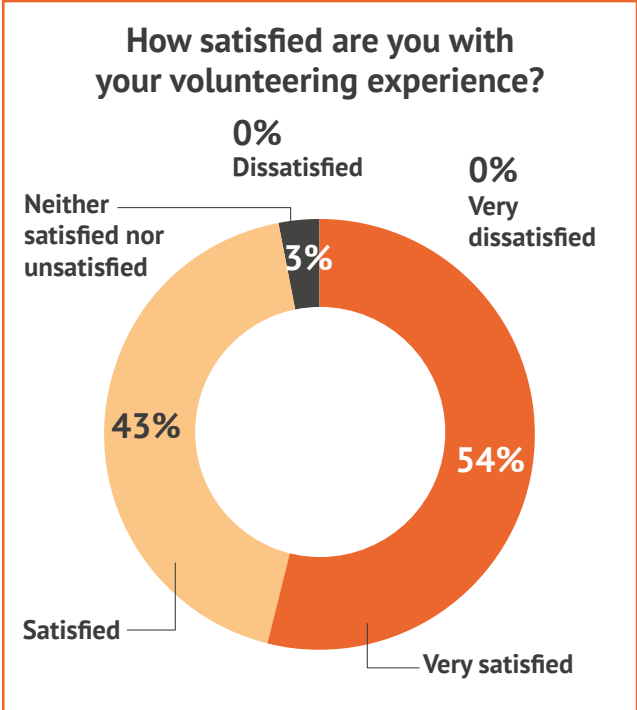
“ *The whole experience has been positive. The prisoner I have befriended writes thoughtful and engaging letters and meeting him for the first time was really enjoyable - having got to know him over six months writing letters we had a lot to talk about during the visit. My support group is really well run, supportive and non-judgemental and I also look forward to connecting there every month.* ”

“ One befriender has changed a lot in confidence in the (almost) 3 years I have known him. Previously he was insular, withdrawn, and openly told me he plans to refuse parole as felt he had nothing to come out to. Over time, he has grown in confidence, social skills and through this has better relationships with others, which has changed his mindset around being released. ”

We have built relationships with several universities over recent years which continue to prove a good source of recruiting excellent volunteers. Last year we also spoke at Rotary Club, Women’s Institute and Quaker meetings to help broaden our reach. Last spring we launched our first corporate volunteering partnership, working with a global law firm. We are delighted that there is such a good level of appetite within the firm for engaging in our volunteering offer.

We survey our volunteers each year to gather their feedback on their experience with New Bridge. We were delighted that in our most recent survey 97% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience, and 95% would recommend volunteering with us to other people.

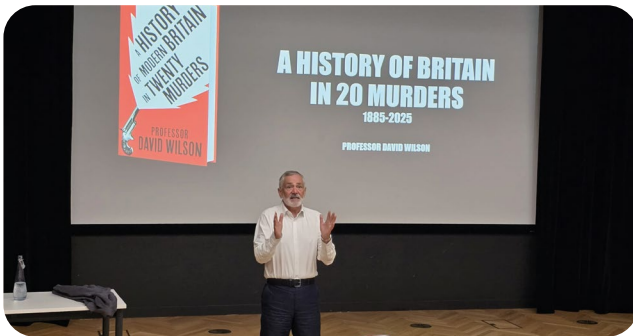
We recruit and train volunteers all year round. If you are interested in volunteering with us (or know someone who might be) then you can find more information and our online application form at [newbridgefoundation.org.uk/volunteer](http://newbridgefoundation.org.uk/volunteer)



# Volunteer Conference

Every year we organise a conference, bringing together our community of volunteers from across the country to hear from a range of inspiring speakers on topics across the criminal justice system.

In 2025 we were very kindly hosted by King's College London for our conference, for the second year running.



Professor David Wilson (New Bridge Vice President) opened the conference, speaking about his new book 'A History of Britain in 20 Murders'



New Bridge volunteer Ciara shared her MSc research into the impact of the befriending relationship, and the 'social capital' built through people in prison experiencing visits.



Victoria and Alison from Give A Book spoke about their valuable work including book groups which support peer relationships, trust and communication.



Mary from HMP Grendon talked about therapeutic work in prisons, and the importance of a person at the end of their sentence being able to see themselves as an ex-offender, master of their own destiny and with the power to enact change.



Sean from Serco talked about his 21 year career in prisons (so far), including as governor at Holme House, and what a Governor's role entails.

A highlight at every conference is hearing from our former service users. 2025's conference saw a panel of former service users (Chris and Paul) talking about their experiences of prison and being befriended – with the panel chaired by David Wilson.



# Volunteer Awards

We gave out some special awards at the conference, marking the huge contribution that our volunteers make:



## Long service awards

Clare, Cristiana, Maria, Gavin, Jennifer, Karen, Susan, Andrew



Hilary, Sue



Jennifer, Rosemary



“ An ex-prisoner sent me this message: ‘You and New Bridge volunteers are not perfect but are pretty good role models! The fact I am out and staying out is because of your consistent support! I’m not deserving of such high praise, but this quote emphasises the impact New Bridge does have on someone’s life. ”

## Volunteer Profile

### Sarah



**How long have you been volunteering with New Bridge?** 18 months

**How many people are you currently befriending?** 3

**What’s your favourite thing about volunteering with New Bridge/what’s your best memory of volunteering with us?** Feeling the warmth and appreciation of the prisoners’ letters plus the enjoyment of writing letters myself.

**Why do you think other people should consider volunteering?** To alleviate the loneliness of prisoners, reminding them of life outside prison and the happiness you feel from receiving their letters.

**Are there any other reflections you’d like to share?** Receiving a letter which said “Thank you for your letter. It made my day and I have been smiling like a Cheshire Cat all day.”

# Our Supporters

We couldn't exist to impact lives in the way that we do without the generous financial donations of our supporters.

**Last year we were grateful to receive donations of over £1,000 from the following grant-making trusts:**

- 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
- Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust
- Archer Trust
- Chesterhill Charitable Trust
- Christopher Rowbotham Charitable Trust
- Clifford Chance Global Foundation
- Constance Travis Charitable Trust
- Dean & Chapter of Westminster Abbey
- Debtors Relief Charity
- Dischma Charitable Trust
- Drapers Charitable Trust
- Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust
- Hadley Trust
- HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
- Hedley Foundation
- Inner London Magistrates Courts Poor Box
- Jessie Spencer Trust
- John Armitage Charitable Trust
- Michael & Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust
- Mirianog Trust
- National Lottery
- Noel Buxton Trust
- Sir James Reckitt Charitable Trust
- Sir James Roll Charitable Trust
- Souter Charitable Trust
- St Luke's, Battersea
- The Gladys Wightwick Charitable Trust
- The Leigh Trust
- The Oak Trust
- The Vandervell Foundation
- The Whitaker Charitable Trust
- Walter Guinness Charitable Trust
- William Allen Young Charitable Trust

“ I feel very lucky for all the support I receive through visits and letters from my wonderful volunteer, and can not ask for any more. I feel that having friendship with a volunteer is a gift as I do not feel forgotten. ”



# Fundraising

We have worked hard to diversify our income to help plan for our future. Last year we saw increased success across multiple funding streams, and the inclusion of a new one in some generous donations from corporate organisations as well as from Inside Time, the prison newspaper (a subsidiary of New Bridge).

Our income from grant-making trusts has increased on previous years and we are delighted to have been supported by the John Armitage Charitable Trust, Drapers Charitable Fund, Constance Travis Charitable Trust, among others over the last year. We have successfully increased not only our income from grant-making trusts, but also the number of trusts who have donated towards our work.

## Grant-making Trusts

Income increased by

**↑85%**

with donations from 37% more Trusts than 2024.

## Individual Giving

Income increased by

**↑71%**

with donations from new and existing supporters over the course of the year.

## Volunteer Fundraising

We were delighted to see so many of our volunteers organise events and take on challenges to help us raise funds. We are very grateful to them all for their efforts above and beyond their befriending!

### Bake Sale

Caitlin and Ramila hosted a bake sale on their university campus, raising

**£77**



### Swim Serpentine

Stephen took on the 1 mile course at Swim Serpentine, raising

**£1,080**



### Bath Half Marathon

Suzie, Fran and Francesco took on the Bath Half Marathon, raising

**£1,575**



### London Marathon

Andy took on his first ever marathon, running the streets of London raising

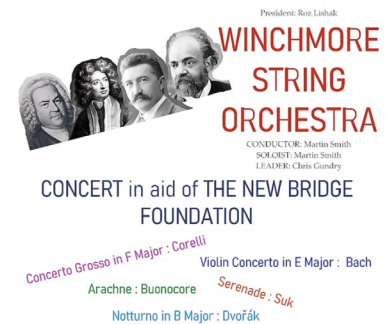
**£2,500**



### Concert

Stephen organised a concert performed by the orchestra which he, and two other New Bridge volunteers, are members of, raising

**£348**



Our key challenge has been in raising sufficient funds to be able to grow our service at the pace we need in order to meet demand. Although our income is increasing year-on-year, the number of applications from people in prison continues to increase, so we need to raise more funds in order to meet the costs of more volunteers sending more letters and making more visits.

We have also, like many small charities, felt the impact of the increase in costs over the past year. The rise in employer NI contributions has driven up our salary costs, whilst we have also absorbed the cost of another rise in the price of stamps, and increasingly expensive train tickets for volunteers' prison visits.

We hope to appoint a dedicated fundraiser to the team in the coming year, to help us further increase our income in line with projected increased costs as we scale up.

“The day itself is an amazing and unforgettable experience. My time was 4 hours and 20 minutes – not under 4 hours as I’d initially been hoping, but not bad for my age and the fact that it was a hot day. The main thing was I ran the whole way!”  
Andy

“Anyone thinking of running any distance of sponsored run for New Bridge I urge you to go for it and I am more than happy to advise and encourage! Thank you to everyone who donated!”  
Suzie

We’ve developed a Fundraising Guide for volunteers or supporters who are interested in organising fundraising activities. You can find this on our website: [www.newbridgefoundation.org.uk/fundraise](http://www.newbridgefoundation.org.uk/fundraise)

## How can you help us to support more isolated people in prison?

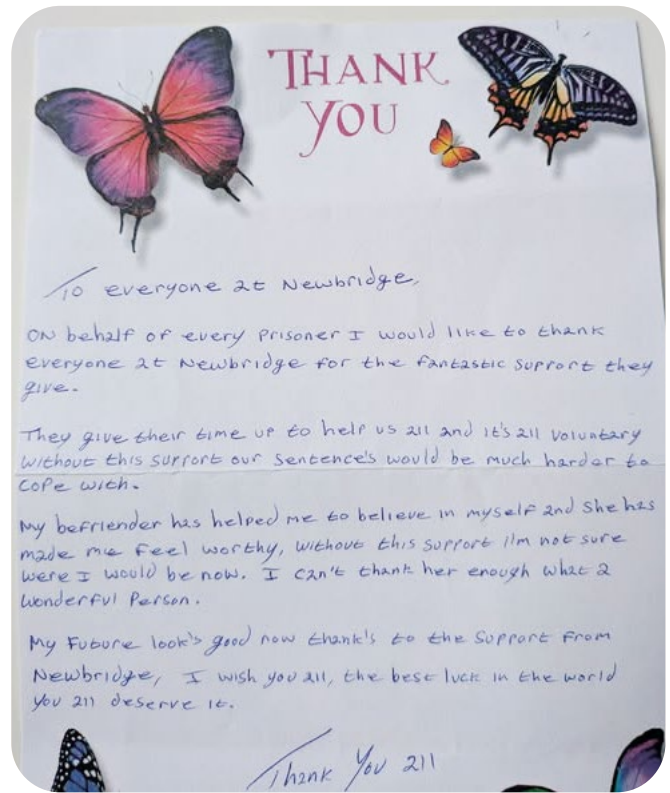
- **Donate:** Help us meet our income targets so that we can manage the costs of growing
- **Fundraise:** Organise an activity or event to raise funds and awareness of work
- **Volunteer:** Sign up to become a befriender
- **Spread the word about our work**
  - Recommend volunteering to friends
  - Speak to your employer about entering into a volunteering partnership at your workplace
  - Nominate us for your workplace's Charity of The Year



“ Pretty much every conversation I have with my befriender is fun, positive and enjoyable, for both of us. We share bits of knowledge, funny anecdotes, updates on what we've been doing etc. It's become a valuable friendship. ”

Dear, All at New Bridge foundation,  
 I would like to take this opportunity to say my thank to all the volunteers for all the support you offer to all of us in less fortunate position and we are all working hard to progress and work on our rehabilitation.  
 I feel very lucky for all the support I receive through visit and letter from my wonderful volunteer and can not ask for anymore. I feel that having friendship with a volunteer as a gift as I do not feel forgotten by others and can enjoy what other gives us without any conditions and all your support means a lot.

Im Just Sending a Couple words to let you know how Grateful i am for your Service, to Say Thank you for finding me another positive person to write to that's need in my life, I do have a Couple family members, literally a Couple people in my life i can write to, but they are still involved in negativity that im not, and all i want in life is people that dont do what i used to do and finding friends and connections that dont hold the past against me is really tough, I dont have an issue with anyone who's had a past like mine, or even a troubled life in any way, but im a calm, mature, legal guy now and just want positive, non-judgemental connections in life.



**THANK YOU**

To everyone at Newbridge,

ON behalf of every prisoner I would like to thank everyone at Newbridge for the fantastic support they give.

They give their time up to help us all and it's all voluntary without this support our sentences would be much harder to cope with.

My befrienders has helped me to believe in myself and she has made me feel worthy, without this support im not sure were I would be now. I can't thank her enough what a wonderful person.

My future looks good now thanks to the support from Newbridge, I wish you all, the best luck in the world you all deserve it.

Thank you all

I can't thank your befriending <sup>team</sup> enough that your team do for people who have no contact with the outside world.

~~My friend has written the book for me~~

May your team at New Bridge help more people in 2026 and I just like to say again Thank you for a wonderful service that all of you do for us in prison who have no one. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2026.

Thank you kindly, for replying, and I am really looking forward to getting to know . This is a great service you provide as from what I know from other prisoners, it has helped them not only with mental health as forming bonds is important but it does provide an outlet for people to express themselves, so once more Thank you kindly Regards



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