

# WYCOMBE REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022

## A tremendous achievement!

### A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Image by WikiImages from Pixabay



“Her Majesty The Queen has approved the QAVS National Assessment Committee’s recommendation that the volunteers of Wycombe Refugee Partnership should receive The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) 2022.

This represents a tremendous achievement and we hope that the group’s volunteers will feel immensely proud of it.”

We are absolutely thrilled by the news of the award, which is the equivalent of a group MBE for our wonderful volunteers. Congratulations, everybody! We’ll let all active volunteers know when we manage to arrange a date for the Countess Howe, Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, to come and present us with the trophy and certificate. Very appropriately, the announcement of the award was made in Volunteers’ Week.

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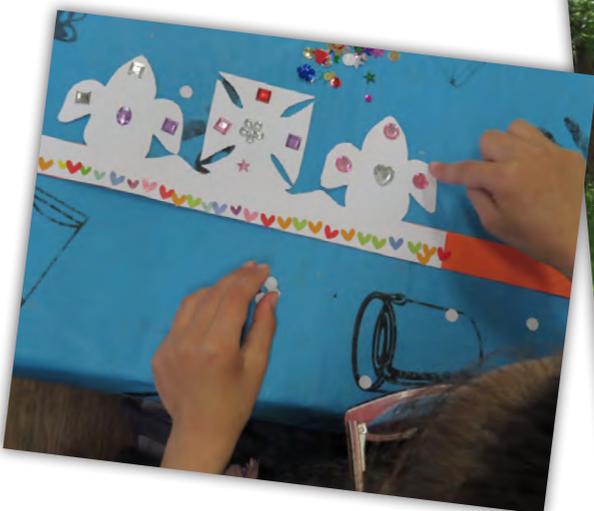
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## Jubilee tea

Liz Sheppard worked with staff and volunteers from Wycombe Museum to put on a splendid Jubilee event for our beneficiaries on 2 June. The tea was supported by funding from Heart of Bucks, and Philippa’s Cakes provided magnificent cupcakes with crowns on them. There was a talk on the monarchy, with translation into Arabic, and the children made themselves crowns in a craft workshop. Mostly, though, the children ran around the grounds and kicked footballs and the adults simply enjoyed one another’s company.



# World Refugee Day

## Speak out for Wycombe Refugee Partnership



World Refugee Day is on 20th June and we're inviting volunteers to use this as an opportunity to deliver a talk about WRP.

This will help to raise the profile of what we do and encourage more people to support us.

If you belong to a local group such as WI or a faith group like a church or mosque, we'd urge you to

ask whether they'd be interested in hosting a talk to commemorate this special date.

We know the subject of refugees and asylum seekers is close to your heart. Our team has prepared a speech that you can use.

Do get in touch for more information.

## Put the fun into fundraising—create this authentic Syrian feast for your friends!

Award-winning refugee restaurateur Imad Alarnab, whose family we helped when they first arrived in the UK, has put together a special menu for WRP, to help us with our fundraising.

So why not put your apron on, line up your best kitchen tunes and invite your friends round to savour the ways our culture is enriched by the flavours and tastes of our international refugee brothers and sisters. We have made the recipes into this lovely leaflet, along with some information about Imad and about WRP.

Share Imad's story with your dinner guests and ask them to consider donating to refugees and asylum-seekers in need, either on our website—[www.wycombe-refugees.org/get-involved](http://www.wycombe-refugees.org/get-involved)—or scan the QR code on the leaflet. You can print out the pdf that accompanies this newsletter, or we can send you a hard copy.

Why not ask your local shops and organisations to display the leaflet? Email [rhirhiscott@gmail.com](mailto:rhirhiscott@gmail.com) with your address and she will post some out to you.

If you would like more information, please email us at [fundraising@wycombe-refugees.org](mailto:fundraising@wycombe-refugees.org)

## Eid gifts from the girls of ARISE

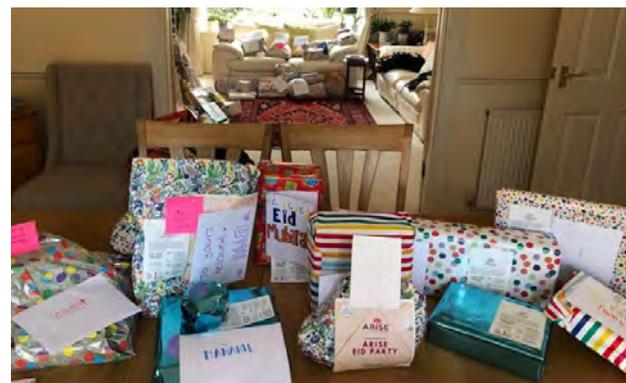
At the beginning of May, to mark the celebration of the end of the month of Ramadan, about 60 children whom WRP supports were gifted a number of lovely and beautifully wrapped Eid gifts and Amazon vouchers. These were prepared by a group of girls called ARISE (A Rise In Spiritual Excellence) which is part of the Wycombe Islamic Society, or WISE, initiative. Each present was accompanied by a handmade decorated and signed Eid Mubarak card. This all brought a huge joy and smile to the faces of many children.

An enormous thank you to all the girls from ARISE who participated and led this initiative.

A poster for World Refugee Day. At the top, it says "WORLD REFUGEE DAY" in bold. Below that, the text is repeated in several languages: "Día Mundial de los Refugiados", "Journée mondiale des réfugiés", "روز جهانی پناہجویان", "Dita ndëkombëtare e refugjatëve", "יום הפליטים הבינלאומי", "اليوم العالمي للاجئين", and "세계 난민의 날". At the bottom right, there is a black and white photograph of a woman looking upwards, with the date "June 20th" written below it.

MisterMashrots

Two overlapping leaflets. The top one is a recipe for "Kabab Hindi (lamb kofta)" with ingredients and instructions. The bottom one is a flyer titled "Create an authentic Syrian Feast for World Refugee Day!" featuring a photo of a dish and text about Imad Alarnab and a QR code.



# Housing Ukrainians

We already knew that the people of Buckinghamshire were generous: now we have the second highest number of people offering to host Ukrainians of any county in the country! Over 500 Bucks households have offered to host.

WRP is focussing its efforts on Ukrainians whose hosting arrangements have broken down. In some cases, this is because family members in the UK offered to sponsor their relatives in order to save their lives, but, when the Ukrainians arrived, they discovered that their sponsors were not in a position to host or support them. We are helping them financially until they get Universal Credit, which takes about five weeks.



We'd love to hear from anyone willing to let a two- or three-bedroom property at Local Housing Allowance rates, which are £972 per month for two-bed and £1,246 for three-bed.

# Sanctuary Scholarship



It is extremely difficult for asylum-seekers to attend university in the UK. They are not eligible for student loans, they are not allowed to do paid work, they get £40 a week to live on—and they are generally charged international fees, which are much higher than those paid by home students. We have been supporting a particularly promising student this year and have been thrilled to hear that she has won the one Sanctuary Scholarship

available in her faculty for a student in her year. She can now work to fulfil her dream of becoming a doctor.

# New grants

We are hugely grateful to the High Wycombe and North-West Chilterns Community Boards of Buckinghamshire Council for a generous grant. This will enable us to continue providing supermarket vouchers through our Community Response programme and also provide access to sports and leisure activities for our young people.

We have also received substantial grants recently from the Rothschild Foundation, Heart of Bucks and B&Q.

A huge thank you to all of them for sharing the vision of helping people whose lives have been shattered.



Community Board  
High Wycombe



Community Board  
North West  
Chilterns



## Contact us

 [www.wycombe-refugees.org](http://www.wycombe-refugees.org)

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 Refugees Welcome in Wycombe

