

Boundless



The Newsletter for Refugees Welcome, Cheshire East June 2023

A QUICK UPDATE

Refugees Welcome, Cheshire East, is continuing to support Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, who live in our area. Our volunteers support Syrian and Afghan families in their homes. Many of our Ukrainian families are now moving into their own homes. 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 three 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](#). You can also register on the government website [here](#).

In this edition we have articles about our local refugee families, how they are settling and how we support them. The ESOL group have written about celebrations they enjoy. There are articles by a young Ukrainian about how he is settling in Macclesfield and a special presentation by an Afghan family about their life here in the UK. We also have articles about the Ukrainian folk choir and a visit to a Refugee Settlement in Georgia.



Registered Charity Number 1169909

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.



Thank you.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you – to Reverend Helen Byrne. Almost 8 years ago Helen put a message in the notices at the Methodist Church in Macclesfield. It was at the time when Syrian refugees were making headlines because they were having to leave conflict in Syria. Many of them fled to Lebanon and then many more tried to cross the Mediterranean Sea in small boats.

Helen's notice was to see whether there were people in Macclesfield who would be willing to welcome and care for Syrian refugee families. A group of people started meeting and became the core of Refugees Welcome Cheshire East.

Helen led the group initially and with a few other people did all the ground work on which the current trustees have been able to build. She stepped down as chair of trustees in 2019 but has keenly followed our progress since then.

After 10 years in Macclesfield the time has come for Helen and her family to move on. She will leave Macclesfield in August to take up a new post in Truro, Cornwall. All of us at Refugees Welcome would like to say "Thank you, Helen" with all our hearts. We hope your "heart of gold" will find new outlets in the far south west.

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GRACIAS
THANK YOU
ありがとうございます MERCI
DANKE धन्यवाद
شُكراً OBRIGADO

Patience.

Quality of life.

Refugees Welcome.

Special treatment in the neighbourhood, Refugees Welcome and the Council. Smiley faces in Macclesfield.



Time management. Teaching assistant ambition closer.

Umbrellas all the time.



Vehicle insurance on its way for plenty of practice.



Watching the children growing happily, confidently and skilfully.

X-ray for the teeth.

Years passed as minutes.

Zargar means "Goldsmith" reviving the old connections in so many ways.

Refugee Settlement Visit.



A few weeks ago, I was fortunate enough to visit the Tserovani Refugee settlement 20 minutes' drive from Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia. The settlement of more than 2000 homes was built in 2008 to house approximately 8000 refugees from South Ossetia during the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation. It is a purpose built settlement designed to give families basic shelter, services and transport infrastructure.



While I was there, I took part in a workshop making and training people to make enamel jewellery. This is a social enterprise offering training and employment to displaced people. Ana Akhlouri, project manager of the enterprise, wrote the following for Boundless:



Background:

As a result of the Russian-Georgian war in 2008, 26 thousand people became internally displaced persons, (IDPs) and most of them continued to live in settlements for internally displaced persons created after the war in the regions of Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Shida Kartli. The population suffered very heavy material and moral damage. Every year after the war, various types of social or material assistance was provided, but even after 14 years, the majority of the population is faced with the problem of employment and economic stability.

The Mtskheta-Mtianeti Regional Hub organization, with all its current programs and projects, supports the solution and strengthening of the problems of displaced and war-affected people, at the same time it covers the region where it sees the problem of civic engagement, civic participation in political processes. and access to non-formal youth education.

In 2012 Mtskheta-Mtianeti Regional Hub established Social Enterprise Ikorta. The organization knew the local community well, worked on existing problems and saw that unemployment was the main problem. Especially in the conditions that the displaced people had to live in a completely different reality, to adapt to the new environment. In an environment where most of them could not use their existing knowledge and experience, they would need to look for different job opportunities.

The workshop started its activities with a grant of 700 euros. We bought a stove, a small amount of silver material and enamel paints, and four IDP women learned the technique of cloisonné enamel. These 4 women then became teachers for other displaced women and youth. In total, more than 100 young people have been trained in this technique.

The women who started working with us were not familiar with this technology of creating jewellery, their profession was often not related to art at all, but Ikorta gave them the opportunity to learn a new profession and have an independent source of income.

After the Covid crisis Ikorta employs 9 women, works with two travel agencies, has 3 partner shops in Tbilisi and future plans are to increase the number of employees and build the space for meetings and presentations.

Goal of Social Enterprise

- *Promote the technique of traditional Georgian craft.*
- *Employ women refugees and youth.*
- *Reinvest revenues into implementing the mission of Organization.*

Product/Service of Social Enterprise

Ikorta offers its customers myriad of items created through the technique of traditional Georgian craft:

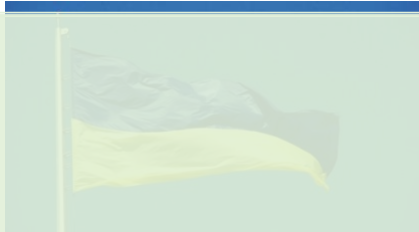
- Rings
- Earrings
- Necklace
- Brooch
- Bracelets
- *The SE also works on corporate order.*
- *Workshops, where participants can make their own jewellery, but also learn more about 2008 August WAR*



The enamelled elephant I made in the jewellery workshop. Blue and yellow for the flag of Ukraine and dark green to represent the Muslim refugees in Cheshire East. (Nicky Campbell)

Celebrations.

The people who attend the Tuesday ESOL class at the Methodist Church in Macclesfield have been writing about their favourite Festivals and Celebrations.



Ramadan is 30 days when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. After sunset they can eat and drink and they pray.

After Ramadan is Eid, when they will have a big party for the family. Children are given money and they make many sweets.

Mohanned, Amar, Kamal and Nadia

In Ukraine people celebrate City day. Different cities celebrate on different days.

I am from Irpin. City Day is celebrated annually on the second Saturday of September by all the inhabitants.



Roman

I live in the Ukrainian city of Kiev. City day in Kiev is May 30th. On the day there is a big party with food, drink, dancing and flower festivals. People dress in national costume. The children play games, eat cupcakes and drink juice. In the evening there are fireworks.



Sergii Gudetskii

We have a big festival called City Day. Our city is Kharkiv. City Day is 23rd August. Usually many people with children, even babies, go outside from morning to night. They visit the parks, zoo and square. I want to point out that Kharkiv has the biggest square in Europe, called Independence Square.



There are many food stalls and different events in the square. Famous bands also arrive. All the people smile and have fun. They take pictures and dance. There are different activities for all the family, of course. There are very beautiful fireworks. On the next day Ukraine celebrates Independence Day, so our celebrating is continued. Everyone has a bank holiday.

Irina and Serhii

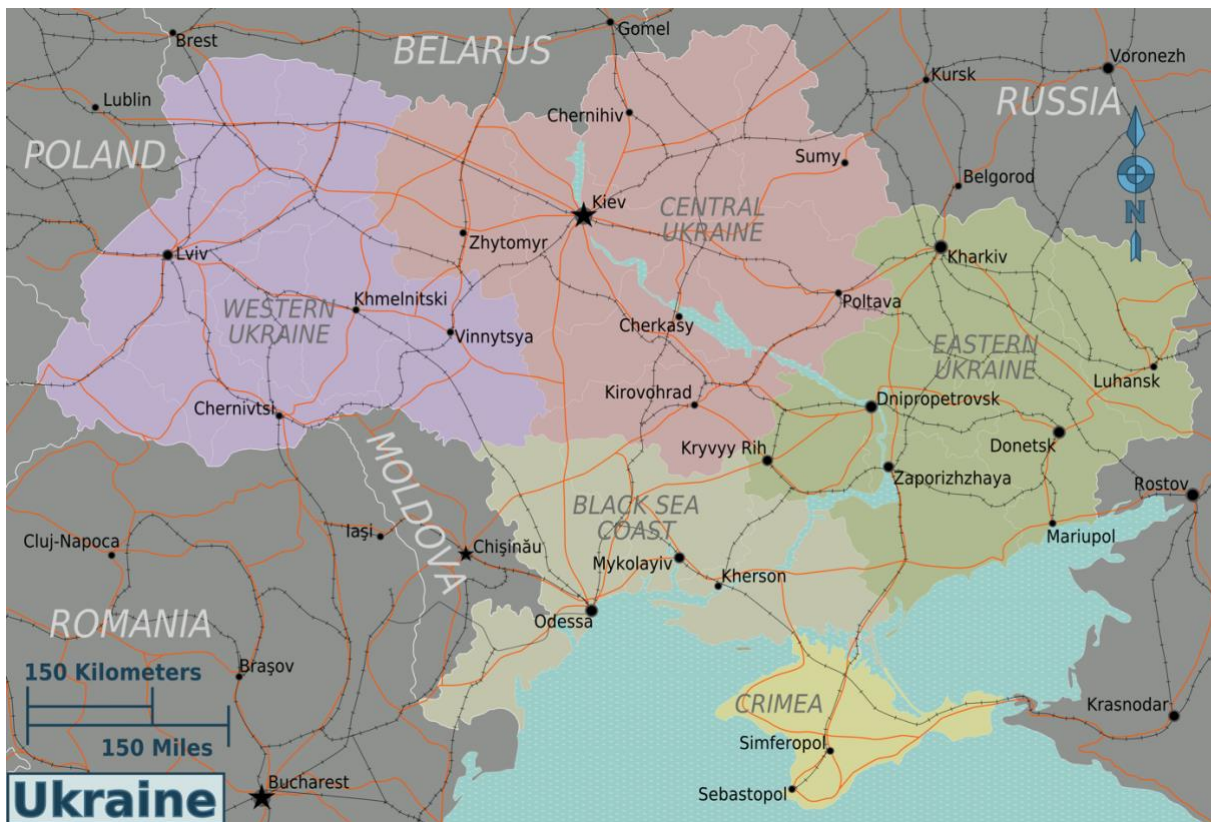
In Ukraine some people celebrate Easter Day. They are happy because Jesus Christ is risen.



I like Victory Day on May 9th, but Ukraine has stopped celebrating this day.

Larysa

New life in Macclesfield.



We came from Ukraine. Our city of Kharkiv is located in the east, it is 40 km from Russia. And this is a very dangerous area since the beginning of the war. We have been in England for almost 9 months now. In our opinion, this is a very wonderful country. We visited a lot of famous places that amazed with their beauty and history. I feel great here because I've been studying English for a while and I can easily communicate with people. But my mother does not know English very well and because of this she is learning it now. She also works and goes to college every week for English lessons. I go to college and made a lot of new friends there: they are very kind. From them I learn a lot about the traditions and customs of England. I also worked in a local shop for a bit, it was a good experience to understand the English more. My sister goes to school and has also made many new friends. She also takes violin lessons with an English teacher and sometimes performs at charity concerts. All the people we met were very kind and generous to our family. I believe that the good that you give will return to you with greater power. I really want everyone who helped the Ukrainians to never feel the war. Every Saturday we go to St. Michael's Church. There we talk about different topics and people from the local charity help us with any problem we have. Thank you for everything you do, you people with kind hearts!

Yaroslav Boiko.



Ukrainian Folk Choir.

The Ukrainian Folk Choir, Dzhyva, has been busy gracing audiences with the soulful sound of Ukraine. They put on a charming performance at Wincle Fete, surrounded by a beautiful backdrop of rolling hills. The group performed songs from various regions of Ukraine to showcase the different styles of songs across the country.

The group also participated in Barnaby Parade, showcasing traditional Ukrainian culture and proudly carrying Ukrainian flags through the streets of Macclesfield and singing songs all throughout. There was even a wild goat spotted teasing the onlookers! Dzhyva has more upcoming performances this summer including the Treacle Market on June 25th and Eaton Carnival on July 8th.





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 _____ Postcode _____

Please pay to Refugees Welcome

Sort Code 01 05 41 Account Number 45946426

The sum of £ (in figures) (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 _____ First Name _____
Surname _____
Home Address _____
Postcode _____ Date _____
Email Address _____

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



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

- I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I 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 needed 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 tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.



Some more information about how we operate.

Refugees Welcome Cheshire East started nearly 8 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.

15 months 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 12 months 5 Afghan have lived in permanent accommodation and many more have lived in temporary accommodation locally.

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?

8 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 is run. 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 has played a number of roles in the NHS) .We all work in a voluntary capacity. We work closely with a team from Cheshire East, whom we meet every 2 weeks. We have to report on our activities to the Charity Commission every year.

There are about 60 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 people who are in paid jobs with our organisation are an employee of CVS (Council for Voluntary Services) and the people who are professional ESOL teachers, who lead the ESOL teaching.

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 Number 1169909

