

WELCOME DAY

UWRSG hosted its second 'welcome day' on 16 September. A group of over 50 refugees and local people met together for a day of fun and outdoor activities in Kettlewell. The refugees, of all ages, came from Bradford and Burnley and their countries of origin include Albania, Congo, Ghana, Iraq, Nigeria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Syria.

We had a typical Yorkshire day with games of cricket and football and scone making while the rain held off until the very end. We also had a walk along the river Wharfe and around Kettlewell. Our visitors were very interested to hear about rural life and, in particular, local employment and schooling. Lunch was provided by volunteers and everyone agreed the cakes were amazing!

Who are we?

The **Upper Wharfedale Refugee Support Group** comprises a network of individuals living in Upper Wharfedale and Litchford 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-refugees>.

Members of the Blackburn and Darwin Group with James before setting off on the bus home.



Events and fundraising November and December.

Events

The refugee crisis: an evening with Julian Smith MP. Thursday 9 November from 6.30 to 7.30 pm in the Friends' Meeting House, The Ginnel, Newmarket St, Skipton BD23 2JA. Julian Smith, MP for Skipton and Ripon, will talk and answer questions about the government's policy on refugees, at the invitation of Skipton Refugee Support Group.

Behind the Pink Blanket. Wednesday 22 November. The Hedgerow, Threshfield @ 7.30pm. Tina Brocklebank will reflect on 16 months volunteering in the Calais Jungle. There will also be a talk from Yorkshire Aid about donations of essential items and what happens to them. There is no cost for this event but attendees are invited to donate a coat, blanket or tents which will be collected on the night. To book a place contact Heather on 01756 752293.

Heather is collecting good quality, clean sleeping bags, tents, blankets and men's winter clothes and boots for Calais. These can be dropped into the Hedgerow at Threshfield at any time it is open.

SNUG packs. Once again we are collecting SNUG packs to send to camps in Europe. A SNUG pack consists of Socks, a Neck scarf, Underpants, and Gloves. Socks and underpants must be new and small and medium sizes are needed. Contact Jane Way 01756 761333.

Coffee morning. Church House, Grassington. Saturday 18 November 10am-12 noon. Christian Aid will be fundraising for the Rohingya people and other refugees. Donations of cake and bric-a-brac can be delivered before hand or contact Jo Clarke 01756 753425.

Carols in Tesco Tesco Foyer on Thursday 21 December 2-4pm. Singers are welcome for part or all of the afternoon. Wear warm and cheerful clothing and carol sheets will be provided. Contact Jane Way for further information 01756 761333

Biasan: Bradford Immigration and Asylum Support and Advice Network is trying to raise funds through the AVIVA community funding scheme. The awarding of funds in a local area is dependent on the number of votes and the voting link can be found here. <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-1105>