

UPPER WHARFEDALE REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

Special Points of Interest:

- *Refugee welcome day*

UPPER WHARFEDALE REFUGEE WELCOME DAY

On Sunday September 11 2016 Upper Wharfedale Refugee Support Group will be hosting a refugee welcome day. This follows on from a successful 'welcome weekend' held by Skipton residents earlier in the year.

We want to share our wonderful countryside and offer a warm Dales welcome. We have decided to have a welcome *day*, rather than weekend to try and keep it reasonably simple and achievable for everyone.—at least for our first attempt.

We are working closely with Bradford Immigration & Asylum Support & Advice Network (BIASAN) which will offer the visit to members of their Network. Judy Rogers from the People and Dales programme is also helping with the organising and the provision of walking boots .

We plan to start the day at Buckden Village Institute with coffee and a chance to unwind after the bus journey.

We will visit Heber Farm in the morning and go onto Kettlewell for lunch followed by an afternoon of traditional Yorkshire crafts such as scone making and mouse knitting, and games such as darts and Petanque.

Thank-you to everyone for your offers of help: organising, cooking (and cleaning up), the farm tour, running activities , driving buses and even such essential things as undertaking risk assessments.

We have not been able to accommodate everyone's offers of help —this time. There have also been some great ideas for activities that we have not been able to take up.

We hope the day will go well and that there may be further opportunities in the future for future days out or even a weekend.

If you have not been involved this time, and would like to be involved in the future please keep in touch .



The costs of the day, primarily food, are largely being borne by those helping. There are some other costs including the costs of transport and if any one would like to make a donation towards helping with some of these costs please get in touch at:

refugees@upperwharfedale.net

UPPER WHARFEDALE REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

FACTS AND FIGURES

We have updated our fact sheet as the last time we produced one was March 2016.

At that point there were 59.5m displaced people world-wide but that number has since risen to 65.3m.

While the number of people seeking refuge has grown by nearly 10% over this short period, borders have been closing, and countries that accepted refugees such as Turkey have now become very unsafe and are also generating their own refugees.

The revised fact sheet will be sent out with this newsletter and copies can be obtained from UWRSG

REFUGEES ARRIVING IN SKIPTON

As part of the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Programme two families of Syrian refugees are about to arrive in Skipton.

Members of the network have written to elected representatives to urge the acceptance of more refugees and, while disappointed with the national and local government responses to the refugee crisis, commend Skipton for taking a lead.

Skipton is one of the pilot areas for North Yorkshire and so there is a great interest in making sure all works well. Agencies are working together to put a coherent package of housing and support in place.

In the last newsletter we provided contact details for offers of support from local community members and these have been passed onto the co-ordinators. We think there might still be a need for some household goods and things such as garden tools.

The Skipton Refugee Network is also identifying places where refugees can be certain of a warm welcome. Upper Wharfedale may be a bit far out but if you are a café or pub owner and would like to be included on the list please let us know.

Who are we?

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

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

If you would like to be on our mailing list, email us at:

refugees@upperwharfedale.net

Ideas

Individuals in the network have been involved in a number of activities since we first met last September.

Please let us know what you are doing or, if you have an activity or event you would like to suggest but would like some help with.

There are many people who can do small things to help with a bigger project and through the Network we can put people in touch with each other.