

# WRP NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

## Integration is a journey

With the rise in racist and dehumanising rhetoric being spread through the news and social media, the work of Wycombe Refugee Partnership has become increasingly important as we continue to advocate for the dignity of people who are refugees and asylum seekers, offering vital support and a welcoming community of volunteers.

At WRP, we see the person in front of us, not just the label of 'asylum seeker' or 'refugee'. We know people by name. We hear their personal stories of wars, conflicts and persecution and the personal stories of families caught up in these situations. We see the impact on people's lives and the lives of their children – and it is for the children's future that many parents have undertaken the heart-wrenching decision to leave their country.

Coming to a new country is not easy. Beyond the paperwork, understanding UK systems, schools applications, and bills there is the long journey of integration into a new country.

At WRP, we work with partner organisations to provide activities and outings for children and their families to help reduce social isolation and to help with integration through understanding about life in the UK. We recently helped a number of families experience our lovely Buckinghamshire countryside, helping to restore a vision for a life beyond the everyday challenges.

## Out into the woods we went...



Our recent trip with Amersham Field Centre at Mop End provided 23 refugee children and parents the opportunity to go on a trip together to experience the countryside around us. They were able to hunt for bugs and identify them, identify trees by their leaves and make a den in the woods. Whilst a very accessible activity for most of us, this was a new experience for the families. One child went from a rating of 3/10 for being confident in nature to a 10/10 by the end of the activity! Others commented

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#### Bugs are the best

Children and their parents enjoy getting up close and personal with nature!

#### Winter-Ready

Please help us to provide winter necessities for our families

#### A safe place to stay

Hear what a difference our housing support made to one of our guests

#### Come to our AGM!

We'd love to see you on 24 January. Find out more and let us know if you can make it.



that "bugs are the best" and that they enjoyed "learning about nature, working in a team and insects". A parent said "Thank you so much for today! We really enjoyed our time. It was such a lovely day. I truly appreciate your kindness and all the effort you put into to make it special."



## Are you Winter-Ready? Please support our new fund



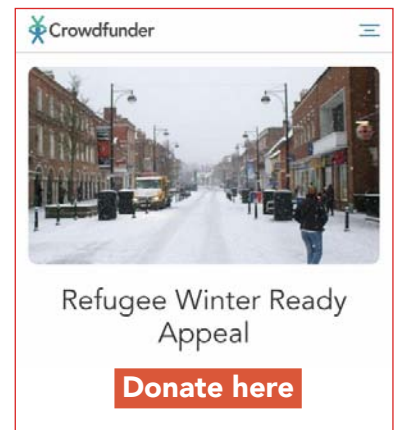
For many of us, we have been moving our clothes around in the wardrobe and pulling out our warmer jumpers and jackets. The heating is on and we will see the outcomes of that in the bills in the next few months.

Many asylum seekers in the UK will be experiencing their first winter here. If they are eligible, their weekly allowance of £49.18 needs to cover food, toiletries, cleaning products, clothing and footwear, phone SIM deal (required for Home Office contact) and any ad-hoc purchases such as over the counter medicines.

We would like to help asylum seekers in Wycombe be Winter-Ready! Through this fund we will give a modest supermarket voucher to every asylum seeker household newly registered with us. This funding will enable them to choose some extra hearty food for the winter months, or warm clothing, perhaps an extra blanket or some hot water bottles. The giving of a voucher gives a person the dignity of choice as to how to spend it and also allows for the differing needs of each household.

Thank you for considering giving to this fund and joining in with supporting and welcoming those who feel very much on the outside of our community this winter.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/wycomberefugees-winter-ready-appeal>



## Mellor House – a place to feel safe

When a person's asylum case is reviewed by the Home Office and a positive decision is given, that person or family is usually given 28 days notice to leave their 'asylum accommodation' (often seven days if the accommodation has been a hotel). It's at this point that they face a high risk of being street homeless because of the lack of credit history or rental history in the UK, lack of finances for a deposit and first month's rent, and of course lack of employment, as most asylum seekers do not have the right to work until a successful outcome to their asylum claim. Our halfway

house, Mellor House, is for such a situation. We provide support from our teams of volunteers, and eventually the deposit and first month's rent for our guests as they move on. One of our guests recently moved into private rental accommodation in Wycombe and they write:



*From the first meeting with Wycombe Refugee Partnership volunteers all my fears were gone. They provided peace by calling and checking about my arrival time to High Wycombe...and the main support was Mellor House where I could sleep from the*

*first night in peace...I felt no need to worry about anything else.*

*I started from zero to hero. It made a big difference in my future life in different ways. I have organised living, I'm confident, responsible and settled. Full of energy to improve myself with skills that I got during my stay in Mellor House.*

**How did getting the gift of your deposit and first month's rent help you?**

*Believe me, till now I can't believe this happened to me. My new chapter started because of this big gift, for my situation with low income, part time job and UC benefits [it was] not easy to find a landlord to accept me to be their tenant. So because of the first month rent and deposit from WRP, I am here [renting] my own home.*

## We'd love to see you at our AGM!

Do you enjoy hearing our news and stories? Do you support our work by receiving our newsletter, as a volunteer, financially or otherwise? Come and meet us in person to hear more!

You are warmly invited to our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 24 January, in the morning in Hazlemere, High Wycombe. We will serve light refreshments from 10am onwards and the meeting starts at 10.30am.

This year, our guest speaker is the lovely and very talented Dana Alarnab. WRP first met the young Dana after she arrived in the UK from Syria with her family nine years ago, with very little English and an uncertain future. WRP provided wrap-around care for the family and supported their initial journey.

Dana has recently completed her undergraduate degree in mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Warwick and is now pursuing a Master's in Behavioural Science at the London School of Economics. Alongside her studies, Dana works as a Product Manager at XD House, developing innovative technology and design tools. Her journey has already gained national recognition. In 2022, she won the



**Please join us!**

**Saturday 24 January,  
10am, Hazlemere**

**[Sign up here](#)**





Young Achiever Award, presenting her story at the House of Commons. She has also been invited to present in front of His Majesty King Charles, where she spoke about the effects of immigration on teenagers. Dana's incredible story tells of

how she rebuilt her life through education and determination.

Join us in celebrating the incredible work of our volunteers and staff over the past year, and in looking ahead to future achievements! We have lots of exciting news to share and would love you to be there. Everyone is welcome. Please sign up at the link below. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

<https://tinyurl.com/wrpagm>



**Merry Christmas to all those  
who are celebrating  
and a Happy New Year from  
everyone at WRP!**



Community Board  
High Wycombe



Community Board  
North West  
Chilterns



**B&Q**



**PARTNERSHIP**

Rebuilding lives  
Renewing hope

Contact us

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



Refugees Welcome in Wycombe