

UWRSG Update – December 2021

Quiz:

On behalf of the Upper Wharfedale Refugee Support Group and the wider Craven refugee network. Nicky Corp has organised a (non-party – ha ha!) party quiz to take place next Tuesday. Details attached. Log on is from 7.15. Donations are for BIASAN and Abigail Housing.

A NON-PUB PUB QUIZ

Tuesday 14th December starting at **7.30pm**

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88323264876>

Please start to log on from 7.15pm



Donations requested for Biasan and Abigail Housing.

Pay what you might have spent on drinks in the pub

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/skipton4refugees>

Thanks to Nicky Corp from

Upper Wharfedale Refugee Support Group

ALL WELCOME

Gifts:

Many thanks to everyone who has already donated towards the Upper Wharfedale Christmas collection for refugees. The closure date for schools is 16 December and for churches 19 December - and I can continue to receive donations at Buckden Barn for as long as there are people collecting! [Click here](#) for details

Borders and Immigration bill

The bill passed its 3rd reading in Commons on Tuesday and will now be discussed in the Lords. I wrote to Julian Smith on Monday, before the vote on Tuesday, urging him to vote against its worst provisions. He voted for the bill in its entirety.

There is also a petition seeking signatures. It is for representative groups to sign (rather than individuals) and I have signed on behalf of UWRSG. But if any of you are members of other groups – church, WI, Rotary etc. and are able to represent the membership, it would be good if you could so. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3Z_c8iBKDnj70wQ29ezUJVIT2po2m33DZdGjxNQ_uTw6nihg/viewform

There is probably no point in writing to JS again before the bill returns to the commons but writing members of the House of Lords is still worthwhile. I will keep you informed of the bill's progress.

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Vigil for refugees

Following the deaths of 28 asylum seekers drowning in the Channel a number of vigils were held all over the country including Upper Wharfedale, Bentham, Skipton and Ripon.

<https://www.cravenherald.co.uk/news/19765885.vigil-asylum-seekers-grassington/>

Presentation on refugees: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= V1RZlIL 0M>

The Craven network organised two presentations (one session) last week. One was by Tina Brocklebank on working on the island of Chios in Greece. And the other from Phil McCarthy from Settle. I was really struck with how well organised and orderly was the 'shop' Tina volunteered in and how important this was - a message about care being in the detail, and the importance of 'standards' as a form of radical protest, perhaps? Settle Refugee Support Group works much as we do here, primarily acting locally to support a bigger centre of population (Nelson in Lancashire). Our bikes from Upper Wharfedale have gone to Phil and more are always needed.

Also, if you would like to **offer conversation English** to refugees via WhatsApp, Zoom or another platform, that would also be very welcome. I can connect you with Phil.

The next presentation will be on **13 January** (poster attached) and I'll send a reminder before then.

CRSN
Craven Refugee Support Network



Craven Refugee

Support Network

Presentation and Discussion with **ALLIES FOR JUSTICE**

Part of Detention Action
Campaigning for a fairer Asylum System in the UK



Thursday 13th January 7.30 pm on Zoom

<https://detentionaction.org.uk/about-us/lived-experience-campaigning/>



Contact angie.pedley@gmail.com for the Zoom link

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And a little bit of royal gossip

As many of you may remember, in the summer BIASAN was Awarded the Queen's Award for the voluntary sector with Richard Hargreaves from Litton being very much involved in that. This week, H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge visited Afghan refugee families accommodated in a Leeds hotel and also spent some time there with Paul Wood from Buckden and his colleagues from Migration Yorkshire, the Refugee Council and Solace who are supporting them. The prince was well informed and has a keen interest in mental health and community integration and was keen to learn about the refugees' experiences and the work being done to support them. The Afghan families commented that they felt so welcomed and honoured by the surprise visit.

Anything else?

As always, let me know if you are doing anything to support refugees and want help or publicity, or if you have any ideas about what we might do. There is a lot of goodwill and generosity in the community and there always seems to be someone to help! Not everyone can help but the messages of support are much appreciated too.

Best wishes and, if I don't email again this side of Christmas, Happy Christmas and all the best for 2022.

Stella