



Wyre Forest

Refugee Support Group

Spring Newsletter 2018

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The Next Big Step

How Can **YOU** help?

A GREAT DAY OUT IN WORCESTER!

On Saturday 17th February the Wyre Forest families had a very enjoyable visit to Worcester to meet up with other Syrian families living in the county. Members of the WFRSG travelled with them by train and car and a good time was had by all! The visit included a tour of the cathedral and an opportunity to climb the 235 steps up the cathedral tower for the young and some of the not so young but still fit! Everyone contributed to a delicious meal and some enthusiastic singing took place before we all went home!

Our families have been with us for well over a year now and have made great progress in acclimatising to a new country **and** learning a new language. As they increase in confidence and skills they are naturally anxious to find employment. This might be voluntary, at first, but with the potential of acquiring skills which could lead to paid employment in the future.

(Indeed, some of the female family members have already been volunteering with Kemp/Heart Foundation and have found this very rewarding. There is certainly a desire to 'put something back in' to their new environment.)

Now over to **you!**

Do you know of opportunities for voluntary work?

Do you might have practical suggestions as to possible paid employment?

(and.....even better are you in a position to actually offer such opportunities?)

If you can answer "yes" to either (or even both) of the above questions, please contact wfrsgr@gmail.com

Good News! A recent press release from WCC has announced that another 50 refugees will be resettled within the county during 2018, under the SVPR scheme. Let's hope it will not be too long before this happens and that the new families will settle in equally well. We will keep you updated as and when we hear more.

Smile, please!

It's great to see members of our Syrian families getting involved in more and more local activities. An exhibition by the Kidderminster Camera Club in Kidderminster library contains work by 3 Syrian students. If you would like to go along to view the exhibition, it is on until the end of March. We understand that KCC have been very supportive of their new members, who attend weekly and enter competitions, and it is great to know such positive things are taking place.

A Welcome Visit!

WFRSG recently held an additional session of the weekly 'Conversation Café' to enable the MP for the Wyre Forest, Mark Garnier, to meet with our Syrian families. This was at Mr Garnier's request and he was accompanied by Councillor Lucy Hodgson, the member of Worcestershire County Council who has responsibility for refugees throughout the county. The session took the usual CC format, with family members sitting with members of the local community who have been helping them to improve their language skills. Mr Garnier and Councillor Hodgson visited each table to chat with individual family members. In a final statement to the gathered audience both Mr Garnier and Councillor Hodgson assured the families that they could be contacted to help with any additional problems that might arise which could not be dealt with locally. It was good to hear the families express how welcome they had been made, not only by members of the WFRSG, but by the smiling faces of local people and neighbours.

Wyre Forest Refugee Support Group and our Syrian families invite you to join us in a fundraising supper.

We are holding a supper at Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster on 21st April at 7:30. Join us for delicious food and good company whilst raising money for two very worthy causes. The proceeds from the evening will be shared with **UNICEF's Syrian Appeal** and **Wyre Forest Night Stop** which supports young homeless people and provides a mediation service for families.

We are asking for a donation of at least £10 per person for the evening. There will also be a raffle but no alcohol is allowed in deference to the venue.

To book your place, please email Janice Bell
j_c_bell@talk21.com
or tel 01299 402776 by 14th April.
Places are limited so please book early.

Refugees

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces
could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a
different hand
We need to see them for
who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their
sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they
came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them
out
It is not Okay to say
These are people just like
us
A place should only
belong to those who are
born there
Do not be so stupid to
think that
The world can be looked
at another way
(Now read from bottom
to top)