

UWRSG NEWLETTER

UPPER WHARFEDALE REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

ISSUE 11

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 2019

2018 was a busy year for UWRSG.

We were involved in **tree planting** (well, making tea and coffee) in the Spring with a refugee group from Blackburn with Darwen in partnership with the National Trust and the People in the Dales Project from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

We had another fun **welcome day** based at Kettlewell in the summer with over 100 people meeting for games, walking and baking.

We collected enough household goods over the summer to require four car trips to Bradford for the BIASAN store.

And since the last newsletter:

We sent a car load of stuff—coats, sleeping bags, tents, sleeping mats and SNUG packs (socks, scarf/ hat, underwear and gloves) to Calais.

Wartime in Upper Wharfedale WW1 1914-1918

In November, to commemorate the end of WW1 in 1918, the Upper Wharfedale Arts and Literature Society (UWALS) gave a talk with slides on life in Upper Wharfedale during the First World War. The profits from the evening (£471) was donated to the International Red Cross to help current victims of war and conflict.

Christian Aid coffee morning and carol singing at Tesco's also raised several hundred pounds for refugees via Christian Aid.

We have updated the **fact sheet** (attached)

PTO

Who are we?

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

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

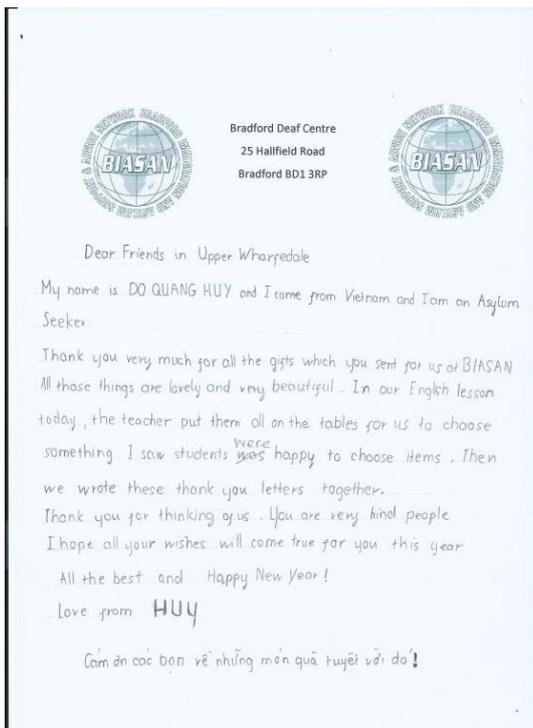
If you have an activity or an event you would like to suggest or would like some help with, or you would like to be included on our mailing list, email us at:

refugees@upperwharfedale.net

Christmas gifts

We had a car-full of gifts for BIASAN for Christmas.

The pupils at Upper Wharfedale School did a wonderful job of collecting gifts for children. In the photo you can see the beautifully wrapped gifts and the cheerful stuffed stockings.



On the left is a 'thank-you' letter from one of the refugees in Bradford and, below, some of the group is using their English lesson to write to us.



The gifts were much appreciated by the children and adults and the good wishes and solidarity expressed through the gifts was particularly welcome.

Overview

2018 saw new dangers emerge such as at the port of Hodeida in Yemen where British armaments have been used to bomb civilians. The war in Syria seems to be abating while Iran, Afghanistan, Libya remain highly unstable and the Rohingya are unable to safely return to Myanmar. The UK government's record has been very mixed. Its refugee programmes have come to a virtual standstill and it has yet to fulfil its promises to children and young people under the Dubs' amendment. The richest areas of the country have taken the fewest refugees and the poorer areas are now struggling to meet demand. We hope wealthy areas, such as ours, will continue to show generosity over the coming months.