

EVENTS ROUND-UP

Many network members are active in Christian Aid which collected over 1,300 from Upper Wharfedale in May. It is one of the major aid organisations for refugees and a significant contributor to education in the UK about refugees. Buckden book-club members also raised £120 for BIASAN with a wine and food event.

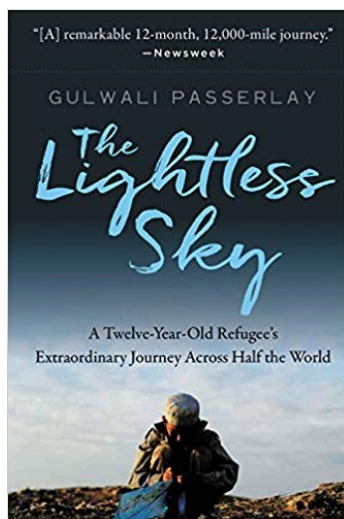
The winter weather deterred all but the hardiest from outdoor activities but in the midst of all the March snow and ice a group of refugees from Blackburn and Darwen planted trees in Upper Wharfedale before having hot tea and cakes at Buckden Village Institute.

Heather was back in Calais over the winter taking clothing and tents from the Dale and helping in the food kitchens.

In June Gulwali Passarlay from Afghanistan came to talk at Upper Wharfedale School about his experience of coming to

the UK as an unaccompanied 12 year old refugee. He followed the route of so many refugees: smuggled from Afghanistan to the Mediterranean, months in Calais and other camps, and arriving in the UK attached to the underside of a

lorry. It was a mixture of 'Boy's Own' adventure, desperately missing his mum and the cruel banalities of hunger, cold and antipathy from many of those he met.



Who are we?

The **Upper Wharfedale Refugee Support Group** comprises a network of individuals living in Upper Wharfedale and Littondale who are concerned for refugees and wish to help in some way.

We fundraise, donate clothing and household items, welcome refugees and write to/ lobby elected representatives.

If you have an activity or an event you would like to suggest or would like some help with, or you would like to be included on our mailing list, email us at:

refugees@upperwharfedale.net

If you would like to raise funds or donate, visit the 'Just Giving' Page at: <https://justgiving.com/upper-wharfedale>

Members of the Blackburn and Darwin Group having a well deserved cup of tea after a day's tree planting in Upper Wharfedale



Events and fundraising July to December 2018.

Events

Refugee Welcome Day Saturday 22 September. Once again we will be hosting a group from Bradford and a group from Blackburn and Darwin. We had great day last year with games of football and cricket, a village walk and scone making washed down with lots of tea and renowned Kettlewell cake. If you would like to help with this event— on the day or making food, for example, please get in touch.

Collections

Collection of household goods JULY. We are collecting household goods for BIASAN (Bradford Immigration and Asylum Seekers Support and Advice Network). Our collection priority is the basics i.e. the sort of things that people who have nothing, need to start a home: **cutlery, crockery, cooking equipment and utensils, storage containers, bedding, towels, cleaning equipment, curtains, lamps etc.**

We are unable to take furniture but can take small electrical items. **Microwaves** are in great demand as the only cooking source for some families and **vacuum cleaners** are also another piece of equipment difficult to get hold of. Also, as people do not have cars, things like **shopping trolleys or rucksacks** are particularly useful.

We do not need ornaments, toiletries or bric a brac and all items should be clear and in good condition. If you would like to help with this, please get in touch and donations can be made to Buckden Barn, Buckden throughout July. Contact Stella 01756 761320.

Autumn: look out for a Christian Aid coffee morning at Church House, Grassington.

Winter collections

Come the winter, Heather will be collecting good quality clothes for Calais. Details to come later.

We will also be collecting SNUG packs (Socks, a Neck scarf, Underpants, and Gloves).

Christmas gifts. New this year, in the autumn we will be collecting things such as toiletries, children's toys, clothing accessories, fancy food— things that are useful but also attractive as a present.

Once again, we will be carol singing at Tescos in December— details nearer the time.