



Boundless

The Newsletter for Refugees Welcome, Cheshire East

November 2024

A QUICK UPDATE

Refugees Welcome, Cheshire East, is continuing to support Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, who live in our area. Recently three new Afghan families have moved to Macclesfield and Bollington as well as a family from the Chagos Islands, who had been living in Mauritius. Our volunteers support the families in their homes and run English classes and Conversation Cafés. It is thanks to the generosity of our donors to the Boundless fund that we have been able to establish and maintain our support networks for all the groups of refugees.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Current information as well as details about how you can help Ukrainians fleeing the war can be found on [the Cheshire East website](#).

In this edition of Boundless you can find out about the dynamic nature of our organisation.



Registered Charity Number

116990

Refugees Welcome aims to support, integrate and empower refugees in every possible way, from sourcing furniture and equipment, to helping with access to medical care and education, interpreting and English learning. We acknowledge the huge contribution which newcomers - including displaced people - have always made to our society. We are committed to helping newly arrived people fulfil their potential as independent members of the community, enriching it with their skills, culture and unique perspective.

What's new?

When Ukrainians started to arrive in large numbers following the Russian invasion in 2022, many groups started locally to support people offering Homes for Ukrainians. The biggest, most dynamic and most successful group in Cheshire East is Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network led by Paul Nixon (CAUSN). They found hosts for over 100 Ukrainians and helped both host families and guests to make the most of all opportunities on offer. They received huge amounts of money in donations as well as running extremely well attended fundraising events. Some of the money they raised has been used to fund English lessons for Ukrainians, who need different levels of English support. Currently one of the major activities of the group is to source furniture to enable Ukrainians to live independently in rented accommodation.

Now that Ukrainians are aiming to live and work independently the directors of CAUSN decided that its previous model was not required, so the decision was made that it should merge with Refugees Welcome. We are delighted to say that Paul Nixon is our most recent trustee, from which position he will continue to mastermind the house moves for the Ukrainians.



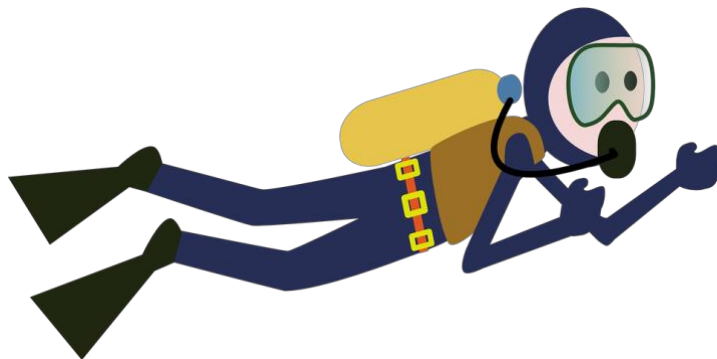


Hobbies

The Tuesday English conversation group has been talking about their hobbies.

Oleksandr – Free diving

I lived in Kharkiv which is a long way from the sea so I learned to swim in the River Lopan. It is a very large river which used to have a lot of fish. I could dive down and stay down for as long as 2 minutes before I had to come up to breathe. I would go fishing for catfish with my harpoon. I had to be very careful not to get caught because catching catfish was illegal. The fish was very good to eat, but it had a lot of bones.



Ammar – making soap and candles

I started to make soap when we came to England because I enjoy it and I could make some money by selling it at Scoop and Scales. Also my wife's family used to make soap in Syria so we already had the skills we needed. To make soap we have to buy olive oil, sodium hydroxide and fragrances. The fragrances include avocado, lemon, coconut and chocolate. The soap is very good for the skin and smells very nice. We mix together the lye (sodium hydroxide) solution, then warm it gradually and add the oil and fragrances. Then we pour it into moulds and leave it to set.

Then I also started to make candles with moulds, but the wax melted too quickly when we lit the wick. So now I make candles in small pots or glasses which make very good presents.





Viktor – playing football

I like playing football because it is the game of millions. I like to watch and to play. I have been playing for many years and enjoy an exciting game. I play in South Park every week on Saturday and Sunday. All you need is a ball, boots, T-shirt and people to play. My dream team is my family – my son, daughter and wife.



Members of the Tuesday Conversation Class





Fruit Compote Recipe from Oksana Padovana

3 litres water

2/3 apples and/or pears

2/3 Oranges

½ to 1 lemon (optional)

2/3 Tablespoons of sugar

Other fruit such as plums, grapes and soft fruit can be used.

Add more water if necessary.

You can experiment or adjust the ingredients according to your taste.

Method

Slice all the ingredients into a big pan. Add sugar. Bring to the boil and simmer for approximately 10 minutes until the fruit is soft but not liquidised.

Let it cool down.

Put it in a jug in the fridge.

Drain excess water off the fruit. It makes a refreshing drink.



Ukraine Fundraiser Piano Recital in Congleton from World Renowned Pianist



Over £900:00 was raised on Sunday afternoon, 20th October 2024 at All Saints Congleton, St Peter's Church. In this Grade 1 listed Georgian Church, world renowned solo pianist, Margaret Fingerhut thrilled and delighted all present with a 'Piano Portrait' of Ukrainian composers, including sparkling late Romantic gems by Bortkiewicz, Barvinsky and Revutsky. We were also privileged to Preludes by Lyatoshinsky, Nocterne Fantasia Op. 4 by Kosenco and a lighter Dumka-Shumka Rhapsody No 2 by Lysenko which had all there tapping their feet as a finale to a truly mesmerising afternoon.

Margaret was London born of Ukraine and Polish heritage and has led a distinguished career that has taken her around the world. As a concerto soloist, she has appeared with all of the major UK orchestras in venues such as The Royal Festival Hall, Royal Albert Hall and The Barbican. She is also often heard on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and many other radio stations around the world.

More recently Margaret has become increasingly involved in using the power of music to raise money for charitable causes. In 2019 she undertook a major recital tour with a special programme of words and music across the UK called, **'Far From The Home I Love'** to raise money for refugees and asylum seekers. In 2022 she collaborated with a young Ukrainian film maker to produce a powerful video which raised money for emergency vehicles in Ukraine. Margaret was awarded an MBE in the 2024 New Year's Honours List in recognition of her services to music and charitable fundraising. She was awarded an Honourary Fellowship at the Birmingham Conservatoire in 2015.

Following the Finale, Congleton Town Major, Kay Wesley heartily thanked Margaret for her wonderful performance and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Vic Brown (CAUSN & Congleton Radio Contributor) introduced us to one of our young Ukrainian students, Zakhar who expressed how important the weekly English lessons have been to him in helping to master the English Language and open up a much wider scope of career opportunities that he would never before have had. There was an additional retiring collection to support the continuation of these weekly English Lessons, for adults and children alike.

Proceeds from the recital will go to funding ambulances for Ukraine through Margaret's Just Giving page for British-Ukraine Aid. £300:00 of the raise money will go to support English

Speaking lessons through CAUSN (Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network), for the local Ukraine community.

Thanks was also given to 3 of our Ukraine ladies, Maryna, Yuliia and Natasha, who baked tasty cakes and biscuits for after the performance and to the All Saints St Peter's Church team who provided drinks and organised the whole event.



The mayor, Kay Wesley, Margaret Fingerhut, Vic Brown and Zakhar

One of our new Afghan families.



The family is very happy to be in Macclesfield. They find the people very friendly. Where they live is near to shops. They also like to go by bus to the town centre and go to the library and go shopping. They enjoyed their visit to the Conversation Café and One Project.

Our family from the Chagos Islands.



This family is also very happy to be in Macclesfield. They say they have met lovely people – especially those from Refugees Welcome!! They find Macclesfield a very caring community and they feel at home very quickly. The children are at All Hallows College and Puss Bank School and they have been made to feel very welcome.



And again, a heartfelt message of thanks to everyone!

You can support our work by setting up a standing order for a regular monthly donation - £5/10/20 or whatever you would like to give (see next page).

This will go directly towards:

- Supporting ESOL training for all the refugees who need it.
- Insurance for volunteers working with families
- Professional help to select, train, deploy and oversee volunteers.
- One-off needs – for example extra equipment required when a family sets up home.

Your payment should be made to:
ACCOUNT NAME: Refugees Welcome
SORT CODE: 01-05-41
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 45946426
REFERENCE: BOUNDLESS
Please make sure that your name is clearly written on your BACS payment.

Go to www.refugeeswelcome.co.uk for more details or email refugeescheshireeast@gmail.com

Please send donations / standing order mandates to:

Alan Brown (Treasurer), Refugees Welcome, 13 Lea Drive, NANTWICH CW5 5JS

Refugees Welcome, c/o Macclesfield Methodist Church, Westminster Road, Macclesfield, SK10 1BX

Many, many thanks for your support.

All the trustees of Refugees Welcome Cheshire East



Data Protection Refugees Welcome is committed to protecting your privacy and will process your personal data in accordance with current Data Protection legislation. Refugees Welcome collects information to keep in touch with you and supply you with information relating to our work. A full data privacy statement for financial donors is available from Refugees Welcome on request.





Standing Order Mandate. Registered Charity Number 1169909

Instructions to your Bank Manager.

Name of your bank. _____

Branch Address. _____

Town/City. _____ Post Code. _____

Please pay to Refugees Welcome

Sort Code: 01-05-41

Account number: 45946426

The sum of £_____ (in numbers) £_____ (In words)
On the ____/____/____ and each ☐ week ☐ month ☐ year

Until further notice and debit my account accordingly.

Name of account to be debited: _____

Sort Code ____-____-____ Account Number _____

Signature _____

Date _____

My Details

Title:_____ **Forename:**_____ **Surname:**_____

Address:_____

Postcode:_____

Email address:_____

Mobile number:_____

Tick here to boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you give.

giftaid it

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box.

☐


I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I might make in the future or have made in the past four years to Refugees Welcome.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is required to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

Please notify Refugees Welcome if You:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient income/capital gains tax.
- If you pay Income tax at higher or additional rate and want to receive additional tax relief must include all donations on Self-Assessment Tax form to adjust tax code.



Some more information about how we operate.

Refugees Welcome Cheshire East started more than 9 years ago, when the Syrian war was at its height. Syrian people were seeking refuge from their war and were living in camps in neighbouring Lebanon. The British government agreed to take a number of vulnerable families under the VPRS (Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme). 5 Syrian families were welcomed to Cheshire East early in 2017. Two further Syrian families have settled in Cheshire East more recently under Community sponsorship schemes and another Syrian family has joined us more recently.

More than three years ago, the Taliban dramatically took over Afghanistan, making life extremely difficult and dangerous for people who had worked in any capacity with UK or US institutions. Many hundreds of people had to leave Afghanistan very quickly. Afghan refugees have been welcomed to the UK under schemes such as the ARAP (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy) and the ACRS (Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme). For the past 3 years 5 Afghan families have lived in permanent accommodation and many more have lived in temporary accommodation locally. Recently 2 more Afghan families have come to our local area.

The invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022 meant that huge numbers of Ukrainians became refugees. Many Ukrainians are living in Cheshire East.

So.... Who are the people who work for Refugees Welcome?

7 of us are trustees of the charity. That means we run the charity. We make the decisions about policy, activities, finance and how the whole charity operates

We have meetings, along with our treasurer (a very important person!) approximately every 6 weeks. All of us are retired (among us are a GP, a psychotherapist, a counsellor, two teachers, a Chartered Engineer, a person, who worked in banking and one who is a very experienced business man). We all work in a voluntary capacity. We work closely with a team from Cheshire East, although we no longer have a contract with them. We have to report on our activities to the Charity Commission every year.

There are about 50 volunteers who work directly with the refugee families in a wide range of supporting roles. The volunteers also help man the conversation cafés and assist at the ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) classes. Our website is run by one of our volunteers. We are pleased to welcome several of the Ukrainians as new volunteers. The only person who is in a paid job with our organisation is an employee of CVS (Council for Voluntary Services).

We are fortunate enough to be able to work with other organisations in Cheshire East, who are supporting refugees.

We welcome more volunteers and trustees. Please contact us through our website, if you are interested in working with us. We would especially welcome someone who would like to work on the next edition of Boundless!

Nicky Campbell (Chair of trustees)

Registered Charity 1169909