Through the roof



'My Life Will Never Be The Same'



Hope for the Future



Happy Days at Treloar



On Course to Raise Funds

# Vital ink Transforming lives through disabled people



## 'Accepted and Loved no Matter What'

It's 'lovely to be accepted and loved no matter how our children behaved,' wrote one parent after our Dalesdown holiday. They continued, 'the love of Jesus shines through and blesses us as a family'. Holidays can be difficult for families with autistic children – parents may need to pay extra attention to the safety of their children, arrange complicated diets, and worry about other people not understanding their needs, but Dalesdown is different. The ninth year of Through the Roof's holiday for families with autistic children was a great success, with nine different families, one-toone helpers, and a whole team gathering for a fun life-improving four days.

The important part of a holiday isn't always the big dramatic activities. For many at Dalesdown, it's space for family members to relax, chat, make new friends, and perhaps even grab a rare lie-in that becomes important. All ordinary things for many families, but an extra special part of this amazing break. Our trained one-to-one helpers work together with families, making it easier for them to take part in the sort of activities many can take for granted. One family wrote to tell us that 'the holiday definitely met expectations' of a chance to 'rest and reflect' on an 'extremely busy and emotional' year.

Another parent wrote that 'It's like one big family coming together and understanding one another.' Several parents told us how fantastic it was that their children could come somewhere and just feel 'accepted' for who they are, with the timetable tailored to be as low-stress as possible for them.

This year featured a huge contrast from 2013's snowy picnic at Tilgate Park, as the wonderfully sunny weather meant families and helpers were able to take more time looking at all of the animals in the reserve there, and playing on the very popular activity park. Holiday-goers were also able to enjoy the beautiful countryside around the centre, taking a group walk through bluebell-filled Sussex woods, before returning happily worn-out for tea and cake.

We're thankful to the team of dedicated volunteers, who – in parents' words – are so 'caring and enthusiastic', and so quick to adapt to the needs of the children and families. Every year, volunteers are privileged to take part in a very small part of these families' lives, all with the aim of helping them to take the kind of small break they might not otherwise be able to enjoy.

Your prayer support and financial contributions over the past nine years has enabled us to provide this essential break for so many families, and as we approach next year's 'Decade of Dalesdown', we'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to help support more people, as well as from anyone interested in volunteering or taking part. Please get in touch with us to find out what you can do.

# 'My Life Will Never be the Same'



#### **Contact Details**

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#### **Our Vision**

'... is of a world where all people live interdependently, mutually giving and receiving as God intended.'

Through the Roof Charitable Trust Ltd is a UK Registered Company number 04201510 with offices at Unit B1, Aviary Court, 138 Miles Road, Epsom, KT19 9AB. It is also a Registered Charity Number 1087788.

Vital Link is designed and printed by PDC Design & Print www.pdc-kingston.co.uk

### Integr8's Mission to Kenya

"That was a great time we had, and I have a different view as far as disability is concerned. I have realised my disability too and my life will never be the same," said one of the trainees on our recent Integr8 mission to Kenya.

During an incredibly powerful ten day trip to Elburgon, Kenya in May, our four-person Integr8 team delivered training on disability issues to 453 people in six different locations. Thanks to our contact Pastor Davis (from the Hope and Glory center) we were able to partner with the Kenyan government, and provide training to officials from all around the country.

We ran workshops on spirituality of disability, communication, language, giving a personal testimony of living with a disability, and sharing the Gospel. All 453 trainees asked for us to return to provide more training for them!

In each district (equivalent to our counties) we spoke with the heads of department - chief of education, chief of human resources, chief of prisons and other administrators, hoping that each administrator will then support the inclusion of disabled people within their department and advocate for disabled people in their community.

Another trainee said "I now have a changed attitude and will let my children play with

### **Upcoming Missions**

We've plenty of trips on the way – if you're interested in taking part, or would like to know how you can support our overseas work, please get in touch.

Anyone interested in finding out more about International Missions is invited to our 'International Missions Day'. Please come along to the TTR office on 6th September from 10 to 2.30pm – contact **reninca@throughtheroof.org**, or ring the office to let us know you'll be joining us.



Abigail and Sarah lead training. Individuals talking about their own experiences of disability is an important part of our programme.

disabled children in my community and make sure disabled people are included in church life." A pastor told us "I now understand about including disabled people in church services and how everyone can serve and be included."

The team were privileged to train senior councillors in the government from all over Kenya. Some of these officials had travelled for over two days to get to the University of Egerton for the sessions! Everyone enjoyed the training, with 88% of those attending saying it had changed their attitude towards disabled people.

A team member said that the trip was 'brilliant', and that she "loved that for the first time she could share her expertise, as well as faith, to make a difference in people's lives."

Next year we hope to go Uganda, Moldova and Mozambique to keep offering training – if you are interested in coming on a future Integr8 trip, then please contact Reninca for more information.



Would you like to be part of a team delivering training or distributing Wheelchairs? Get in touch.

Oct 8th – 18th	Uganda	WFTW	Spaces for therapists
Feb 4th – 14th 2015	Kenya	WFTW	Spaces
April – 2015	Uganda	Training trip	Spaces
May 1st – 10th 2015	Kenya - Elburgon	WFTW	Spaces
June – 2015	Kosovo	WFTW	Spaces
Aug – 2015	Mozambique	Training trip	Spaces



## Answers on a Postcard

The 'Pizza Pudding Postcard People Party' Bible teaser packs are Through the Roof's newest resource. Consisting of two packs of ten postcards with cryptic questions related to disability in the Bible, e.g. 'Which disabled people saved a nation from starvation?' and 'Who was too weak to get out of bed but powerful enough to change history?' The reverse side of the postcard gives the answer, the full story, the Bible reference and a relevant positive message.

The cards form a quiz activity for a house group or church meeting; then over pizzas and puddings, the answers can be checked. Hopefully by now

The new postcard resource was enjoyed at CRE, and sparked conversations about disability and church

life of God's people. Next up, the DVD "Opening the Doors" can be shown (available from Through the Roof for £1.50). This will show how practical ways to include disabled people. After this the group can

everyone will see the Bible's positive portrayal of disabled people as active contributors to the

discuss ways in which they could begin to reach out to disabled people. After this the group can next meeting speakers could be invited from local or national disability organisations to explain what would be needed to make the group inclusive and welcoming.

This resource was well received at the Christian Resources Exhibition, with one person telling us he had already been invited to a Pizza-Pudding-Postcard-People party! Buy your own copies from **www.throughtheroof.org** – they're £5 each pack, or £7.50 for both.



What resources do you and your church need?

### New Resources to Look Out For!

Disability Sunday was July 6th this year, but if you missed it, there's still a chance to celebrate, and raise awareness in your church on any day you choose! This year's pack is still available, and contains a completely new range of allage resources. It's now available as a free download from http://www.churchesforall. org.uk/disabilitysunday.

Ros Bayes has been researching disabled people's experience of church. She is currently compiling the research into an information booklet explaining what disabled people see as the issues churches most need to address. This will include an index of resources to address these topics, some of which are already available from Churches For All member organisations, and some of which Ros will be creating over the next few months. We are also creating new resources for Integr8 and Wheels for the World which can be used to give training to our overseas partners. Some have already been prepared and were successfully used on the recent Integr8 trip to Kenya.

In future we are looking at putting together some kind of certificated course for our overseas partners, and Ros is already thinking ahead to 2017 for resources to help us celebrate our 20th anniversary!

We are always open to suggestions, so if you're aware of gaps in our resources provision that you feel should be addressed, please contact Ros on **01372 737042** or email **ros@throughtheroof.org.** 

## Wish You Were Where?

Disabled Christians Fellowship are looking to run another holiday overseas in 2015, and would love your suggestions for where to go! If you have ideas as to where we might have a holiday that will not be too expensive, please email **jenny@throughtheroof.org** with your thoughts. We had hoped to visit Israel, but with very few applicants, we may have to look elsewhere, so ideas and suggestions please!



Holidaygoers on the DCF 2012 Majorca holiday. Where should we go next?



# From Joni Eareckson Tada

#### Dear Friends...

We can learn a lot about teamwork from our bodies – because every part needs the other. When the stomach is hungry, the eyes spot the fish and chips, one hand douses the fish with vinegar, and the other shoves it into the mouth... all back to the stomach. That's cooperation!

And that's the kind of cooperation we can experience in the body of Christ. The book of Ephesians says we are to support other Christians because we are one with them. Believers are never told to become one; we already are one. So we're expected to act like it. We can strengthen our oneness by helping each other spread the Gospel. As we find new ways to make the Good News more accessible, the body of Christ grows in numbers and in strength.

This is why I'm fully supportive of the ministry at Through the Roof. Recently, our Integr8 team was serving in Kenya, delivering training and modeling inclusion (two of the team members are disabled). Also, our Wheels for the World team headed to Kosovo with wheelchairs and the Gospel. It's all about making the love of Christ more accessible to all!

As you support Through the Roof with your gifts and prayers, you are helping to bring the body of Christ to a new level of cooperation, especially as disabled people and their families are brought into the fold. After all, if our bodies can work together in the cause of fish and chips, then we can certainly work together. So thank you for cheering us on at Through the Roof. It's a great way to strengthen our 'oneness.'

Yours in His care,

Joni Eareckson Tada



'Asking is the key to success', says Mike, shown here with Tom.

# The Confidence to Ask by Dr. Mike Townsend, Chair of Trustees

"Do churches want disabled people to join them?" I asked in my session at last year's 'Enabling Church' conference. My answer was, "largely no". I suggested that other things get priority. Many churches feel they have 'done disability' with the Disability Discrimination Act and lots of people in churches have no idea what to do if a disabled person turned up. This isn't deliberate, but it's an oversight that creates a barrier.

I recently led the morning service at Evesham Baptist Church. In the service were folk using wheelchairs, members of their Prospects group with learning disabilities, a couple of people with hearing loss, and me with two guide dogs! Two dogs?! My guide dog Tom has just retired. The guide dog team have found me a new dog, Oxford who graduated the day before.

Why did this church succeed so well? My guide dog trainer stressed one vital key to success. "When in doubt, ask." When booking me to take the service, they asked, "what help do you need?" This is the most important aspect of including disabled people. Don't assume you know what someone needs.

Jesus asked a blind person, Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51). He didn't assume anything. People need confidence to link with disabled people. Following Jesus in this good practice of asking disabled people what they want is key to motivating churches through building their confidence. The blind man actually said, "Rabbi, I want to see," and the result was that he followed Jesus.

In this way, among others, Through the Roof hopes to motivate the Christian community both in UK and overseas to include disabled people. To encourage each other, building confidence and following Jesus. We need your help in accomplishing these goals – get in touch and find out what you can do.



Jen on the Treloar holiday. Jenny records monthly inspirational messages for the Come Fishing CD - get in touch if you'd like to receive them.

### **Perfection, Perfectly Poured**

by Jenny Edwards MBE

I wonder how many of you have experienced seeing something quite ordinary while out and about, that suddenly strikes you as meaningful and sticks with you for weeks afterwards! I had such a time the other day when stopping at a service station on the M3. In front of me was a coffee shop, advertising a very familiar brand of coffee, with a poster saying 'perfection, perfectly poured'. I immediately thought, "Wow". What a statement! Not only did the three 'P's make it more memorable, but my mind started adding more P's to it - peace, promise, purpose and many others. I expect you too can find other 'p's', all describing Jesus and what He means to each one of us day by day. I found this experience has stayed with me for weeks – why? Because Jesus or God means so much to me as my Saviour and Lord that I simply keep expanding this phrase! As Christians our Jesus or God is with us constantly, never leaving us. That is why such a simple observation can mean so much to us, what a wonderful Saviour we have!



# In The Saviour's Love

We all need encouragement throughout our lives - whether it's dealing with day to day small problems, or living with bereavement or constant pain. DCF co-ordinator, Jenny Edwards MBE, has produced a new inspirational book, talking to five disabled people about their own life experiences, and drawing out lessons we can all use.

This book, 'In the Saviour's Love', is available now for £4, and forms the first part of a planned series of books on 'Life Experiences' (see later for more). Get your copy by calling us on **01372 749955** or at the website shop at **www.throughtheroof.org**.

'In the Saviour's Love' - available now from Through the Roof

# **Enabling us All**

The Enabling Church Conference, organised by Churches for All (including Through the Roof) took place in West Bromwich in June. It was a successful, inspirational day, with 400 enthusiastic attendees committed to a Church where no-one is excluded.

The conference challenged attendees to go beyond inclusion and on to belonging, where disabled people are a key, unmissable part of the Church and its leadership. Haydon Spenceley, Anglican ordinand and wheelchairuser, said, "The church is God's, not ours. It's not for us to include or exclude. It's for us to participate in what God is doing."

Joni Eareckson Tada addressed the conference via video, reminding us that "Our Saviour chose to flash His credentials as Messiah through ministry to disabled people," and "A disability magnifies God's grace.... We in our wheelchairs get to prove how great and how trustworthy God is."

Rev Jonathan Edwards concluded the day with a call for the church to stand against injustice. He reminded us that



Roy McCloughry spoke at the Enabling Church conference, with Randy Lewis, Revd Prof John Swinton, and many others.

"It's not appropriate as we seek to cut back because of the deficit that the weakest people should bear the brunt," and challenged us to speak out on behalf of people with disabilities, and keep on being the conscience of the church.

Everyone left motivated to take the message back home. As a result of our involvement in organising this major conference, TTR will be leading the development of a training course in disability ministry to be piloted in the Lichfield Diocese for ordained and lay preachers. More details about that will be coming along soon!



A range of events at the golf day, including the wheelchairseated drive, highlighted disability awareness and inclusion.

### **On Course to Raise Funds**

Through The Roof held our first-ever Golf Day at the magnificent setting of Tyrrells Wood Golf course, Leatherhead, raising over £1000 for our work. Twenty-four golfers (huddled beneath umbrellas!) braved the weather to complete 18 holes of golf, before enjoying a two-course lunch, presentation on the charity's work and prize-giving ceremony.

The event also featured unique competitions of 'Wheelchair-Seated Longest Drive' and 'Blindfolded Putting' which reflect the charity's focus and led people to consider how others live with the challenges of disability.

Our CEO, Tim Wood said "We are grateful for the generosity of all our sponsors – Beigebell, CGICE, The Mellor Practice, Benross and Surprize Shop – who all contributed to such a distinctive event. It's been a great day fundraising, and we're very glad everyone had such a good time too".

#### **Competition winners were:**

18 Hole Stableford: Christine Smith. Nearest the Pin: Julian Brand. Men's Longest Drive: Julian Brand. Ladies Longest Drive: Christine Smith. Wheelchair Longest Drive: Marcus Griffiths. Blindfolded Putting: Paul Burden & Evan Macmillan. Wii Golf: Andy Ward. Overall Champion: Andy Ward of Beigebell.

All those at the event have made a difference to the most excluded people in the world just by attending. Many have already asked to be invited to next year's event. If you are interested in playing, donating an item for auction or sponsoring any aspect of the event, please contact: margaret@throughtheroof.org

### **Get Inspired!**

Are you a TTR Fundraiser, or interested in becoming one? We're now producing a fundraising email/newsletter every few months to inspire and encourage new fundraising activities, and celebrate the achievements of our brilliant volunteers as they bake, sell, cycle, walk, wheel... all to help fund our work. If you'd like to be added to the circulation list, please email **info@throughtheroof.org**. Thank you!

### Teamwork in Northern Ireland

TTR's work continues in Northern Ireland, and the team there were pleased to welcome the CEO, Tim Wood, to the Disability 'Ministry and Mission' Forum in May.

The meeting was hosted by Ballydown PCI in Banbridge Co. Down and included presentations from Brian Gault, Prospects 'Children in Albania' outreach (in association with European Christian Mission) and Melvin Kelly of 'Helping Hands' working in Mozambique.

Tim gave the keynote presentation to update everyone on the current work of TTR. Members of DCF Ireland were also present, and we were glad to see Andrew Robinson, who has been a faithful provider of space for our Wheels mobility equipment container.

Everyone involved agreed to support each other, and we look forward to future meetings and work together.

Our thanks to everyone who both took part and supported our effort. If you're in Northern Ireland, and you'd like to find out how you can get involved TTR's work, please get in touch. The team would love to hear from you.



The NI team, Brian Gault, and Tim discussed plans for future work in Northern Ireland



Dee gets into training for her <u>fun</u>draising hike

### A Half-Marathon Effort

Dee Peck from Ashtead is organizing a sponsored half-marathon walk through six London parks on Saturday 18th October to raise funds for Wheels for the World. If you're interested in sponsoring her, or joining her on this walk through St James Park, Green Park, Hyde Park, Regents Park, Primrose Hill, and Kensington Gardens, then please contact Dee on **deempeck@** gmail.com or 07759707872, or Karen on k.goodridge@btinternet.com or 01372 270983. Thank you Dee!

# In Memory of Billy

by John Brown

It is with deep regret that we report the death of our faithful friend and colleague Billy Thompson. Billy was called home on 10th April this year following a prolonged illness. He was one of the founder members of wheels refurbishments in Stewart's Memorial House, Bangor, N. Ireland. With his enthusiasm and dedication to wheels he went on to set up a workshop in Maghabery Prison near Belfast, where he influenced a number of life prisoners. He travelled to two distributions in Ukraine, where he took great pleasure in distributing chairs and sharing God's word with many. Billy will be greatly missed by all of us, and our prayers are with his wife Margaret and family Kim, Stephen and grandchildren.



Billy at work in one of Northern Ireland's Wheelchair containers

# **Happy Days on Holiday DCF at Treloar**

Prior to the start of the Activity Holiday at Treloar College in Hampshire, many people were galvanised to pray that we would have fine weather in order for the cycling activity to take place on the Tuesday morning! God once again answered our prayers and both the cycling and our visit to Bird World took place, proving to be great fun days. The bicycles were designed to accommodate all abilities, so all



who wanted were able to spend time cycling around the woodland area in beautiful sunshine.

Our visit to Bird World included an opportunity to cuddle some adorable young animals including a 3-day old kid goat, some chicks, guinea pigs, rabbits and even mice!

On Thursday we had a wonderful day when each guest was sponsored to perform a challenge to raise some money for the DCF Holidays. One person chose not to speak for an hour (she raised the most money!) while Jenny & others took part in a wheelchair slalom race; one very busy helper



was sponsored to rest on her bed for an hour! In the afternoon, other challenges were completed in the swimming pool. This venue was equipped with a track hoist that ran from changing room to pool, enabling almost everyone to take part. If the noise was anything to go by, they all thoroughly enjoyed the time spent there. At the end of thew day one guest with mobility problems said how thrilled she was to have swum 10 lengths and enjoyed her first bounce on a trampoline

(on her bottom!) The sponsored challenge gained momentum as everyone encouraged each other to attempt something new, and we were all delighted to discover that together we had raised a total of £303, which will go to help others enjoy future holidays.

It was great to have so many new people along to this holiday, and this is something we would love to continue. But for this to happen and for more people to enjoy these great experiences and challenges, we need to find new enthusiastic helpers. If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering on a holiday, please get in touch with us.

# Do the Write Thing

Jenny writes, 'Your help please! I am writing the next book in the Life Experiences series, this time called "Is Prayer Necessary?" Many of you have experiences that it is, and I would love to hear your stories. They'll be added into the book with a photo (if you agree) to give testimony to prayer at work. I look forward to hearing from you!'

If you'd like to contribute, please email jenny@throughtheroof.org or phone us on 01372 749955.



Eileen chats with a mother about her child's needs on the recent Kenya trip.

# **Thank you Eileen**

Dedicated volunteer Eileen Orr has faithfully served Wheels for the World through leading teams, going on trips, doing reccies, research, helping at the Aldershot unit, the farm, and countless other tasks behind the scenes for many years. After all this dedicated work, she's shared that this recent trip to Kimilili will be her last with Wheels. All of us at Though the Roof want to say a big thank you to Eileen for everything she's done – her love for people and the Lord shines through her work, and she has been a blessing to so many people. Thank you Eileen!

# **Hope for the Future**

### Wheels in Kenya 2014

Hope has come a child's life again, thanks to Wheels and some very effective local work. One of the team members wrote about one of the children she saw - Caren, an 11 year old girl who fell out of a tree last July, sustaining a spinal injury that left her paralysed and incontinent. She was brought by her grandfather because her parents, shamed by her disability, have more or less disowned her. She was also accompanied by her teacher and outreach worker, a Christian woman called Rhoda. Rhoda had visited regularly since the accident, taking Caren books since she was an intelligent girl who had been doing very well at school. Rhoda says that now Caren has a wheelchair she can return to school and resume her



Helping families in Kimilili and Eldoret

studies. She instinctively used the self-propelled wheels really well and looked delighted with the new chair.

This was just one memorable moment in a great trip to Kenya in May, visiting Kimilili and a new venue – Eldoret. The group of nine, led by Eileen Orr, gave out 154 wheelchairs and met with many people.

They spent eight days in Kimilili working with our long term partners lcfem. During an incredible second day, the team saw 89 people, and gave out fifty-one wheelchairs, seventeen crutches, two frames and two buggies. The team also worked with returning clients from previous trips, some needing repairs or replacements to well-used and treasured wheelchairs.



Every client is assessed, and we talk over the best options for them. Wheelchair, crutches, or even exercises.

The team continued work with Liza and David Cooke in Eldoret. They loved working here and see a lot of potential for the future in the region. The team gave out some wheelchairs and were overcome with the needs in this area. For example, one mother struggled to get to us as her husband did not allow her to travel due to their child's disability. Fortunately, the staff at the centre got involved and a policeman shooed the husband away. The little child was seated with us and the mother was overwhelmed with emotion. She had no idea her child could sit up. What a huge answer to prayer, and hope for the future.

Thank you to the team who worked so hard to make it such a successful mission! Each Wheels trip changes hundreds of lives, but costs thousands of pounds to run. Could you help, by fundraising or making a donation? There's a Wheels for the World donation form included with this issue. Please give to ensure next year's trips go ahead. Thank you.

# You can make a difference!



Transform the life of a disabled person by sponsoring a wheelchair at £40 or help more people by making a regular donation by standing order.

Prince received a wheelchair on our Ghana trip and now, thanks to people like you, he can go to school and be more independent.

**Sponsor online now** via our shop at www.throughtheroof.org/shop Or **set up a regular donation** at www.justgiving.com/ttr (please reference WFTW in the comments section which appears after you've confirmed the direct debit)

Alternatively, please complete the form overleaf.





Wheels for the World is a programme of Through the Roof Charitable Trust Ltd, Registered Charity number 1087788 with registered offices at Suite B1, Aviary Court, 138 Miles Road, EPSOM, KT19 9AB. It is also a Registered UK Company number 04201510.

I would like to sponsor wheelchair(s) at £40 per chair and receive a photo certificate of a recipient after the trip.
Name for sponsor certificate:
OR I would like to make a donation by credit / debit card of (amount):
Card number:
Security Code (Last 3 numbers on back of card):
Issue number (If applicable): Valid from date: / Expiry date: /
Signature:Date:
Regular Giving

#### I would like to help more disabled people by giving £ \_\_\_\_\_ per month to Wheels for the World (eg £14 would be the equivalent of sponsoring 4 wheelchairs per year)

Name of bank:	
Bank address:	
Postcode:	
Name of account:	
Your bank account number:	Sort code of your bank:
From this account deduct: £ Every	/: Month 🗌 Quarter 🗌 Year 🗌
Commencing date: and regularly u	until further notice
Pay this sum to: Through the Roof Charitable Trust Ltd	Sort Code: 40-52-40 Account number: 00008105
CafBank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA	Paying bank, please quote the
Signature: Date:	following reference:

#### For all gifts please complete the sections below

### **Donor Details**

Name:
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We would like to send you our FREE Vital Link newsletter so you can read how your money's changing lives. Please indicate your preference:



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### **Gift Aid**

Date: or

Gift Aid enables us to make your gift go further without any additional cost to you!

I would like Through the Roof to treat as Gift Aid donations\* all qualifying gifts of money made:

Today In the past 4 years

In the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

giftaid it

It is not possible for me to Gift Aid my donations.

\* I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify and that Through the Roof will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.