

# Refugees Welcome Crawley

September Newsletter 2021



*'We extend a welcome to local refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants through practical and befriending support to alleviate hardship and facilitate integration'*

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Welcome to our September Newsletter!



*Painting by Rabah*

Summer time may not have been blazing sunshine throughout but the children and adult learners have had a break from school and college, flowers and vegetables have flourished in gardens and we enjoyed some meetings in the park, some in pouring rain and some bathed in sunshine.

RWC activities start again in September as the children return to school and we continue to make gradual progress towards more face-to-face meetings.

We continue to offer welcome and support to refugee families and individuals displaced from their homes and rebuilding their lives in the local area. We pay tribute to their courage and resilience in starting afresh in a new country.



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## Step into Spring Fundraiser

### Grateful thanks to..

...everyone who donated to the 'Step into Spring' campaign. With Gift Aid added and JustGiving platform fees deducted, the overall sum raised was a fantastic £1665.99! An amazing £1018.75 of this was raised by the **Milton Mount Year 6 pupils, their teachers and the children's sponsors** with all sorts of 'High Five' challenges - running, jumping, baking and many more besides! All the money raised by Milton Mount will go to support the needs of refugee children – for essentials such as school uniform and enrichment activities such as after-school clubs.



Many thanks also to volunteer Adrian who swam 5000m each week for 5 weeks at his local pool and to David who ran the Hurtwood 50k Endurance Trail!

### Grantfunders:

We are most grateful for the £500 grant from Arundel and Chichester Catholic Diocese Migrant Fund. Of this £400 is allocated for driving lesson and test costs and £100 for DBS checks for volunteers.

### Thanks also for the support from partner organisations:

- Rhiannon and the Refugee Resettlement Team at West Sussex County Council
- Phil at Computers4Kids and Dave for their time and expertise fixing laptops;
- Adam at Deersleap Bikes
- Elizabeth at the Oasis Baby Charity
- Philomena, play therapist
- Helen for facemasks and bags from the Hygiene Bank/Caring for Carers in Covid
- Rivers for Learning and New Life church for the Ramadan food parcels



...to Azezah for her University place to study for a Social Sciences degree

...and to Loveth, who has taken up her university offer to study Nursing in Leeds, after tuition help from volunteer tutors Jane, Sue and Georgia



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## Balcombe Walk and Tea

**We are delighted to report that this fundraising event raised just over £900 for RWC funds! Many thanks to Pam, Alex, all helpers and everyone who attended or donated to the event.**

*This was a day when the sun decided to break through for the Balcombe Walk and Tea at the village hall in aid of RWC.*

*Thank you to Alex who led a lovely walk for about 40 - 50 adults and children around Balcombe village, countryside and lake. It was great to have his commentary along the way on points of local and natural interest including blackthorn (sloe) trees – see picture!*

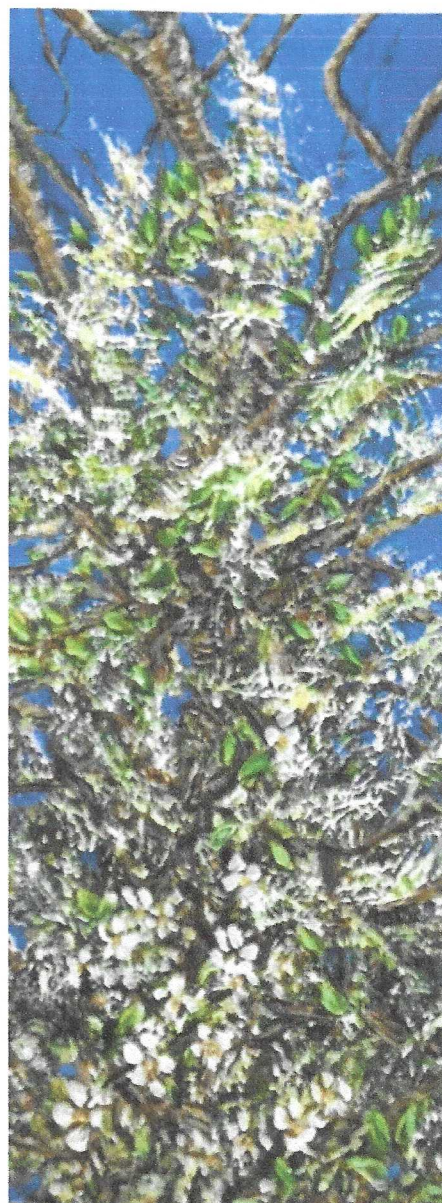
*The hall was set up inside and out for teas and delicious range of scones and cakes which were much enjoyed!*

*There were also stalls with a raffle, three tables of handmade cards by different artists, Syrian and Indian crafts and also plants for sale.*

*Cathy then spoke about the work of RWC as quite a few visitors came. Lina also spoke about how it felt to resettle here from Syria and about the support she and her family received from RWC.*

*A lovely event and worth repeating!*

*Heather, volunteer*



*Heather's painting of blackthorn blossom in Spring*

*Lina: 'We arrived in the United Kingdom in March 2016, and from the moment we arrived the major problem was the language, as well as the different customs and traditions, but with the help of Refugees Welcome Crawley, it was much easier than we expected. This wonderful team is providing material and moral assistance to all refugees like getting the houses ready before the family arrives, help us with our appointments, they opened a group chat called Talk Club to help us communicate with each other, Garden club, homework club, additionally during lockdown they provided volunteers to help the children with their homework and in my opinion that one was the best one and they got English classes for adults so they can improve their English so I think that refugees in West Sussex are very lucky because they have a strong hand which is Refugees Welcome Crawley.'*

*Thank you for your kind words, Lina!*



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## Gardening Club 2021

*It's been 'All Change' at our patch at Worth Abbey this year. Sadly for us, but happily for them, Lina and Mohamad and family had to stop coming because Mohamad now works full time at Worth School and Lina is fully occupied with their three boys. However, they have come to join us a couple of times for a get together.*



*This season's gardener is Hasan who is so strong, energetic and knowledgeable, it's been a pleasure to work together. The first thing we did was to erect a small poly tunnel in the hope of growing extra crops and keeping the nibbling deer at bay. We started with high hopes of a good tomato crop, with many plants kindly donated by Mo. But as every gardener knows, we have had roller coaster weather, so the tomatoes did not ripen and then succumbed to blight, a great disappointment! However, on the 'green' side we've had plenty of peas, beans, spinach and salad, with beetroot to come. Hasan has also lifted a very good crop of potatoes. Oh and how could I forget to mention the Syrian courgettes! All in all, plenty to be thankful for.*

*By Rose M*



*By Asia*

## Balcombe Craft Fair

You can purchase beautiful hand-made cards and gift tags in aid of RWC at the Balcombe Craft, Gift and Local Produce Market. It's on Saturday, 6th November from 10 am to 2pm in the Victory Hall, Stockcroft Road, Balcombe, RH17 6HP The cards are hand drawn by Alison, printed from Heather's original paintings and crafted by Pam.



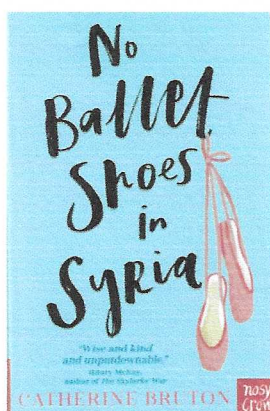
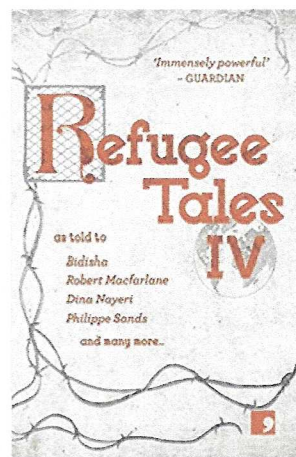
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## RWC Reading List

### Refugee Tales , vol. IV

All proceeds go to local charity, The Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group and Kent Refugee Help.

*'These beautifully told stories vividly depict what it is to grapple with the unbearable sadness and pain of leaving your home country, alongside the inhumane existence so many refugees endure.'* --Niamh Cusack



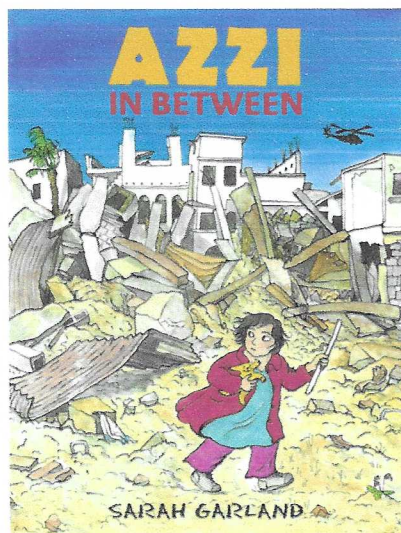
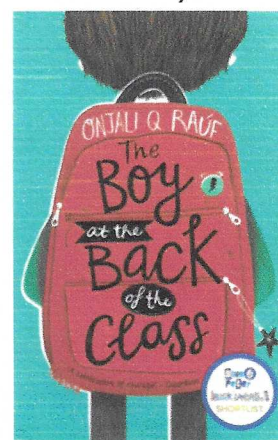
### 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria' by Catherine Bruton

This is the book the children at Milton Mount school read in class before their fantastic fundraising for RWC in the Spring. *'With beautiful, captivating writing, wonderfully authentic ballet detail, and an important message championing the rights of refugees, this is classic storytelling - filled with warmth, hope and humanity.'*

### The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Raúf

Read by Year 5 children at The Mill school before Samar was invited in to talk to the children on Zoom about how war in Syria and resettling here had affected her and her family

*'Told with heart and humour, The Boy at the Back of the Class is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.'*



### 'AZZI in Between' written and illustrated by Sarah Garland

Drawing on her own experience of working among refugee families, Sarah Garland tells, with tenderness and humour, the story of Azzi's journey from her wartorn homeland and how she and her family adapt to their new life in the UK. For younger readers but an engaging story for readers of all ages.



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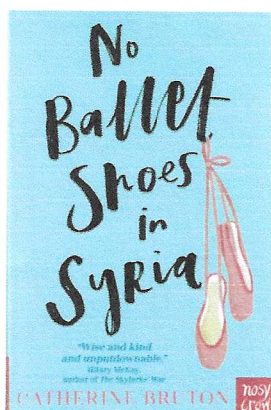
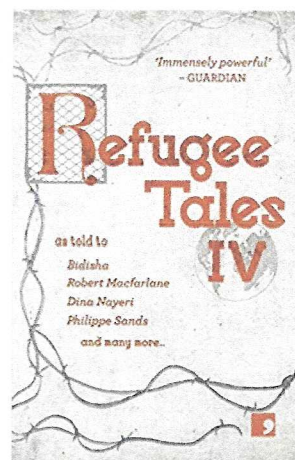


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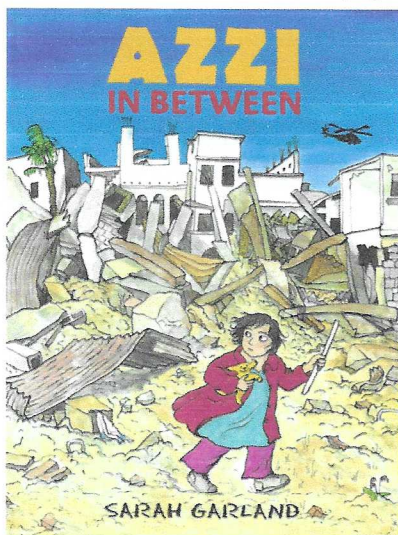
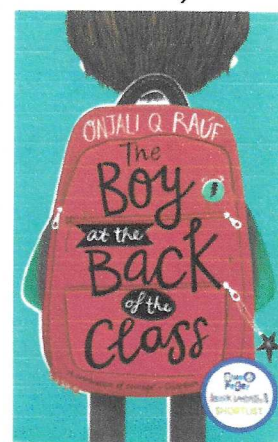
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## Supporting Afghan refugees

A big **Thank you** to everyone who responded to the call for clothing, toiletries, toys and baby items for Afghan families in quarantine hotels in our area. The Afghan people who were in these hotels have now moved on to further 'bridging' accommodation in different parts of the country while longer-term accommodation is being sought for them.



RWC was very pleased to work in partnership with Sussex Aid for Refugees, Humanity Aid, other local refugee support groups and charities under the direction of West Sussex County Council Refugee Resettlement Team who co-ordinated charity efforts and a huge volume of donations – toiletries, clothes including traditional clothes and toys to supply the immediate needs of Afghan refugees in the hotels locally. Through working together, we sought to maximise efforts and avoid collecting surplus donation. Through a combination of targeting specific requests and creating wish lists where donors could purchase goods directly for the Afghans in need, this was largely achieved so that, collectively, we were able to supply essential items to those who arrived with nothing other than what they could wear or carry with them in the haste to leave.



At this time, we do not know of any Afghan families coming to resettle in the Crawley area but anticipate that this may change in the coming months and years of the Afghan resettlement schemes.

### How can you help?

However, we are continuing to work with other charities to support Afghan and other nationality asylum seekers who are still in temporary accommodation in the area. Contact [rwccchair@gmail.com](mailto:rwccchair@gmail.com) if you can donate any men's medium size jogging bottoms, jeans, jackets or trainers in very good condition, washed, bagged and labelled. Also packs of cards, new underwear/socks, new nail clippers and combs. You can check the latest needs from our 'Give Today' wish list link – <http://www.givetoday.co.uk/rwc> . New items purchased by you from this list are delivered directly to our charity for distribution to those who need them.



### To donate to the ongoing work of RWC

#### JustGiving

<https://www.justgiving.com/refugeeswelcomecrawley>

#### Online Banking:

Ac/ name: Refugees Welcome Crawley

Sort code: 20-23-98

Account number: 63905071



Reg. Charity no: 1186127





## CHEESE PIE/DUMPLINGS

Contributed by Nadima.

### INGREDIENTS

Pie Dough	Pinch of salt	Filling
400g flour	Pinch of baking powder	300g grated cheese (halloumi, or feta and cheddar mixed, or just use a white cheese, e.g. Lancashire)
60 ml sunflower oil	1 tsp yeast	1 tbsp nigella seeds
100 ml milk	1 tsp sugar	Handful of parsley, chopped
80 ml plain yoghurt		

### DIRECTIONS

Warm the milk to blood heat and add the yeast: it should start to bubble immediately.

In a large bowl mix the flour with the salt, add the oil and mix with a fork.

Add the yoghurt and yeast mixture, stir together (you may wish to use your hands now), press together to form a ball of dough. Add a little water if needed.

Take the mixture out of the bowl, drizzle in a little oil, replace the dough, cover and leave in a warm place for about 1 hour. It should double in size.

Mix the cheese, parsley and nigella seeds together.

Roll out the dough and divide evenly into about 12 pieces. Roll each out into an elongated oval shape.

Put approx 1 tbsp cheese filling onto each one, then bring the far right hand side towards you and the near right hand side away from you so it folds over. Dampen with a little water to make sure it sticks together.

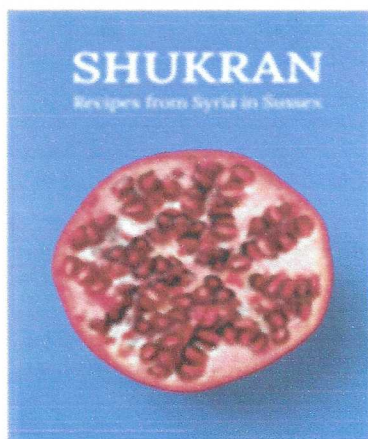
On the left of the dough, fold the near left side away from you, dab of water on top then the far left side towards you and seal. You should have a boat shape with the sides folded a little way over the cheese.

Place them on a floured baking tray whilst you heat the oven to 200C Gas no 7.

When the oven is hot, put the cheese pies in for about 15 mins till golden brown.

Allow to cool for a few minutes before eating.

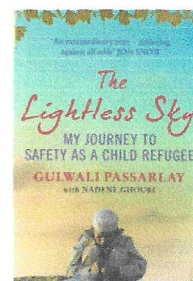
Nadima's recipe from 'Shukran', a Syrian recipe book published by Village of Sanctuary refugee support group.



Look out for your email invitation to our **Syrian 'Cookalong' fundraising event**, coming up in November! Learn how to cook some delicious delicacies with two of our Syrian chefs!

### 'The Lightless Sky' by Gulwali Passarlay

Gulwali Passarlay's immensely moving and topical account of his harrowing journey from Afghanistan to the UK as a child refugee. *'Gulwali wants to tell his story - to bring to life the plight of the thousands of men, women and children who are making this perilous journey every day. This memoir celebrates the triumph of courage and determination over adversity.'*

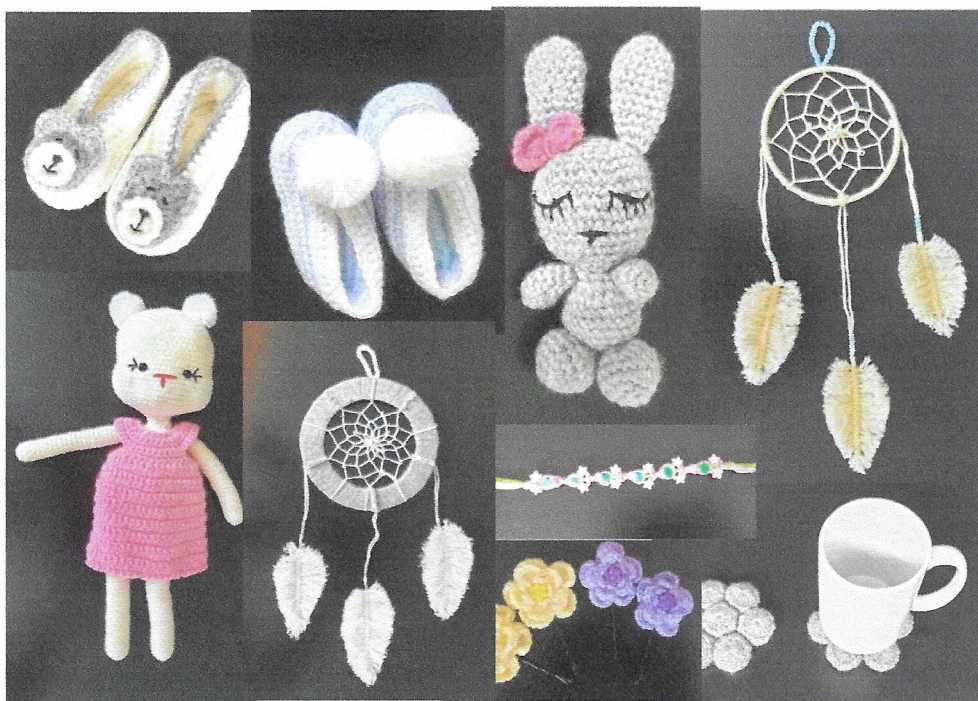


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## Asia's Craft work

Asia, from Syria, showcased some of her crocheted craft work at the Balcombe tea event. If you would more details or to order any of these items, please email [rwccchair@gmail.com](mailto:rwccchair@gmail.com) to arrange payment and delivery. Prices range from £5 for the decorated hair clips to £15 for the larger dreamcatcher.



### Contact details for Refugees Welcome Crawley

Email: [rwccchair@gmail.com](mailto:rwccchair@gmail.com)

Phone: 07968 688380

Address: c/o CCA, 1-2 Gleneagles Court, The Orchard, Brighton Road, Crawley RH10 6AD

[www.refugeeswelcomecrawley.co.uk](http://www.refugeeswelcomecrawley.co.uk)



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Summer ..



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