

# Refugees Welcome Crawley

## Winter Newsletter 2020



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*Art work by:*

*Asia, Ali, Belal and Rital.*



### ***From the Chair..***

Looking back on what has been a most challenging year for all, there is still much to celebrate in the achievements of the past year by everyone in the RWC community.

We have been heartened and encouraged by the resilience, adaptability and kindness of supporters, volunteers, refugee families and individuals in helping others overcome the difficulties of isolation and deal with the practicalities of daily life in a rapidly changing world. We also appreciate the ongoing work of the WSCC Refugee Resettlement Team and family keyworkers in supporting our Syrian refugee families.

Many have found new skills, especially in getting to grips with using IT and some of our Syrian women have had their recipes printed in a fundraising recipe book for the 'Village of Sanctuary' refugee support group.

We thank all our wonderful volunteers for their hard work in difficult times and gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our grant funders and individual donors without which we could not have provided much of the support below.

Many thanks to all our supporters for continuing to show welcome to refugees and a Happy New Year to all as we hope for brighter times ahead in 2021.



### New ways of working included:

- Zoom classes for our Women's and Men's ESOL groups
- Virtual one-to-one Homework and Literacy support for refugee schoolchildren and adult learners.
- Trustee and Steering Group meetings on Zoom
- Doorstep deliveries and 'garden visits' to refugee families when permitted in the Summer, maintaining social distancing and following current restrictions
- Updating families and volunteers on WhatsApp Group Chat in Arabic and English on current government restrictions each time they have changed.



### A Visit from Father Christmas and Elf!

Although there was no RWC Christmas party to enjoy this year, Father Christmas and Rosie the Elf visited each of the refugee families with individually wrapped gifts, chocolates and sweet bags for all the children generously funded by a group of parents from Worth School. RWC supporters also kindly provided festive biscuits, oranges and fruit juice for the families. Another local supporter generously donated presents for all those individuals RWC supports who are living on their own and in temporary accommodation this Christmas.



## Ways you can help:

### Give your time:

- If you would like to volunteer your time and skills to help refugees and vulnerable migrants in the local area, contact Cathy in the first instance for an informal discussion on 07968 688380 or email [rwccchair@gmail.com](mailto:rwccchair@gmail.com).



### Fundraising:

- Take part in our spring event, 'High Five' - sponsored walking, running, cycling 5 miles or 5km or dream up another activity based on the number 5 to celebrate 5 years since RWC came into being!
- Sign up to [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk) and AmazonSmile to raise money for RWC if/when you shop online at no extra cost to yourself.



### Give a donation:

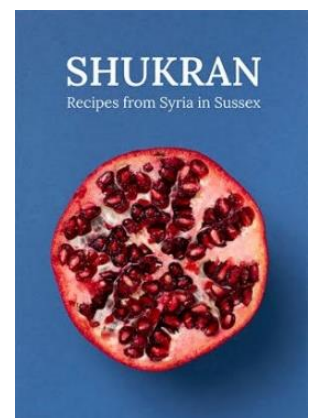
- You can donate to RWC by cheque payable to 'Refugees Welcome Crawley' and posted to RWC Treasurer at our registered office address below or you can donate online. RWC bank details: Account name: Refugees Welcome Crawley; AC number: 3905071; Sort code: 20-23-98. Contact [rwccchair@gmail.com](mailto:rwccchair@gmail.com) to add Gift Aid to your donation.

### Give useful items:

- Unfortunately we cannot store items that are not currently needed but in past months we have provided donated children's clothes, toys and books; nappies and baby milk; gardening tools, kitchen and other household equipment. Contact [rwccchair@gmail.com](mailto:rwccchair@gmail.com) to check current needs if you have something to donate that you think may be useful.

### Cook:

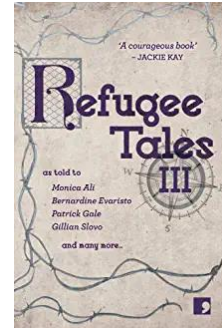
- ❖ The recipes from 'Shukran' , Recipes from Syria in Sussex, published by Village of Sanctuary and including recipes contributed by 6 Syrian women in the RWC community. <https://peoplesfundraising.com/event/recipe-book>





## Read:

- ❖ 'Refugee Tales', the poignant and moving personal accounts of those seeking sanctuary retold by established authors in 'Refugee Tales' Volumes 1-3, ed. David Herd and Anna Pincus, published by comma Press and join the associated walking project. Find out more at [www.refugeetales.org](http://www.refugeetales.org)
- ❖ Further recommended reading: 'The Invisible crowd' by Ellen Wiles, pub. Harper Collins, 'The Lightless Sky' by Gulwali Passarlay and, for children, 'Azzi In Between' by Sarah Garland.



## Spread the word:

- ❖ Keep up to date with the facts and figures around refugee and asylum issues to help challenge prejudice and ignorance when you encounter it in the world around you. Help to spread the message that there is more that diversity is to be celebrated and not feared. There is more that binds us together in common humanity than keeps us divided. Useful sources of information from British Red Cross and Refugee Action:  
<https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-support-refugees/find-out-about-refugees>  
<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/about/facts-about-refugees/>

## In 2020, RWC families and individuals benefitted from the following grants:



A **Sussex Community Fund** grant of £485 for DBS checks for 10 new volunteers and Driving test costs for 4 refugee learner drivers.



A **Sussex Crisis Fund** (Sussex Community Fund) grant of £3,500 for laptops for 12 refugee families to enable them to access learning, essential services and networking opportunities online.

A **WSCC Community Initiative Micro fund** award of £744 for reconditioned bicycles and cycle safety equipment for refugees and vulnerable migrants.



And **many thanks** again to all our amazing volunteers, supporters and donors, too many to name but especially Bill for his long-suffering support; the WSCC Refugee Resettlement team and keyworkers; Steve (for the bike repairs); our decorators and handypeople; Margaret, Lindsay, Louise, Mo, Penny, Réjane, Sue and Yasmin for all the lovely toys and clothes; to Diana, Sue, Gillian and Peter; our interpreters Iyadh, Najwa, Maha, Samar, Lina and Azezah,

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and thanks to L.A., Christiane, Tara, Monica and family for helping Christmas happen this year!