

WRP NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

Glorious garden parties

May was a good month for royal events!

Buckingham Palace Garden Party

As WRP was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service we were offered two tickets to attend the royal garden party held at Buckingham Palace on 5th May. Nasheeda and Trina travelled to London together to join all the other guests, everybody looking very smart and colourful. They were able to walk around the garden at their leisure admiring the array of trees, shrubs and flowers before going to have tea and sandwiches. King Charles, Queen Camilla, Prince Edward and his wife Sophie all came to the garden to greet the guests, and two bands played as people chatted. Throughout the day there was a really lovely atmosphere and Trina and Nasheeda were able to chat to other members of deserving charities. A beautiful day concluded with the singing of the national anthem.

Garden party for families and volunteers

On the Monday of the coronation weekend, drizzle not dampening our enjoyment, 50 volunteers and members of WRP's families gathered at lunchtime at Wycombe Museum. Thanks to the museum staff who provided tea and the many people who generously brought cakes or traditional meals, some of us took our picnic sandwiches home!

Those who came included a family who arrived from Syria in 2016, and a Ukrainian family who arrived only two weeks earlier and who are staying at Mellor House.

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New strapline

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that, as part of our logo update, we have a new strapline: Rebuilding lives, renewing hope—which is exactly what we aim to do. We hope you like it!



Below left: Nasheeda and Trina at Buckingham Palace
Above: Some of the home-made cake that caused guests to leave our garden party, pictured below, with their picnic lunches intact



Chiltern Chamber Choir fundraising concert

A HUGE 'thank you' to Chiltern Chamber Choir who raised an enormous £1,154 for Wycombe Refugee Partnership. The concert, hosted by Holy Trinity Church, Hazelmere during the coronation weekend, treated us to an array of beautiful music performed by this highly skilled group of singers. We were grateful to be the choir's charity of choice on this occasion.

In my new role as Education Trustee, I talked briefly about our work, and am absolutely delighted by the sum raised which will all go directly to support our families.

Liz Sheppard



Chiltern Chamber Choir performing at Holy Trinity Church

Mellor House update

It is almost five years since we took over management of Mellor House as temporary housing for refugee families. Sincere thanks are due to the Chiltern Area Quaker Meeting for providing the building.

Though up to two adults and five children could sleep there, it has only one living room so we are keen within three months to find more long term space for families.

In January we welcomed a stateless person who had applied for family reunification visas. He was then told by the Home Office to expect a five month wait so accepted a move to council single accommodation early in May. A few days later we welcomed a Ukrainian family of five who now have the tenancy of an apartment in the private rented sector.

So there is currently space to offer another homeless refugee family with leave to remain.

Thank you for sharing in this stage of rebuilding refugee families lives.

Homes for Sudan

Standing in solidarity with Sudanese people displaced by the current conflict

Since the conflict between Sudan's military and the country's main paramilitary force escalated in April this year, over half a million civilians have fled their homes, either to different towns outside the capital or to neighbouring countries like Chad, Ethiopia and Egypt. The third largest city in Sudan, Port Sudan, with a population of just 500,000, has unofficially become a new capital, hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees arriving every day. The situation there is becoming worrying, as resources and housing possibilities are becoming shorter day by day and whole families are on the edge of becoming homeless.

Many British people showed solidarity with the people affected by this war and ask that the Homes for Ukraine scheme be recreated for

Read more about Sudan

WRP Administrator, Veronika, spent a fortnight in Sudan last spring, and reported back in our March newsletter:

<https://tinyurl.com/wrp-news>





Left: Veronika with Ibrahim from Sanctuary Foundation (left) and Algali (right) waiting to hand their petition in to Downing Street on 25 May

Below: Second time lucky! From left to right, Krish, Algali, Tania and Veronika outside Number 10 on 9 June



Sudanese refugees. Sanctuary Foundation calls on the UK government to open a safe and legal route for Sudanese refugees to come to this country and be hosted with family members or with members of the public keen to offer hospitality. They ask for parity with our response to refugees from Ukraine including similar support and allowances.

A small group of the initiators and supporters of this request was about to deliver a petition to Downing Street on 25th May when a car crashed into the gates of Downing Street, resulting in an emergency incident and the scene being evacuated and all appointments cancelled for that day. The group is now waiting to for a new appointment to hand in their petition. In addition, an online petition has been initiated, asking for Sudanese residents in the UK to be allowed to bring their close relatives over to safety.

So far, the Home Office has stated that there are no plans to introduce any new visa schemes for Sudanese people affected by the current conflict. It sees the situation in Sudan as different to that of Ukraine and states that every such crisis requires a uniquely tailored response.

You can find more information about the petition and the government's response at <https://tinyurl.com/homesforsudan>



Community Board
High Wycombe



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PARTNERSHIP

Rebuilding lives
Renewing hope

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www.wycombe-refugees.org



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Refugees Welcome in Wycombe