

## Newsletter 4



### Helping our Ukrainian Guests Settle in

Hello, this is a short bank holiday newsletter with an update from us at 'Wivey Welcomes'.

There are now 8 hosts with 27 Ukrainian guests in our area, 14 adults and 13 children. (Another seven hosts are matched and waiting, and about five more are in conversation.) There is a WhatsApp group for hosts to keep in touch with each other and will soon be one for guests.

While we are still waiting to hear if we can access funding to run a welcome hub, we have accepted the kind invitation from St Andrew's church in Wivey to use their Thursday morning 10-12 'Cafe for All' as a time and place for guests to meet each other and other local people. It was great to meet 16 Ukrainian guests there yesterday, many of whom met each other for the first time too.

In answer to the question, 'is there anything I can do to help?' the answer is now, 'yes please, quite a bit!'

Help with learning English - we will start to run formal English lessons this coming Thursday but there is scope to help people learn through conversation practice. If you can come along on a Thursday morning that is the easiest way to get started.

Transport - many lifts needed, particularly to Taunton and to places of work. If you can offer regular or occasional lifts please let us know via the form on our website <https://wiveywelcomesrefugees.org.uk/wivey-supporters-form.html> If you can offer employment, please let us know.

Childcare - to start with, if you are used to looking after children and can help look after toddlers at the cafe, please contact Sue Pearson at [sueliespearson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueliespearson@yahoo.co.uk)

Setting up/baking cakes - if you could help set up the cafe once a month and/or provide some home baking, please contact Sue at the address above.

## **The Matching and Visa Process**

There seems to be very little accommodation left in towns and cities, and requests are coming in from relatives and friends of Ukrainians already in the area. If you are willing and able to host refugees from the Ukraine war, and are not already matched with anyone, do let us know. We are waiting to hear of the first matches to be made through the government website or via their preferred charity 'RESET'. While the matching process via facebook is still quite hit and miss, some visas are now coming through in only a few days. Across Somerset over 1400 Ukrainians are now matched with hosts and over 350 have arrived.

Please do share this newsletter with others who may be interested or able to offer support in some way. As the UK celebrates 70 years of the Queen's remarkable service to this country it seems well in keeping with her ethos to offer what support we can to a people whose very country is in a battle for survival.

*First sent on 3 June 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 are affiliated to Taunton Welcomes Refugees, registered charity no. 1183921 . Peter Pearson (Chair), Mirren Boyle (Secretary), Tom Fox (Treasurer), Steering group: Mark Blaker, Pauline McNichol (Town Council Refugee Champions), Dr Rosie Riley, Ann-Marie Paterson, Eddie East, 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](mailto:wiveywelcomes@gmail.com)

*Our thanks to Julia Swan for the photo*