



# WYCOMBE REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

A time of gifts  
Getting young learners online

Thank you to our supporters

Volunteer spotlight

Supermarket vouchers

## LATEST NEWS

### Christmas kindness

Godstowe School collected and wrapped over 350 Christmas presents to be given to the 70 or so refugee and asylum-seeking children supported by Wycombe Refugee Partnership. Huge thanks are due to them – and especially to teacher Rosie Lake, who organised it all, despite having the school shut down because of Covid partway through the operation!

More lovely generosity came from Wycombe High School, where pupils made up shoe-boxes of gifts, some of them for our refugee and asylum-seeking children and some for children at Saunderton Lodge. Especial thanks to Saffa Rais, the school's Head of Charities, who organised and delivered the boxes.

The children who received the presents were absolutely thrilled!



Sue Butler (left) of WRP receives sacks of presents from Rosie Lake of Godstowe School

### Their own devices



With lessons and everything else happening online, refugee and asylum-seeking children have found themselves even more disadvantaged if they don't have laptops, tablets or broadband. We have therefore had a drive to ensure that every family in our care has internet access. Thanks to our generous funders, we have been able to provide 13 new laptops, 17 new tablets and several more used/refurbished devices. We have also helped some families who were struggling with the cost of broadband.

Photo by Emma Matthews Digital Content Production on Unsplash

### Help with food

After eight months of delivering food twice a week, we decided with the latest lockdown that going to people's houses was putting volunteers and beneficiaries at unnecessary risk, so we have been issuing modest supermarket gift-cards instead. We'd like to be able to afford to increase the amount, and are currently applying for funding to enable us to do that.

“We are all so excited that you gifted us through the Refugee Partnership an iPad. It's such a precious gift and we are all very much grateful.”

## THANK YOU!

We are hugely grateful to all the following bodies and groups for making our work possible.

*Grants enabling our Covid impacted Community Response came from:*

Heart of Bucks Coronavirus Response Appeal

Buckinghamshire Councillors' Crisis Fund

Rothschild Foundation

John Lewis & Partners

Marlow Refugee Action

Barrow Cadbury Trust Community Fund

*We received grants enabling educational IT connectivity for the asylum seeking and refugee families from:*

Nationwide Community Fund

John Lewis & Partners

Barrow Cadbury Trust Community Fund

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### A new teaching challenge

I was nearing the point when I could retire from a comfortable though exhausting life teaching Italian and French in a North London girls' school when my wife and I had dinner with an old university friend and her husband in Islington. How were they spending their time these days?

He, an architect, was doing some part-time work and driving vans for the Felix Project in London while she, a fellow linguist and now QC, was finding time to teach English to refugees.

When I retired, I reviewed my commitments. I continue to run a website for Italian teachers and I remain on the committee of the Independent Schools Modern Languages Association. In Chalfont St Giles where I live, I signed up to help at Milton's Cottage and recently joined the Literary Festival committee. However, the idea of teaching English to refugees wouldn't go away so I looked around and very soon lighted on the Wycombe Refugee Partnership.

By the time I had been cleared by the DBS we were locked down and an operation meant I couldn't drive for a while, but Zoom came to the rescue. For nearly six months now I have twice a week been teaching (remotely) two delightful gentlemen with quite different levels of English, quite different origins, characters and professional backgrounds but who share a quality that not all my former pupils possessed, a burning desire to master the language.

Yet that has also presented new challenges for an old teaching hack. The last time I had consciously to think about English grammar was back in Paris in the 1970s giving private lessons to reluctant teenagers to top up my salary as a language assistant and I soon discovered that the terminology of my old Quirk's University Grammar of English has been superseded in trendy modern works. But decades of experience do help and I love making up my own materials or adapting what is available to appeal to my students. It is so rewarding to see them respond with enthusiasm and make progress, even if they don't always do their homework!

Peter Langdale

“I value the wonderful role that you have played in providing assistance to me, my family and my children – thank you very much! May God protect you and protect your great country Britain.”



“Many, many thanks. We received a new laptop. My daughter is so happy, thank you so much.”

## Contact us



[www.wycombe-refugees.org](http://www.wycombe-refugees.org)



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Refugees Welcome in Wycombe

