

Upper Wharfedale Refugee Support Group update

Homes for Ukraine

The homes for Ukraine scheme is not yet working as well as it should and there are a number of families unable yet to travel to the UK and a number of willing hosts without families. Just this week the first family arrived in the Dale. While UWRSG is not matching families we are linking people where we can and are providing a central point for advice and connections with other hosts or families. Best advice for anyone still looking for a match is to go via a reputable body such as www.reset.org.

We have Support Buddies lined up for everything from taking people shopping to navigating Universal Credit - thank you. We'd particularly welcome help from ESOL teachers & trauma counsellors: if you'd like to volunteer your services for any of the above, or are planning on hosting and yet to let Nicky know, please drop her a line. nicola.corp@mustardmanagement.com

We're starting to be asked what kind of stuff people can donate. As Ukrainians arrive and we start to have a clearer idea of what's needed we'll put out specific calls. We've also heard from a few employers with jobs to fill. If you also have vacancies which might suit our Ukrainian guests please drop Nicky a line, specifying where the job is, the level of English language needed & whether transport is available.

We are also fundraising to support Ukrainian refugees in the Dale and their hosts, particularly for transport. Please get in touch with Nicky if you would like to donate.

Fundraising

The Buckden institute coffee morning for the Ukraine DEC appeal raised over £600. David Macha's and friends 24 hour run has raised over £2,500. There is still an opportunity to contribute [here](#) and reach the target of £3,000.

We are now fundraising to support Ukraine refugees locally and the first event a Zoom quiz at Easter raised £230.

On 18 June Richard Hargreaves and Paul Stead will be playing (from about 12.30 to 1.15) traditional music at Buckden Gala with a bucket collection for our local Ukrainian refugee fundraiser. Please come along and support them – Buckden Gala is a great day out for all the family (and dogs).

Also. we need a donation bucket shaker/ holder while Richard and Paul are playing as all Buckden residents are tied up with the gala all day.

Cricket whites

Has anyone any cricket whites they no longer need or could offer to lend for the season? Ideally a small men's size!

National policy

The Nationality and Borders bill became an Act in April criminalising refugees (and others) who come to the country without prior authorisation. At the same time the government has negotiated for asylum seekers to be deported to Rwanda without their claim for asylum being heard in the UK.

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Thank-you to everyone who wrote to Julian Smith, signed petitioned or campaigned in any way against these proposals. While our efforts may have had little impact on government policy, and Julian Smith voted with the government, awareness of the cruelty of the government's policies is growing and public opinion (if opinion polls are to be believed!) indicate that most citizens would support more refugees in the UK.

Since the bill's passage, the government has announced the opening of a camp for up to 1500 men at **Linton-on-Ouse**.

If you would like to become more involved in campaigning, or would like more information or to understand the current changes better, please get in touch with stella@stellaperrott.com

Refugee week

National Refugee Week this year is 20-27 June.

UWRSG will publish its annual Refugee 'know the facts' 2 page fact sheet to coincide with refugee week. If anyone is undertaking any events and would like copies of the fact sheet, please let me know (for reference it is likely to look a bit like [this](#) one produced last year).

We are joining with Skipton for the following activities and your help would be very welcome:

- Sunday 19 June – Skipton hosting day for asylum seekers from Darwen. If you are able to help, eg with afternoon activities, please speak to Judy Rogers (07891 193877)
- Friday 24 June – evening in Skipton library. There will be displays and readings relating to refugee issues and possibly short presentations by people with lived experience.
- Saturday 25 June –stalls in Skipton market to talk to shoppers about refugee issues, and a “refugee trail”.

Richmond refugees

Since covid we have not been able to offer the 'welcome days' in the Dale but over the past two summers (school summer holidays) we have been able to offer outdoor welcome days to small groups – one or two families at a time. These have been held in gardens and generally comprise eating, a walk, and some children's games. Mostly, families are happy for a chance for a quiet day away from pressures at home.

If you would like to host a family or a small group for a day, please get in touch stella@stellaperrott.com. While covid rules now allow for indoor socialising, it is probably best to think in terms of outdoors, at least until we know what the situation is likely to be later in the summer.