

Welcome to Newsletter number 6 - back after a long absence. We've been busy! Read on ... page 1 for Welcome to the Family! page 2 for Malvern Open Homes and page 3 for a plea for fundraisers, news of a generous donation and Important information for volunteers.

Welcome to the family!

We were delighted to welcome a refugee family to Malvern in late June. Everything was in place – the house was clean, the beds were made and there was a meal in the oven. More importantly, there were many volunteers ready and willing to offer their support. We needed many hours of interpreter time over the first few weeks to help with explanations about how things worked, and for example registering for a bank account.

The family is settling in well, with the children registered at the school of their choice, for healthcare with GP and Dentist, with job centre for eventual employment, receiving regular visits, attending their church and getting excellent ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) input as they continue to explore their local community.

A lot in a few short weeks since their arrival!

Also we are now working on the possibility of receiving further families, both through a second application as Community Sponsors and through the County Council, which has agreed to receive 50 further refugees this year, following the 50 who were resettled across Redditch, Wyre Forest and Worcester in 2016/17. This means we can grow our cluster of families, which has always been our aim.

There is much to be done and the run-in to Christmas will be busy!





Malvern Welcomes with Worcestershire County Council and the Home Office - meeting over lunch to review the family's first few weeks.

MALVERN OPEN HOMES

Do you have a spare room that you could offer to a refugee or asylum seeker who is need of short term accommodation?

Malvern Open Homes (MOH) is a scheme run by Malvern Welcomes, working in partnership with the national organisation, Refugees at Home (www.refugeesathome.org) and other refugee support organisations. We offer temporary accommodation, free of charge, to refugees and asylum seekers who might otherwise become homeless. People often face hardship and accommodation problems at the point when they have been granted refugee status and have to leave the



asylum hostel, or if they are appealing against a decision.

Malvern Open Homes will not only seek to provide accommodation through this scheme, but also to provide a support network to hosts and guests, via the resources of Malvern Welcomes.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Sue Wolfendale (01684 562804).

