

SUMMER NEWS

Our volunteer run organisation provides friendship and assistance to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and non EEC migrants with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

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WTRRP.ORG.UK



WTTRP IS OBJECTING!

WTTRP has made an urgent plea to the Children's Social Service Department of Hertfordshire to ask them to reconsider their recent decision to reduce their subsistence allowances to families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

From June 2016 Herts, Social Services have reduced individual child payments to £5 per week for the second and subsequent child (first child receives £52.96). As a result we are already seeing significant further hardship to families who are already destitute (as the parents receive no other money and are not allowed to earn).

The cost of raising a child is soaring – a balanced diet and the other needs of growing children are estimated to cost nearer £5 per day! So to prevent child neglect through food poverty occurring with the families under our watch, WTTRP is protesting to the Head of Safeguarding about this draconian step, even though we understand (but are confirming) that it is legal.

£5 per week* will need to be super elastic to cover just the school essentials:

FOOD (no free school meals after infant school i.e. children aged 7 years or more)

SCHOOL CLOTHES (including shoes, trainers, PE kit

ITEMS (text books, equipment)

TRIPS/OUTINGS (no pupil premium for our NRPF families)

TRANSPORT (no extra travel allowances for re-accommodated families unable to move their child to local schools in the short term)

**the sum paid by social services to second and subsequent children*

BRAND NEW BANNERS UNVEILED

Two pristine new banners had their first outing at the Garden Party. They have taken a while to design but in our view embody good substance and style.

WTTRP is very thankful indeed to the generosity of our councillors Anne Rindl and George Derbyshire, who both donated money from their own Community budgets to fund them.

These all-weather vinyl banners will be invaluable for their all year round use.



EVEN MORE ROOM FOR OUR DROP-IN SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S

Three months ago our Drop-In relocated to a new space at St John's Parish Rooms in Estcourt Road. This building, which has previously been let to other organisations, has now been taken back and refurbished by St John's Church for their own use and for ours.

WTRRP is now able to store our food parcels in one of the rooms as they await collection by our clients. A second room is used by the Drop-In on Tuesdays and Fridays, and by one of our ESOL classes on a Wednesday. Yet another room is used by the Tuesday ESOL class; and there is still a fourth one available to us when needed. Altogether wonderful facilities for our work!

Our Drop-In sessions have become the hub and safe haven for our new and existing clients who are dependent upon us being there for them every Tuesday or Friday morning. It has been great to welcome several new volunteers in recent months, to assist with the Drop-In and to help us support the continual rise in demand for our services.

At the same time, we have sadly had to say farewell to a number of our more experienced volunteers, who have stepped down either temporarily or for good after a significant period of invaluable service.

So if you would like to explore volunteering opportunities with us, and are able to commit to the Drop-In

during daytime hours of 11 am to 1 pm on a Tuesday or Friday, then please contact us via our website www.wtrrp.org.uk

WTRRP PUTS DOWN ROOTS AT CHESLYN GARDENS

Cheslyn Gardens remains a fantastic venue for our annual Garden Party as it is a great spot to relax. If you fancy getting away from the hustle and bustle of vibrant Watford, the garden is bursting with stunning plants that frame the secluded grounds, not forgetting the koi carp pond and even a small aviary. This small piece of paradise never fails to impress.

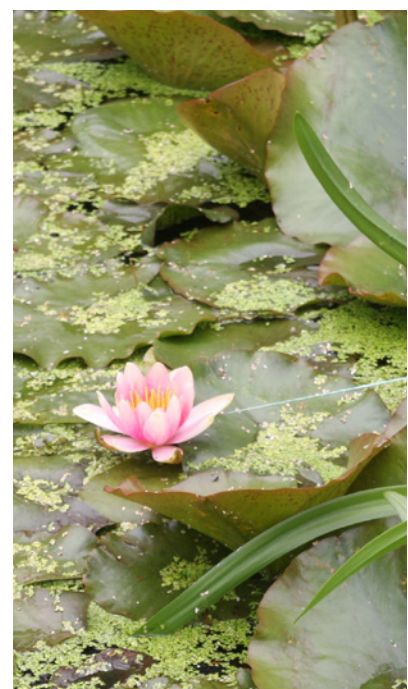
Our annual Garden Party brought out as usual the fine weather – well almost! Greyish clouds and a warmish air was welcomed after many days (weeks, even) of damp and miserable conditions. Luckily plenty of sunny smiles and laughter chased away the overcast sky.



Supporters, clients and volunteers had the chance to spend time together, enabling supporters to connect directly with WTRRP clients, hearing about their situations first hand and also meeting the diverse community of volunteers who make up the WTRRP organisation.

The kids had fun meeting up with old friends and making new as they got stuck in to craft activities and having an eventful time playing games including a treasure hunt. Not surprising they too all worked up an appetite! So a lot of squash, tea, savouries, cakes, buns and of course plenty of those infamous cream teas with classic scones were devoured. All captured as you can see on camera.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event to make it another memorable occasion. Please do come and experience our Garden Party next year especially if you are into cream teas and plants – a winning combination!





INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT, SHARING INFORMATION IS MORE IMPORTANT!

WTRRP has taken another step up in cultivating its knowledge sharing culture to support our volunteers who stand alongside our clients. In June, our volunteer co-ordinator Marie-Jo along with our other experienced volunteers launched two training days aimed at spreading knowledge through practical experiences. Training means different things to different people and there are many ways that people learn. So we asked one of our new volunteers Peter Howard to summarise his experience of these two training sessions, here are his comments:

“I recently joined WTRRP as a volunteer. As it turned out my joining coincided with two new educational half-day Training Sessions chaired by our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Marie-Jo Churchill and kindly hosted by Home Start in Watford. I found the format was new and different especially when some of WTRRP’s very experienced volunteers shared their knowledge with newer recruits.

The presenters told personal stories to reveal the different ways WTRRP helps its clients, whilst illustrating how WTRRP’s pursues its philosophy of befriending and empathising rather than advising and controlling.

These down-to-earth sessions gave a clear picture of the extent of the immeasurable difficulties invariably faced by migrants, asylum seekers and refugees – in being granted leave to remain, in being housed, in being permitted to work or to claim benefits, in finding a job or a school through to the often adverse treatment they receive from the statutory authorities, such as the Home Office, Social Services and the Job Centre.

This emphasis on learning from each other, using up to the minute practical information, and the interaction between the fifteen or so participants with the speakers, made the training real and specific for those volunteering with WTRRP than other ways of learning.

The training also gave me greater insight into what it must really be like to be a refugee in this country, and set me on my way to being able to help and welcome people who find themselves arriving here in precarious and frightening situations.”

HARVEST – HELP US STOCK UP

We have reached that time of year again when Harvest campaigns are being planned and starting to get underway.

This Harvest contribution continues to make a huge difference in replenishing our stocks every year, ahead of the winter months. Our list of clients reliant on food parcels continues to grow – it was this trend which resulted last year in WTRRP moving to work alongside the Watford Foodbank where we now store our food contributions and do our packing.

Importantly we still have an ongoing need to stock up the Foodbank stores, especially with:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| – Sugar | – Washing Gel |
| – Fruit Juice | – Shampoo |
| – Rice & other tinned puddings | – Toiletries |
| – Tinned tomatoes | – Nappies |
| – Long Life Milk | – Coffee |
| – Cereals | – Tinned Meat |
| – Clothes | – Tinned Vegetables |
| | – Pasta Sauce |

(but please no baked beans, soup or dried / tinned pulses) to support our continuing need to provide regular food parcels to our WTRRP clients.

THANK YOU!



OUR SUPPORTERS & HOW YOU CAN GIVE

We can never thank our supporters enough for the donations we receive - they are vital in fulfilling our mission in supporting our clients. We are equally appreciative of all the fundraisers undertaking different activities, raising not just funds but also awareness of the plight of our clients.

● We always relish attending Community and Church fetes, festivals and similar special events to foster extra support. Only recently, Laily Samadi, one of our clients and now also a volunteer, cut the ribbon to officially open the Church Fete at St Lawrence's Abbots Langley. Laily has recently been reunited with her husband and three children after two painful years apart when she fled from Afghanistan: she has only recently won asylum here for her and the family.

● The sell-out concert at the Attico Art Centre mentioned in our Spring newsletter raised a magnificent £922 for WTRRP. Everyone was well and truly entertained - so many thanks to all who supported this event and especially so to Attico Art Centre café in town and the bands Noisy Neighbours, Ruby & the Wolfmen, Mel Mack & Phil Plested who all gave their services for free.

● For Refugee week in June, Chris Persaud our fundraising co-ordinator, walked the Chiltern Way - 145 miles in 7 days. It is often said that it is the journey that is important not the destination but Chris might think differently as



1 Laily & family
2 Attico concert

he endured driving rain and gusty winds most days and also suffered a twisted ankle! But despite these setbacks and not being able to walk on water, Chris managed to reach his destination and he raised a well-earned £520 for WTRRP into the bargain. A great achievement Chris!

● It seems as if walking is a popular pursuit amongst WTRRP volunteers as another volunteer, Manju Anand has signed up with a friend to do the 26 mile Trekathon through London for WTRRP on 24th September. If you would like to sponsor Manju or just give on line to WTRRP then please go to www.mydonate.bt.com and search for Watford Refugees. Apparently the 26.2 miles is roughly the same as walking around a football pitch 121 times - stroll on Manju!

STANDING ORDER (FOR SINGLE PAYMENT) INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete all sections (A, B, C and D). Then return this form to **The Treasurer, WTRRP, PO Box 2474, Watford WD18 1XT**. You can also make donations by cheque, payable to **Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership**, to the same address.

SECTION A*

**not needed for online banking SO's*

To the manager

.....Bank plc

Bank Address

.....

.....

POSTCODE

Please pay to Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership Lloyds TSB Bank plc, Edgware Branch, P O Box 1000, BX1 1L
Sort code 30-98-07 Account 03770168

SECTION B

The sum of (figures)
.....(words)

Commencing the Day of.....20....

And the same sum *annually / *quarterly

/ *monthly until *notified / 20.....
(*delete as appropriate)

This order cancels all existing standing orders in favour of The Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership

Signed

Date.....

SECTION C

My Address

.....

.....

Postcode

My Account name

Sort code

Account number

SECTION D

Please complete if you are a UK taxpayer

I am a UK taxpayer and would like all my donations to Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given

Signed

Date

IF YOU USE ONLINE BANKING PLEASE ALSO SET UP YOUR STANDING ORDER ONLINE AND TICK HERE TO CONFIRM YOU HAVE DONE SO