

ANNUAL REVIEW

2018

By far the most traumatic and inspiring event for us all began with *Miracles'*; Head of Mission in Bosnia, Matthew Procter OBE, suffering a stroke. He had been feeling unwell for some time and had eventually taken the advice of doctors in Mostar to return to the UK for treatment. He delayed plans for the trip due to the vital contract with the International Trust Fund to supply limbs for landmine victims alongside the psychotherapy so important to their wellbeing. However, still unwell, Matthew finally booked tickets to return home. Then, early one morning, just days before his flight, he was found on the floor of his apartment at the *Miracles* Centre having suffered a very severe stroke. The Centre Team got him into Mostar Hospital by ambulance where he remained in a coma for four days until it was clear that they had neither the skills nor the equipment to save his life.



His many friends in and around Medjugorje were praying constantly for his recovery although hope was fast running out and hospital bills were rising rapidly. Then The Arthur McClusky Foundation – a charity dedicated to help suffering people in Bosnia and well known supporters of the *Miracles'* Centre—came to his aid and arranged and funded an Air Ambulance to bring him to the UK.

At the James Cook Hospital in Middlesbrough, the doctors were confronted with an end of life situation: a severe stroke, a broken shoulder and an unknown virus which was the main threat to his life.

Consultants, virologists and toxicologists were called in from London and an ultra strong drug was used as their final hope.

By now Masses were being held and prayers offered for Matt's survival all over the world. And the prayers were heard. Slowly and painfully Matthew began to respond to the drug and although traces of the virus are still in his body, within days his truly miraculous recovery began.



Matthew is now back in touch with his beloved work in BiH and with his wonderful team, Elvira Dugalic who manages the Centre, Nihad Subasic our Prosthetist, and Amel Mrkonjic who is to be appointed as Matthew's and *Miracles'* official Representative in BiH from 1st January, 2019.

Pictured left is Amel and his family outside the home *Miracles* built for him when the Centre was under construction.

Left to right: daughter Sara (3); his wife, Mika, and son Daniel (9) who is Matthew's Godson.

Amel was 'adopted' by Matthew early in the Bosnian war. He found him wandering the bombed streets with no one to look after him, frightened and hungry, Matt took him in to his own meagre apartment in East Mostar, along with several other street children he had rescued from the rubble of war. ..

Like other children in Matthew's care, Amel was educated by *Miracles* and is now a trainee Prosthetist and eager to perfect his English for his position as *Miracles'* Representative in BiH. A proud title to bear



A very warm welcome is extended to Helena Clavel-Flores, a member of our Event Committee who has accepted the invitation to join our Board of Trustees. Her enthusiasm and dedication will be a wonderful boost to the growth of our charity,



With deep sadness we announce the tragic death from Cancer of our Patron, Lydia Gladwyn. She had been working with Theo Ellert over the years as frequent prison visitors and campaigners for justice and she only joined *Miracles* as a Patron at our Fundraising Gala at 'Aqua' in May 2017—along with her husband, Bishop John Gladwin. Lydia will be sadly missed.

MIRACLES'

Challenge Champions



Pictured above *left* is our amazing Louis Williams who has been running Marathons for **Miracles** all over the world. This year he ran the Athens Marathon while two of his friends, Alexander Vallone (*centre*) and Kirt Osborn (*right*) joined the Children with Cancer Team to run for **Miracles'** Respite programme.

Alexander made a time of 4 hours 59 seconds and 'loved it!'

Kirt wrote: *'Absolutely loved running the Marathon. Such an experience! Thank you, **Miracles**, for allowing me to run for your amazing charity'.*

Louis himself made a time of 3.57 and he writes: *Thank you to everyone who read my fundraising page and donated to **Miracles**. We smashed the £5,000 target!! Wow!, Louis. What a STAR!*



Also running the London Marathon this year was Juan Orbaneja above *left*, a stalwart **Miracles'** supporter along with his wife, Lourdes and daughter Sophia who are pictured on the montage of the Claridges Dinner later in this Review. Juan writes: *Marathon done! Very hard conditions with almost 24C!!*

*It has been a pleasure to run for such a fantastic charity as **Miracles**!!*

And in Barcelona we had Matt Anderson from ADGENDA running for us., (Above Right)

Matt writes: *It was (unbelievably) hard, but I (strangely) loved it! Finished in 4.24.*

If you would like to take on a Challenge for Miracles we would love to hear from you
E.mail us on miraclesthecharity@gmail.com or 'phone James Burton on 07545 174243
Here's hoping to hear from you.

MIRACLES ‘ Respite Breaks and Rapid Response Crisis Fund

The *Miracles’* Respite Break Caravans are available free of charge for ten months of the year— excluding January and February. Bookings for school holidays are always in demand but we welcome term-time and short weekend breaks. *Miracles* also deals with families in crisis throughout the UK and with individual cases needing Rapid Response with no delays or form filling.. Referrals of such cases are welcomed from CABs, Hospitals, Social Workers and *Miracles’* own voluntary Caseworkers. Requests from individuals are not considered unless endorsed by one of the above.

Occasional cash grants can be made to assist with food and essentials for families in dire circumstances with no recourse to public funds. Interim one-off grants may also be considered for Crisis Funding pending benefits being sought, debt control plans implemented or one-off payments to prevent disconnection of telephone/household services/eviction etc.

Many of the families referred to us for Respite Breaks come from CLIC-Sargent Social Workers in the major childrens’ hospitals throughout the country. In recent months referrals are also greatly increasing for urgent crisis grants for parents of children with life threatening conditions. Grants range from travel costs to and from the various hospitals, to food, clothing and household essentials.

During the past year *Miracles* have provided Respite Breaks for 60 families in our two Caravans in Selsey and two further breaks in this country and in Northern Ireland. A total of 26 Crisis Funding requests were met throughout the year but sadly several had to be rejected due to limited funds

The following refers to a refugee family from Syria who *Miracles* was privileged to support:

In June 2017 we received a request through our website asking us to help a Syrian refugee family who had recently arrived in the UK with a very sick 5-year-old urgently needing Cancer treatment. We first discovered that the family had initially been housed in crowded and appallingly unhygienic conditions and the authorities were pressed into finding them an alternative. They were then moved several times and finally appropriate accommodation was found for them in Dagenham. However, they had virtually no furniture nor money for food, clothes or to pay for travel to see their son in hospital. We discovered that the child was in The Royal Marsden Hospital and we got in touch with the Clic-Sargent Social Worker assigned to his case. Through her we were able to find out more about them and their urgent needs. We then made a grant of £1,000 to Clic-Sargent at the hospital for the Social Worker to provide the essentials needed most. Subsequently we were put in direct touch with the parents but unfortunately they spoke no English and an interpreter had first to be found. They are a family of five, mother and father, their eldest son with a genetic eating disorder and the youngest, Jawad, very sick with Cancer. He is now slowly recovering but still in constant need of ongoing hospital treatment. This past year *Miracles* has provided money for food, clothes and travel, and items for their home including a television, computer, microwave, pots and pans and other essentials. This year, too, the whole family, along with their interpreter and his family, enjoyed a wonderful week at one of our caravans in Selsey, West Sussex. *Miracles’* help and support is ongoing—our latest gifts being bikes for the boys. *miracles* really have happened for them.

Pictured left: Jawad and his brother, Ali, playing on the beach at Selsey during their *Miracles’* caravan holiday. **Right** is Jawad, now recovered, on the bicycle bought for him by *Miracles* in May. We also bought a bike for Ali so the two boys can explore their new home country.

Remember **Harmonie** from last year’s Report? **Below** with Fun Fair owner, Gary Butlin, who does so much for our young visitors. This year he gave Harmonie a very special Christmas present which she can share with her new sister, Luna. Also pictured is her fellow limbless friend, Taylor, who enjoyed a break in our wheelchair access caravan in August.



Here’s how you can help us to make more miracles happen

Join the **Friends of *Miracles* Support Group** with a monthly donation direct from your bank

Include *Miracles* as a **Beneficiary in your Will.**

Support *Miracles’* Gala Events and Sponsorship Projects.

www.miraclesthecharity.org

MIRACLES' Music in Prison Project

Behind Bars

The third **Miracles** music project, Behind Bars, came to an end in June 2018. The project was sponsored by Santander and Billy Bragg who donated six guitars through his charity Jail Guitar Doors. It took place in Brixton Prison Drug Rehabilitation Wing with 10 prisoners finishing the 3-month program.. The course took place every Tuesday afternoon -teaching prisoners how to play the guitar and write their own songs. The whole project culminated in a concert on the wing with prisoners playing their music in front of fellow prisoners and staff. The concert was recorded by the Prison Radio Authority and broadcast across their network of 60.000+ prisoners UK wide. The course, run by **Miracles** Project Director James Burton and his music partner Andrew Harwood (*pictured right* with the guitars donated to the project by Billy Bragg) is designed to compliment the prison's own Rehabilitation Program. Writing, playing and performing music is a very cathartic process and helps prisoners explore their motivations and emotions in a constructive and positive environment. The objective is to contribute to their long term rehabilitation back into society. On the back of this success **Miracles** has just won another grant from the Big Lottery to enable us to put on two more projects in London prisons during 2019.



Christmas Eve Gig at Brixton Prison.

As an extension of the Prison Project, James arranged a Christmas Eve concert for prisoners on the Drug Rehabilitation Wing of Brixton prison. . He was joined by three other musician to perform a two hour acoustic concert in front of 30+ prisoners on the Wing. The group, pictured left, are James (second from left), Ty Watling, Gabriel Moreno and Roy Hill..

Christmas is a particularly tough time to be in prison and very challenging for prisoners trying to live drug free. Events and activities like the concert help to give prisoners struggling with addiction the strength to carry on. Knowing there are people on the outside who want to help them with their long term rehabilitation is a great source of comfort especially over Christmas.

MIRACLES' New Website

December 2018 saw the long awaited launch of a brand new website for **Miracles**:

<https://www.miraclesthecharity.org>

The website grew out of the partnership **Miracles** has developed with the media buying agency, AMI (<https://www.am-i.com>.)

Ben Williams, the company's founder and Managing Director as well as a Trustee of **Miracles**, personally instigated and developed the website together with James Burton, **Miracles'** Project Director.

We wanted a multi-faceted site that would clearly demonstrate our work, easy to navigate and representing the diversity of the service we offer.

Image was important and it was critical that the site should represent our supporters and beneficiaries in the most positive and constructive way along with up-to-date news stories directly from the 'front line'.

Ben and his team have delivered for us a contemporary and exciting website that will allow us to grow and showcase our work to a much broader audience as we go through the year.

Miracles would like to thank Ben for his dedication to the project and to his team for creating for us a website we can really be proud of.

Do let us know what you think of it. Your feedback would be very welcome.



MIRACLES' Centre for Prosthesis and Care in BiH

In August this year Divita **Miracles** took on a new project in conjunction with the University Rehabilitation Institute of Slovenia and with the support of the German Embassy and the International Trust Fund in Slovenia.



The goal of the project is to provide free prosthetic care coupled with psychotherapy for an initial 38 Land Mine Victims to reduce the number of LMVs in BiH who do not have adequate access to prosthetic care.

*Below: Elvira Dugalic, Director of Divita **Miracles** with ITF's Project Manager, Natasa Ursic and Zeljko Volas, President of the Organisation of Amputees Republika Srpska at the 20th Year Anniversary of ITF's work in BiH*



In the Autumn the **Miracles** Centre hosted the Jericho Foundation's Fifth Annual Leadership Summit. The object of the seminar was to help students become leaders with the skills to shape their lives and their future. In this way they can set examples for the younger generation and share their acquired knowledge to get them on the right path. Below are pictures of the Seminar group.

Above: Harun GoluB, one of the recent patients at the Centre and a member of the sitting basketball team.

Below: Darko Roguz at the Centre trying out an experimental prosthesis



Now recovering from his stroke, Matthew Procter would like to join with Divita **Miracles** and **Miracles** UK in expressing heartfelt thanks to The Arthur McClusky Foundation, the Jericho Foundation, La Fondation **Miracles**' Suisse and the many people who have given so generously in support of the vital work of the **Miracles** Centre.

Pictured right is Amina Secunovic (8) born with no left leg and missing toes on her right foot. Her parents are very poor. and were recently given a cow by the Arthur McClusky Foundation. Pictured far right are The Foundation's Donal O'Shea and Pat Henry at the concert they organised in Medjugorje for Matthew's work.



Over the year the Centre has provided 53 Limbs and follow-ups and carried out 166 associated treatments.

Children Helping Children for *MIRACLES*

ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL



We are delighted to announce a brand new partnership with St Martin's School, North London. The school's proprietor, Joanna Wilson, was looking for a local charity that worked closely with its beneficiaries to ensure that the funds raised would go directly to the people who need it and not get swallowed up in administration costs and expensive advertising campaigns. *Miracles* fitted the bill. Most of all she liked our mission of supporting children living in poverty and helping them through crisis situations.



The partnership was launched with a presentation to their assembly by *Miracles* Project Director, James Burton. Their first fund raising events took place in the build up to Christmas with cake sales and dress down days. The initial partnership is for two years but we hope it may be extended once they see how their efforts are rewarded.



Miracles needs more schools to take us on as their charity of the year. This can make such a difference to our work in helping to raise funds as well as creating new *Miracles* ambassadors. For information about school partnerships please visit our website or contact james@miraclestheharmony.org.

The *Miracles*' Disney Princesses



Volunteer caseworker *Jemima* Gidley from West Yorkshire has gathered together a group of her 15-year-old daughter's classmates to don their Disney Princess costumes and pay visits to various groups of disabled children in return for a donation to *Miracles*. The above photographs show some of the girls at a Christmas Party held by the High Park School for Children with Learning Difficulties. Thank you, *Jemima*, and to all the girls for doing splendid work as *Miracles* Ambassadors. .

Amongst other *Miracles* children helping each other we have our star, *Harmonie*, (*below left*) helping feed her baby sister, *Luna*, and on her first day at school being shown the ropes by another new student. And *Taylor*, looking very smart in his new school uniform and prosthetic legs. (*Below right*) is *Miracles* new Trustee, *Helena Clavel-Flores* with her husband, *Ralph America*, and their twins, *Saskia* and *Sebastian* at their 6th Birthday Party. They have asked that all Birthday presents be in the form of donations to *Miracles*. What a great initiative and example for others to follow.

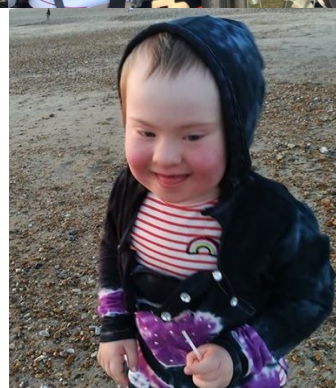


And some of The *Miracles* Children you are helping

Below: Adie and Reilly James. With their Mum Maxine, they organised a Halloween Party last year to raise funds for *Miracles*. In the Summer the family came to our wheelchair friendly caravan for a holiday by the beach.



Left Pedro and Sandra Nobrega with their two daughters, Kayla and Lettie-May (2) who suffers from a congenital thyroid. In 2017 *Miracles* saved the family from being evicted from their home in a debt crisis situation. Since then *Miracles* has been there for them and always will be. Last year they enjoyed a family holiday in Selsey: Thanks again to *Miracles*. *Right* is happy little Ciara. She has Downs Syndrome and Leukaemia but is always smiling.



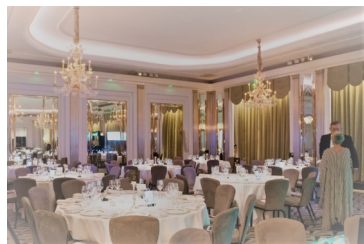
Above is Kian who is in treatment for Leukaemia. He came to the caravan in August with his mum, Sarah and older sister Lacey. During their stay Kian celebrated his fifth Birthday and Bunn Leisure invited his wider family to join the Birthday Party.



Above left: Matthew and Stephan Balogun enjoying a free ride at Gary and Melissa Butlin's ever popular Fun Fair.

Above right: Lexi-May Cairns with one of the Bunn Bunnies. And later at home, the proud possessor of a brand new wheelchair.

CLARIDGES - the name that has always been synonymous with luxury and elegance, two words which fittingly describe *Miracles* fundraising dinner held there on Saint Patrick's Day Saturday 17th March 2018



Claridges' Ballroom



The Artist, Pacorrosa



Robert and Theo Linley-Munro



In the Foreground: Maria and Wenceslao Bunge



The Adgenda Table



Jan, and Lourdes Orbaneja with their daughter Sophia,

Miracles' Flag Ship events are famous for their excellence but this year all expectations were far exceeded and, as one of our guests put it: *'Of all the charity events I have attended over the past year, your Claridges Dinner surpassed them all'!*

Over one hundred and fifty glamorous guests were treated to a St. Patrick's night as never before. Wined and dined to the highest standard, bidders vied for the superb prizes in the electronic auction including the famous Broad Gallery's Lithographs and some exquisite paintings by the artist, Pacorrosa, who joined us in person on the night.

The Live Auction was once again a hilarious 'cabaret' performed by Trustees Rod Rodriguez and Rafael Gil-Alberdi. Sporting the traditional Guinness hat, Rafa could well have been mistaken for one of the Leprechauns referred to by Founder, Theo Ellert, in her after dinner address and urgent appeal for donations to the *Miracles'* Crisis Fund.

With the generosity of guests, referred to by Theo as 'The Family of *Miracles*' – the evening is expected to raise some £80,000 to ensure that *Miracles'* Rapid Response service for Families in Crisis will continue to grow to meet the heart-rending pleas for *Miracles'* help.

Pictures were taken by Spanish photographer, Antonia Pena, from whom copies can be obtained and from which a donation on each sale will benefit *Miracles'* work.

Please take a look at her site on <http://antoniapenia.zenfolio.com/miracles> and place your orders direct with Antonia.

The password is *Miracles*



The Young Generation of the *Miracles'* Family



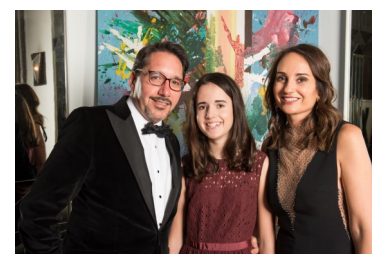
The Gil-Alberdi family



Auctioneer Rod with Thor's hammer, as his auction prop.



Leprechaun Rafa and Rod



Rod and Nayke Rodriguez with Nayke Fernandez



Arturo and Myriam Recio



Paul Coxon, Abigail Brennan and party

WHO'S WHO IN THE *MIRACLES* CHARITY

Miracles Board of Trustees: Robert Bean * Petra Byatt * Theo Ellert (Founder/Chair)
Silvia Gil-Alberdi * Helena Clavel * Dominic Lynch * Marie-Antoinette Pereire
Rodrigo Rodriguez * Ben Williams

Miracles UK Executive: Robert Linley-Munro (Chief Executive)
James Burton (Project Director) * Deborah Aldridge (Casework Co-ordinator)
(Sponsored by The Sobell Foundation)

Miracles Mission in Bosnia: Matthew Procter MBE (Head of Mission)
Elvira Dugalic (Director of the *Miracles* Centre and Trustee of Divita-*Miracles*)
Nihad Subasic (Divita *Miracles*' Prosthetist)
Amel Mrkjonc (*Miracles* Representative in BiH)

Miracles' Patrons: Christopher Biggins * The Earl of Bradford
Joseph Caruso * The Right Reverend John Gladwyn * Father Michael O'Malley
Terry Waite CBE

La Fondation *Miracles* Suisse:

Board of Trustees: Pierre-Laurent Bel * Patrick Fauchier * Celine Boudry
Francois Pereire * Marie-Antoinette Pereire * Ingrid Tissot * Nicolas Tissot

Patron: Lady Vernon

Director: Ingrid Tissot

Website: www.lafondationmiracles.org

Financial Summary taken from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st October 2018

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Incoming resources:	Voluntary income:	£396,040
	Fundraising	£114,298
	Other:	£ 298
		<u>£510,636</u>

Expenditure:	Fundraising:	£51,514
	Charitable Activities:	£500,161
		<u>£551,675</u>

Net incoming Resources	-£ 41,039
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BALANCE SHEET

Tangible Fixed Assets	£591,529
Net current assets	£199,846
	<u>£791,375</u>

- Represented by the following funds:

Designated funds	£562,651
Other charitable funds	£228,724

£791,375

WHO'S DOING WHAT FOR *MIRACLES*

The London to Paris Bike Ride

Early one damp September morning in London three brave souls: Craig Evans, Dan Smith and Peter Woolven from Adgenda Media donned their biking gear and headed off to Chrystal Palace for the start of the London to Paris bike ride challenge.

Craig writes: 'Without having any road cycling experience, the London to Paris ride was always something that tickled my fancy. I imagined breezing through the flat sunny French countryside – how hard could it be, right? Turns out that vision was pretty much spot on (if you don't mention the terrible British roads, the miserable weather, getting back into the saddle after 100 miles the previous day and the many many hills!)

After 5 months of training rides every weekend in rain or shine we set off from Crystal Palace at 7am on our way to the ferry at Dover. 100 miles and almost 12 hours later we arrived in Calais to what can only be described as a downpour and by the time we reached the hotel wet through and sore, morale was lacking.

Regardless, along with 70 others taking on the challenge we were up early and hit the road, which is when the vision started to become a reality. We enjoyed three days of perfect sunshine (and remarkably considerate French drivers) as we carved our way through France on the way to Paris.

We made it there in the end, rode round the Champs de Elysee and came to a halt under the Eiffel Tower for a celebratory (plastic) cup of champagne and cheesy photos (below) after our 300 mile journey.

We were delighted to be able to take on the challenge for Miracles and between the three of us managed to raise over £5,000. It's safe to say we'd all recommend taking on the challenge. It was a great trip.'



Miracles Five-A-Side Football Match 2018

The second *Miracles* five-a-side tournament took place in April and is now an annual fixture in the *Miracles* events calendar. We had ten teams from across the London business community: Financial Times, Agenda Media (our partners), Bloomberg, Citi Bank, Grunberg, Associated News, RP Martin, Telegraph, EE and the Musicians! The knockout tournament was again held at the Shoreditch Power League pitch and despite inclement weather it was a great success raising over £3,000 for our UK work. Citi Bank (*pictured below centre*) took first place though it was hard fought for as all teams put in a tremendous effort.

The next tournament will take place on Friday 26 April 2019. If you would like to submit a team please contact James Burton at james@miraclesthechairty.org.



St. Martin's School

Our huge thanks go to the staff and students of St. Martin's School in North London for taking on *Miracles* as their Charity for the year. Some great fundraising ideas are being dreamed up to support *Miracles*' work for other children hit by sickness and poverty. (*See inside for details*).

***Miracles* is deeply grateful to all our supporters and Challengers for the time and effort they put in to the all important task of fundraising for *Miracles*' work—and particularly for *Miracles*' Respite Breaks and Rapid Response Service for families in Crisis.**