

Wivey Welcomes Refugees Newsletter 11



Wivey in the News Again

This week is a particularly poignant one for our Ukrainian guests, with the first anniversary of the invasion coming on Friday 24 February. To mark this there is heightened media interest in the war and the innovative *Homes for Ukraine* scheme and the local response to this will feature on national radio twice this week:

First, **tomorrow Tuesday 21 February at 11 am on Radio 4** there is a 30 minute documentary produced by local lad Jack Butcher and presented by our very own Olga Rybak: **Ukrainians in Britain: Where Next?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001jc4j> Jack has taken care to gather a wide range of responses and it will be fascinating to see how he links together the local response here in Wivey with national perspectives.

Next, on **Friday evening at 8pm Radio 4's *Any Questions*** is being broadcast live from St Andrew's Church Wiveliscombe <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qgvj> As this date is the anniversary of the invasion it would be very surprising if issues around Britain's response to this did not play a significant part in the broadcast.

Finally, on the subject of Wivey appearing in national media there is a contribution from our Chair Peter Pearson on the House of Commons' *Levelling Up, Homes and Communities* Twitter page following from his visit to the House of Commons in December:

<https://twitter.com/CommonsLUHC/status/1621200273338245120?s=20&t=fokrGEOaRcpQAfUdcMv1qA>

Many Thanks

A typically generous response to our appeals in the last newsletter has led to one of our guest families having a home to move into once they move on from the hosts and items of furniture for five other families, all very much appreciated. In addition, the lorry heading for Eastern Ukraine filled up in record time and we expect a new appeal to come out soon.

Looking Ahead

While our Ukrainian friends reflect on the tragedy of the last year (only yesterday I heard of a lady with two children in South Wales whose husband has just been killed near Bakhmut) we can all hope that the invader too might pause for thought, and consider whether the loss of over 100 000 of their young soldiers' lives has been worth it to "liberate" a few towns and cities all now reduced to rubble. Sadly, though there is precious little sign of this happening, and our Ukrainian friends will need our support for the long term. There will remain a need for new host families, offers of independent accommodation and support in all kinds of ways.

Somerset Supports Ukraine, the charity set up by the Lord and Deputy Lieutenants of Somerset, and who have helped fund our activities, are now employing Peter as a part time coordinator to work across the whole of the historic county of Somerset (ie including 'BANES' and North Somerset Councils). This can be taken as a recognition that the flexible and imaginative response in our area could, we hope, serve as an inspiration for other areas. But it may reduce what Peter is able to do and on Friday the steering group will consider juggling a few roles around: we could do with some additional help with keeping accounts and/or some admin tasks. If there's any chance you could help in this way please get in touch.

First sent on 20 February 2023 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, (Town Council Refugee Champion), Dr Rosie Riley, Ann-Marie Paterson, Julia Hatfield,

Our mailing address is:

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If you would like to support our work financially please either make cheques out to 'Wiveliscombe Welcomes Refugees' or BACS transfers made to sort code 30-98-97, account number 85902463. If you would like to gift aid your donation please ask us how to do this.

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

Photo credit this week: Peter Pearson