

Seagulls fly in for Christmas



Christmas came back in 2022: HRSRG welcomed refugees and volunteers to a party with entertainment by the brilliant Flying Seagull Project and fabulous food cooked by the Syrian families. So good to be together again!



Ukrainian refugees

Last year HRSRG ran twice-weekly drop-in sessions for Ukrainian refugees. Initially they were well-attended and we were able to offer practical advice and moral support for refugees and their hosts, along with companionship, coffee and a happy, safe space. However, as the churches were offering a similar service with more facilities, such as English lessons and advice from the WSCC Resettlement Team, in the autumn we decided to concentrate our limited resources on our core activities.

That said, we are always here if the Ukrainian refugees or their hosts need us. One source of concern is what happens beyond the initial six-month home placements: many of these have already come to an end and we are aware that some refugees have been considering returning to Ukraine.

Anyone able to offer accommodation should contact either the WSCC Resettlement Team or Refugees at Home, a UK charity which connects those with a spare room in their home to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay.

For details please visit www.refugeesathome.org/. It's also still possible to sponsor refugees to come to the UK: find out more at www.sponsorrefugees.org.

Jobs Jobs Jobs

Are you a local employer who could offer a role to a refugee?

While the government likes to tout self-employment as the way into work, in practice it's extremely hard if you don't know the UK system and are not completely fluent in English.

While two of the dads are doing well as school caretakers, others are professionals looking for routes into their previous careers. They include an expert tiler, a mechanic and an electronics engineer. All are working hard at learning English and would flourish with the right support.

Several mums are also ready to seek part-time work, preferably with some flexibility around school holidays. Some speak fluent English, others are learning fast and have been practising in the voluntary sector. Please contact HRSG if you can help.

HRSG roles to fill

HRSG currently has two volunteering roles that need filling.

1. We urgently need maths tutors for pupils at senior level.
2. One of the Syrian dads would like a mentor to help him find more work or perhaps become self-employed. Knowledge of the local automotive trade (mechanics, repairs or bodywork) would be extremely helpful.

All our volunteers must be DBS checked so if you can help, please get in touch with HRSG as soon as possible.

Afghan families update

Last year Horsham welcomed two Afghan families who had arrived in the UK following the emergency airlift in 2021. Both families have settled well, with children in school, one dad in full-time work and the other, a surgeon, now working hard to convert his qualifications for UK practice.

Sadly, due to the UK's limited housing stock a vast number of Afghan families are still stuck in hotels throughout the country after the rushed, badly-managed evacuation. HRSG has offered to provide English practice for those in local hotels.

Earthquakes

Rescue efforts following the recent devastating earthquakes in Turkey and northern Syria remain a huge cause for concern. This area is home to many people who had fled the Syrian civil war. HRSG does not have direct links with aid organisations; for those of you who wish to donate we recommend the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Furniture donations

HRSG can only take donations we have requested, as we don't have the resources to collect, sort or store them. If you have furniture to donate at other times, please contact Horsham Matters. Many thanks.

Thank you for your support
