

First the good news.

The cancelled (queen's death) Zoom session on City of Sanctuary takes place this **Wednesday 2 November at 7.30pm** (flyer attached). Craven District Council, Craven Refugees Support Network (which includes us) and City of Sanctuary have joined forces to explain what this might mean and for the Council to hear what might need to be put in place to formulate its action plan. All councillors, parish councils and interested members of the community, businesses and voluntary organisations are very welcome. Please contact Angie Pedley angie.pedley@gmail.com

On **Saturday, November 5th** between about 10.30 and 13.00 there will be a stall outside Skipton Library to campaign against the Rwanda flights (this is another postponed event after storm warnings). You may be aware that Privilege Style, one of the airlines that has been assisting in forcible removals from the UK, has now pulled out of the Rwanda scheme due to the adverse publicity it was receiving. We do need to keep the pressure up!

On **Sunday 20 November** Richard Hargreaves of Buttered Peas will be hosting an afternoon of traditional dales dances at Kettlewell Village Hall from 2-5.30pm. You may remember Richard's refugee fundraising at Buckden Gala. The event is free for asylum seekers and refugees.

Ukrainians fleeing the war continue to arrive in the district but in much fewer numbers than previously. Craven is hosting a high number compared to other areas and has been brilliant in opening its doors and hearts. Many of the initial arrangements in people's homes are coming to an end and people need to move on. There is an urgent **need for permanent accommodation**. If you have accommodation that you would be prepared to let, please get in touch. The state benefit rates for accommodation tend to be lower than what landlords can charge in the Dale but there is some financial help available and there will be a network of support to help make it work. So far Ukrainians have proved to be very reliable and welcome tenants!

The not-so-good news

Sadly, the return of Suella Braverman, a home secretary whose dream is to see flights of refugees being forcibly removed to Rwanda, is not good news for refugees. We saw at the weekend the dire conditions at Manston in which refugees are now being detained illegally. This piece for Yorkshire Bylines highlights why there are three thousand people there and the government's failure to progress asylum claims. [Asylum claims now taking almost eight years to process \(yorkshirebylines.co.uk\)](https://yorkshirebylines.co.uk)

Also, there has been much talk in the press about Albanians arriving in the UK as 'economic migrants'. There is a lot of misinformation about Albanians and, unfortunately, some of it is coming from those who support refugees. It is a complex situation and I think we are better prepared to respond humanely when we understand what is happening [Channel crossings, Albanians and worker exploitation: how government policy supports trafficking \(yorkshirebylines.co.uk\)](https://yorkshirebylines.co.uk) Please get in touch if you, or groups of which you are a member, would like more information about refugees or want to understand the current situation better. We are keen to raise awareness and improve knowledge.

Recently, people have been in contact with me about refugee/ immigrant exploitation and some of it is very close to home, in hospitality and the care home sector. People are often reluctant to report it because it is likely to put asylum claims at risk. The Albanian situation is a clear demonstration that there is a strong UK 'market' for trafficked and exploited labour in the UK (more so than in any other European country). Please be alert to the risks.

UWRSG – November Update

It's that time of year again

For several years now, UWRSG has collected toiletries around Christmas for distribution to asylum seekers and refugees. Toiletries are a 'nice to have' as well as essential! Asylum seekers are reliant on £6 per day for all their necessities or £1.25 if food is provided so are unaffordable. I'm hoping we can arrange some drop off points up and down the dale and feel free to drop off any donations at Buckden Barn. They can be left in the back porch if I am not at home but please let me know stella@stellaperrott.com

Food stuffs would be welcome but we could do with a volunteer to organise this!

We are also collecting winter coats, children and men's are particularly welcome. Buckden Barn for dropping off.

All the best

Stella

Stella Perrott
Buckden Barn
Buckden