

WRP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

Looking back, looking forward

WRP Annual General Meeting November 2023



Over 30 people came to the Quaker Meeting House in High Wycombe to hear Zahra share her story of working as a journalist/newsreader in Afghanistan until being evacuated from Kabul with her two children in August 2021. We were impressed by her determination to rebuild a career in London and support educational opportunities for girls in her community.

After Zahra's presentation the treasurer and the chairman gave short accounts covering the year

to August 2023. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers and all the individuals and funding organisations who enable our charity work.

All the eight current trustees were re-elected for 2024 and our current objectives were listed:

1. Continue engaging with our refugee and asylum seeking families to understand their needs and aspirations, seeking funding to support them.
2. Embed our organisation administration in the 'Charity Log' CRM system.
3. Find a meeting place in the town centre for our administrators to be based which would also be convenient for volunteers and beneficiaries.
4. Develop a training programme for our volunteers including trustees.
5. Seek financial support for those offered college courses who have no recourse to public funds.

Mellor House update

An Iranian family were reunited at Heathrow on 14 November. The mother and two teenage sons stayed at Mellor House until 7 December when accommodation became available for them near the father's work in London.

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Image by Jill Wellington from Pixabay



*Christmas Blessings
to all who are
celebrating*



Tee-shirts obtainable from
bookswares.com

Tis the season...

Thanks to local generosity, our families have been enjoying a variety of Christmas experiences

Visit to Hughenden Manor

A big thank you to the National Trust for once again inviting our families to visit the Christmas decorations at Hughenden Manor. Twenty-two ladies enjoyed wandering around the beautiful house and gardens, searching for 'The Twelve days of Christmas.' This was followed by drinks and mince pies in the café – a truly cultural experience!

“ I would like to extend my utmost thanks to the organisation for the wonderful trip ... It was an unforgettable experience.”

Manal

Pantomime at the Swan

We had lots of fun watching a dazzling performance of this year's panto of Beauty and the Beast at the Swan Theatre who had donated the tickets for five families. For some this was their first experience of going to the theatre. One family said, 'Our whole family had a wonderful time and received incredible impressions that will remain for a long time'.

Presents and donations

WRP is profoundly grateful for all the generosity shown to our refugee families.

Godstowe School are donating gifts for 76 of our children, 300 presents in total.

One of the groups from **Venture Church, Beaconsfield**, made and wrote Christmas cards for each family and are donating a chocolate gift (santas, reindeer, coins and bars) for each of the 70+ children.

Speen Baptist Church are donating a £10 Tesco voucher for each of the 32 families.

Wycombe Abbey School have donated presents that have been collected by the school's charity prefects.

Plush toys donated by **John Lewis & Partners**

Trina says: 'Today I picked up 32 soft toys from John Lewis to give out to families over Christmas. These are this year's 'Snapper' character plush soft toy that is featured in the John Lewis Christmas advert.'



Above: Christmas at Hughenden Manor
Left and below: A warm welcome at the Wycombe Swan



Above: The Rev. Penny Nash delivering gifts from Wycombe Abbey School.
Left: 'Snapper' toys from John Lewis

Out and about

We enjoy getting out and about in schools and in the community to help people learn about refugees.



Left: Sarah and Michael attended the Flackwell Heath Charities Fair.

Right: Liz and Michael spoke at Hughenden Church where the children wrote about how they would feel if they became a refugee.



Right: Our new banner alongside a Christmas tree at the Great Missenden St Peter and St. Paul's Church Tree Festival. Our tree had the theme of stars, and we put one star on the tree for each nationality that WRP are supporting, with the name of the family's country of origin on the star.



We Refugees

by Benjamin Zephaniah

I come from a musical place
Where they shoot me for my song
And my brother has been tortured
By my brother in my land.

I come from a beautiful place
Where they hate my shade of skin
They don't like the way I pray
And they ban free poetry.

I come from a beautiful place
Where girls cannot go to school
There you are told what to believe
And even young boys must grow beards.

I come from a great old forest
I think it is now a field

And the people I once knew
Are not there now.

We can all be refugees
Nobody is safe,
All it takes is a mad leader
Or no rain to bring forth food,
We can all be refugees
We can all be told to go,
We can be hated by someone
For being someone.

I come from a beautiful place
Where the valley floods each year
And each year the hurricane tells us
That we must keep moving on.

I come from an ancient place
All my family were born there
And I would like to go there
But I really want to live.

I come from a sunny, sandy place
Where tourists go to darken skin
And dealers like to sell guns there
I just can't tell you what's the price.

I am told I have no country now
I am told I am a lie
I am told that modern history books
May forget my name.

We can all be refugees
Sometimes it only takes a day,
Sometimes it only takes a handshake
Or a paper that is signed.
We all came from refugees
Nobody simply just appeared,
Nobody's here without a struggle,
And why should we live in fear
Of the weather or the troubles?
We all came here from somewhere.



Community Board
High Wycombe



Community Board
North West
Chilterns



Contact us

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www.wycombe-refugees.org



Refugees Welcome in Wycombe

PARTNERSHIP

Rebuilding lives
Renewing hope