**Newsletter 2**

**More Matches Made**

We now know of 10 hosts matched with refugees, 5 in Milverton, 5 in the  Wivey/Ford area comprising 33 refugees in total, 16 adults and 17 children, and at the time of writing a number of other hosts have begun discussions. It is a fast changing situation! There are some accounts of more recently applied for visas arriving quicker than those applied for in the first wave; the range is something like from 1 week to 5 weeks and counting.

**Hosts - Details Please!**

We know of 42 potential hosts in the Wivey area. This breaks down as 17 in Milverton, Fitzhead, and Halse, 14 in Wivey, Langley Marsh and Ford,  5 in Brompton Ralph, Huish Champflower and Clatworthy), and 6 in Bathealton, Ashbrittle, Greenham and Kittisford). Across Somerset there are now over 350 hosts matched with guests. Of course some will drop out and there are others unknown to us. If you're thinking of hosting and you haven't filled in our form yet - please do so:

https://wiveywelcomesrefugees.org.uk/wivey-hosts-form.html

**The Matching Process**

To date the most successful route has been through the Homes for Ukraine Taunton Hosts Facebook group. If you're ready to get matched do register with them: you do not have to join Facebook to do so. The team of volunteer administrators there are doing an amazing job. It's very helpful for them to hear of hosts near each other who can take families or friends who want to be in the same area.

https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/e/1FAIpQLScfqREuz1D6qaQCTuE01B7EWCyJT5qDtv0lhx-_PjrBg7JEbQ/viewform?fbclid=IwAR22VZVuJC3RU5QhhugiVk6-e01tT__w7i7CcOxchv42wQ10sYNBWIoBGWM

We've recently heard of a successful match made with https://www.opora.uk/ and some are waiting to hear from https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/ or https://resetuk.org/

However a match is made, all hosts need to register with the government at https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine

**Help needed**

Wanted for loan or donation - A bicycle with a child's seat suitable for 2 yr old

A number of appliances and items have already been distributed among hosts for the use of refugee guests. If you have any items in good condition you can donate or lend to refugees please list them on our form here: https://wiveywelcomesrefugees.org.uk/donations-or-loans-form.htm

Alternatively, if you can offer help in the form of lifts, conversation practice, childcare etc please let us know here: https://wiveywelcomesrefugees.org.uk/wivey-supporters-form.html

**Events**

Mirren Boyle's 70th Birthday party turned into a wonderful concert/fundraiser: Mirren writes: Thank you everyone who came to the event in Wivey and helped on Sat and those who have donated before and since. We raised an amazing £889 and had a good evening dancing to the Blue Deal band.

To date potential hosts have met up at Ashbrittle, hosted by Ann-Marie Paterson; Milverton, hosted by Julia Hatfield, and on Saturday 30th April those in the Wivey area are invited to a meeting hosted by Gabriel Smy. It is very encouraging to meet up with others and share together the challenges that this whole process throws up.

*First sent on 27 April 2022 Wivey Welcomes Refugees*

*Wivey Welcome Refugees is a Community Association formed on 01/04/22 with the aim of coordinating the welcome for refugees across the wider Wiveliscombe area. We will soon be affiliated with a local charity (details to follow). Peter Pearson (Chair), Mirren Boyle (Secretary), Tom Fox (Treasurer), Steering group: Mark Blaker, Pauline McNichol (Town Council Refugee Champions), Dr Rosie Riley, Julian Mellor, Ann-Marie Paterson, Kirsty Cockerill, Julia Hatfield*

**Our mailing address is:**

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If you would like to subscribe, please complete one of our two forms or email us at wiveywelcomes@gmail.com

*Our thanks for Martin Valuks for permission to use his Ukraine inspired photos*