

ON THE MOVE

The Newsletter of Refugees Welcome - Crawley

Sewing project

Please join 'Refugees Welcome - Crawley' at The Friary, 6pm on Wednesday 23 November to come and sew a happy memory of life in Crawley. The sewing made by this community sewing project will be exhibited in the new Crawley museum next year to celebrate 70 years of Crawley new town and 70 years of our inclusive, peaceful, community. Thank you, Izzy, for all your work on the project.

Hats, hats, hats

We need warm winter hats for for a refugee camp in Greece. Hats for babies, children, and adults are all needed. Can you knit a hat for a child? Do you have a hat that you could donate? A supporter of 'Refugees Welcome - Crawley' will take the hats when he goes to volunteer in the camp. Refugees in the camp sleep on the ground and live 4 or 5 to a tent with one meal of watery mashed potato each day. Please email RWCanna@gmail.com if you have collected a bag of hats and we will collect them from you. The hats are needed BY 5 DECEMBER please. Thank you for your generosity.

Come and join in

Crawley Community Sewing Project

When: Wednesday 23rd November
 Time: 6pm-7pm
 Where: The Friary (in Crawley town)
 Who? Open to everyone! Come along with an open mind...

Crawley New Town Turns 70!

Sew a square to celebrate the town's birthday, based on happy memories from anywhere in the world! See the finished product in April at the Crawley Museum!

See you at the Friary on 23 November at 6pm!



We are looking for...

A pram that will hold a baby and a toddler for one of the Syrian families resettled in Crawley. Do you know of a pram in excellent condition for the family? Any leads much appreciated. Please email RWCanna@gmail.com

Forthcoming Training

If you would like to befriend or teach English to refugees in Crawley, come along to our training session on Saturday 26 November at St Paul's Methodist Church from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Book a place from RWCanna@gmail.com

Thank you for your donations...

Thank you to the East Grinstead Justice and Peace Group for your kind donation to 'Refugees Welcome - Crawley'.

Thank you to Worth Parish and Father Paul for many clothing donations.

Thank you for welcoming us...

Thank you to Crawley URC for welcoming our steering group meetings.

Thank you to the Friary and DABCEC for welcoming our sewing project.

Thank you to the Charis Centre for welcoming Talk Club.

Thank you to St Paul's Methodist Church for welcoming our training session.

News from a befriender...

I have been on a couple of outings to Brighton with one of the Syrian families resettled in Crawley on the vulnerable persons resettlement scheme. The first outing was when my husband and daughters brought them down to support me on a run in Brighton. The second was when we had a school inset day and it happened to be the last really warm day in October. We had a lovely walk along the beach, bought fresh fish, ate chips and ice-cream and generally had a very nice time. It's been lovely to introduce the family to things we do for our own children like going to get shoes fitted in Clarkes. We have discovered that writing in Whatsapp and then using a translation app is very effective. Today we went to see Gangsta Granny at the theatre. There is definitely a great value in befriending. The smallest things can make a big difference - even if not directly - as a stepping stone to making progress in settling and understanding the nuances of life in our society.

Henrietta

News from Talk Club...

Following my hopes to start a weekly conversation and interaction experience for our families, I am pleased to report that Talk Club has begun! We are delighted to be using an ideal play and learning facility known as Jungle Tots at the Charis Centre in West Green, many thanks to Crawley Community Church for agreeing to let us use it. Sessions began two weeks ago, with lots of helpers on hand to get involved and help out with things like driving the families to and from the venue, as well as supporting the language work. Activities include games, writing, asking for and making drinks and explaining school work, all of which involve lots of meaningful, contextualised opportunities for talk. We are able to use the space every Friday after school in term time, 3.30pm to 5pm. Here's looking forward to many more weeks of friendly chat, building relationships and developing English. Many thanks to all of you who are helping out with Talk Club, your contribution is vital and we couldn't do it without you!

Chloe



How to get involved...

Are you interested in Community Sponsorship? Then why not come along to the next Housing and Business Group meeting - register interest with Ian Irvine via RWCanna@gmail.com

Are you interested in education work? Join the Education Group and contact Henrietta and Izzy via RWCanna@gmail.com

Are you keen to help us recruit new members, build our relationships with key institutions in the town? Join our General Welfare Group via RWCanna@gmail.com

Do you know anyone in Horsham who might like to join the Horsham Refugee Support Group? If so, email Jo: admin@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk

Are you under 21? Would you like to be part of the group planning to hold social meetings with young refugees passing through the town? If so, email David Jeyakumar: djeyakumar@gmail.com

News from our Youth Group...

We have been working with the team at the Crawley/ Horsham YMCA, and they refer young asylum seekers under their care to us who would benefit from language classes or social days out. We have a group of young volunteers – age 16 to 25 – who organise and take part in days out with the asylum seekers.

Would you like to join us and welcome young people into our community? If you would like to volunteer on this, please contact David (djeyakumar@gmail.com or 07810554420).

It's almost a year...

...Since the first meeting of our group in a Crawley coffee shop. We had just 30 people there. Now we have over 200 people on our mailing list.

We have achieved so much, yet nationally the narrative is often not positive and only 216 people have been relocated under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme since the scheme started in March 2014.

It is our aim to remind people that the UK have agreed to take in 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020 – that's 0.03% of the UK population and only 0.05% of all Syrian refugees. And we will continue to support refugees in our town.

Thank you all!

