

Newsletter 5



A Busy Time

It's been a busy time for Ukrainians and their hosts in the Wivey area. By the end of the weekend there will be 43 Ukrainian guests in our area, 22 adults and 21 children. We know of about another 20 who are waiting for visas or other paperwork.

Last Friday, when the weather was lovely, 77 of us enjoyed a summer party at Higher Lovelynch, including all 29 Ukrainian guests here at the time. It is so good for guests and hosts alike to meet up, share stories and have fun together.

We are now running English lessons and a welcome hub three times a week at St Andrew's church in Wivey. Everyone is welcome at the Thursday morning 10-12 'Cafe for All', where the lesson takes place between 10 and 11. Additional lessons happen on Saturdays 10-11 and Tuesday afternoons 4:30-5:30. They are very well attended and we are looking into dividing the class into two separate classes.

Help Needed!

Alongside the formal English lessons, which are run by a qualified Ukrainian English teacher, it is good for our guests to have the chance to practise what they have learned with friendly, patient, native English speakers. This is already happening after the Thursdays lessons, but we are appealing for volunteers to go on a rota to be there on Tuesdays at 5:30pm and Saturdays at 11am. We'd like a *minimum* of two people each time, one to focus on serving tea, coffee and cake, and the other to focus on welcoming and English conversation. If you can do this at least once a month please email wiveywelcomes@gmail.com saying when you are free and how often you'd like to do this. Why not sign up with a friend?

Please also let us know if you are willing to provide any home baking, saying how often you can do this.

Did you know it costs £12 return to get the bus to Taunton? With the price of fuel going through the roof it makes sense for all of us to consider sharing lifts, and this is especially needed for our guests who can have a long wait to receive any form of benefits, while being expected eg to go regularly to the job centre in Taunton. 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> and or email us with your mobile number if you are happy to go on a lift share Whatsapp group.

Help with childcare, and offers of employment, also very welcome!

Our Financial Situation

Central government has provided funds to the county council to help refugees settle in. At the moment the policy is to set up welcome hubs in the larger urban areas and then consider how to support rural areas, like ours, at a later date. We believe that our guests and their hosts need support *now*, and we are funding the English lessons and other targeted support with the money we have raised to date. If you can put in a good word for us with key decision makers, please do so: also please consider if you can support us through a donation or a fundraising activity. We are very happy to receive donations targeted at a particular need such as teaching materials or children's clothes.

Thank you!

First sent on 23 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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Our thanks to Martin Valuks for the photo