



Issue 013

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### Ruth Forecast and Sue Wolfendale, Volunteer Co-ordinators

# Situation in the Ukraine



We are all deeply concerned by what is happening in Ukraine and the suffering that is being inflicted on its people, causing millions to flee within the country and into bordering nations.

In response, the UK government has launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme, details of which can be found on the <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/> website, where the scheme is outlined as well as FAQs.

**There is now a Facebook site entitled Malvern Homes for Ukraine (MHfU).** It has much useful information, regularly updated. Membership is growing rapidly.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/malvernhomesforukraine>

If you are considering being a host you need to register as a 'sponsor' on the UK Gov. website. Making an initial registration does not commit you to anything, neither does it mean that the UK Gov will link you up with any potential guests. The local authorities i.e. Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills District Council will be responsible for both checking the accommodation you are offering (MHDC) and for safeguarding (WCC). Sponsors will be required to have a DBS check.

There are organisations being set up to create links between those offering a home and people from Ukraine. The following are suggested on the Malvern Homes for Ukraine site : Ukraine take Shelter, EU4UA, Oporto, Ukraine Space. The MHfU site may also flag up individuals or families.

As a sponsor you will need to work alongside any prospective guest for them to obtain a visa. Again the Facebook site has a link to a very useful article on the visa process.

Another route for offers of support and further information is via

## **Here2Help -Worcestershire County Council**

The Homes for Ukraine scheme is very much in its infancy and there remain uncertainties and questions as to how it will work. However it is clear that there are many people in Malvern who are offering to take people into their homes and to show the kindness of heart and generosity to those escaping conflict that we, in Malvern Welcomes, have seen.

**Welcome boxes:** Susanna Michael is running a scheme to fill shoeboxes with items to be given to people when they arrive. If you can help with this and would like further information she can be contacted on [susannamichael@aol.com](mailto:susannamichael@aol.com) or 07786 361086.

**Donations of items:** Malvern Rugby club is a hub for donations of items to go to Ukraine and surrounding countries. Details of the essential items that are on their list and their opening times can be found at <https://malvernrfc.rfu.club/>

**Financial donations:** There are a number of organisations receiving financial donations for Ukraine and the assistance of Ukrainian refugees.

Malvern Welcomes, as a totally voluntary organisation, has reluctantly decided that we cannot play an active role in the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We simply do not have the capacity to do this alongside maintaining our commitment to families already resettled in Malvern and those who are expected to arrive in the next months from the Middle East and Afghanistan.

However, with our experience of supporting and welcoming families to Malvern, we will do all we can to assist any Ukrainian families or individuals who arrive in this area and we will certainly aim to share as much of that expertise and other relevant advice as we can for potential hosts through our website as soon as possible. <https://www.malvernwelcomes.org/>

Thank you for your understanding.

**The 'Malvern Welcomes' Team**

## Malvern Welcomes ESOL Programme



Malvern Welcomes boasts an excellent team of generous experienced and qualified tutors who offer not just English lessons but regular friendly interaction with some of the most motivated and determined individuals you could meet. These learners have moved Heaven and Earth to bring their children and families to safety and are absolutely committed to learning English.

Anyone who has learnt another language will appreciate how challenging this can be. There are several potential barriers, including the quality and quantity of previous educational experience and opportunities, self-belief, social disposition and cultural values regarding risk taking. Meanwhile, exposure to traumatic events is known to have a significant impact on brain mechanisms for language learning. Given the many barriers to learning another language, the progress each resettled learner has made is remarkable and a further testament to their determination to do the very best for their families.

Whilst Malvern Welcomes is doing all it can to support resettled families to learn English, we also promote bilingualism, which is a natural state of being (more people in the world are bilingual or multilingual than are monolingual). We see it as vital that each home language is valued so that each adult and child remain connected to their extended family, their friends and their cultural heritage whilst, through English, they are creating connections with, and possibilities in, their new neighbourhood, community and host country.

It is the greatest privilege getting to know and working with such receptive learners and to witness how each is actively doing so much to become part of, and contribute to, the community we all share. I hope Malvern Welcomes can contribute, even if in a smaller way, to supporting more families who have suffered war, persecution and trauma because, as a community and as individuals, we are all the better for welcoming refugee families to Malvern.

**Sharon Baker, Malvern Welcomes ESOL Coordinator**

# Malvern Welcomes Membership Renewal

Thank you to all those who are members of Malvern Welcomes.

Your support has enabled us to bring new families to the Malvern Area and to continue our programme of support for resettled families in Malvern.



These are just a few of the ways in which your support helps families in Malvern.

- Providing an English programme which is delivered by our team of experienced and qualified volunteers. We know how vital it is for people arriving in the UK to become proficient in English as quickly as possible. This enables them to become part of our local community, to gain employment and to live independently.
- Supporting adults in seeking employment and assisting with funding for transport to courses and interviews.
- Facilitating the families in becoming involved in community activities.
- Helping adults to find volunteering opportunities.
- Assisting families when accessing medical care by supporting them at medical appointments when necessary.
- Arranging social events (lockdowns permitting!). These are always enjoyable and are very important to ensure that families feel included in the community.
- Awareness-raising and education. We give talks to schools and community groups.
- Offering support to the schools attended by resettled children.

All memberships run yearly from April 1st to make the renewal date easier to remember, and to align more easily with our finances.

To be a member, we ask for a minimum yearly subscription of:

- £10 adult,
- £5 aged 12-17 years inclusive
- £50 corporate membership.

Of course, if you wish to offer more, then we would be happy to receive it. You can pay by bank transfer, standing order or cheque. To pay by bank transfer or to set up a standing order use our bank details:

- Bank: Santander
- Account Name: Malvern Welcomes
- Account number: 09497294
- Sort code: 09-01-29

Please use your name as a reference if possible

To pay by cheque please send a cheque made payable to Malvern Welcomes to:

Malvern Welcomes  
c/o Sue Wolfendale, Books for Amnesty  
3 Edith Walk  
Great Malvern WR14 4QH

If you have joined in the last 3 months (i.e. since New Year), your membership has been extended until 1st April 2023. Feel free, however, to donate using the details above if you wish!

### **Gift Aid**

If you are a UK tax payer, we are able to boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. 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.

If you are a UK tax payer and you wish to allow us to claim the Gift Aid for your membership fees or donation, please send an email to:

[malvernwelcomes.membership@gmail.com](mailto:malvernwelcomes.membership@gmail.com)

with your name and address and please include the text "I wish to Gift Aid my donation of £x and any donations I make in the future to Malvern Welcomes."

If you have previously completed one of our paper Gift Aid forms, then there is no need to send an email.

**Thank you**

# Lunchbox Event at The Priory



In January, Malvern Welcomes was invited to give a presentation at a Lunchbox event at Malvern Priory. The talk was very well attended and the people in the audience were most focused. It was something of a challenge to decide which aspects should be highlighted in the thirty minute time-slot but I was able to give a general overview of the refugee situation and the work which we do. Some thoughtful questions were asked at the end.

It is most heartening to know that there is so much concern and interest in our community for the work of our organization. It reinforces the feeling that, as volunteers, we do not work in isolation, but rather with the endorsement of many in our area.

Donations of £210 were collected. We sincerely thank Malvern Priory for inviting us and for all of their support.

Please do contact us if you would like us to come and talk to your organization about matters relating to refugees and about the work which we do. We are always pleased to have the opportunity to do this.

Ruth Forecast, Volunteer Co-ordinator

## Little Amal

These are the accounts of two volunteers who went to welcome little Amal in Erdington

The impressive full story can be found online [https://www.walkwithamal.org/the-journey/?gclid=CjwKCAiApfeQBhAUEiwA7K\\_UH9YY\\_83TEWazhyMqXmILCpl0Bnrz66QFUNG2EZpKPIZRVVDdLejCVRoCkm4QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.walkwithamal.org/the-journey/?gclid=CjwKCAiApfeQBhAUEiwA7K_UH9YY_83TEWazhyMqXmILCpl0Bnrz66QFUNG2EZpKPIZRVVDdLejCVRoCkm4QAvD_BwE) and continues to inspire and inform.

### Little Amal - Big Mistake

I made a big mistake with Little Amal... Oh, I knew she was a giant puppet - who was walking from the Turkey-Syria border to the UK. She was created by Handspring Puppet Company to draw attention to the urgent needs of young refugees. She was coming to Birmingham. Brilliant.

So, I assumed that we would be welcoming *her*, that we would be introducing *her* to friends - and that we would be sharing *our* city with *her*... Things turned out differently.

On the day, I met up with friends in Birmingham. We'd not seen each other for months (except via zoom!). Arabic coffee seemed to be the order of the day - and we sat in the Autumn sunshine and talked about when we'd each first tasted cardamom.



We took a train to Erdington - not the smart city centre - and were met by the buzz (and drumming and singing) of community spirit(s). By chance, we met old friends; Clive (the puppet man) and we reminisced about the giant puppets that we had built together years ago - *Guy Fawkes, City Figures, Millennium Hero(in)es*.. Happy days! Thanks, Amal.

We met Tess (the dancer) and we remembered our work together - *Creative Maths* in the Special School, the unexpected poetry in that staff meeting, dancing in the sun... Happy days! Thanks, Amal.

We met Pete (the theatre guy) and talked of the first time his work took him to Korea, the hilarious night *inside* the dragon costume - and how he has a 'real job' now. Happy days! Thanks, Amal.

And Amal appeared. No fuss, no fanfare - but a cheeky peep around the corner of the shopping street. A shy retreat... and in she strode... and our hearts leapt. Our hearts leapt. She was such a big thing - yet she took care to pick the gifts from children, hold them close to see and give approval. Respect. Respect. Respect.

So, Little Amal - a stranger - had made *us* welcome. *She* had introduced *us* to friends. She showed *us* our city and our neighbourhood anew.

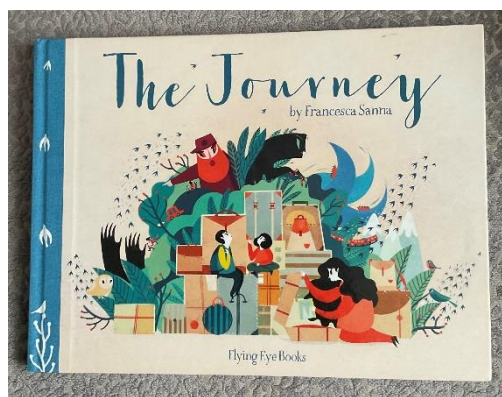
Thanks, Amal. You're welcome.

### **Jim Morris, volunteer**

Read Handspring Puppet Company's fascinating book:

<http://www.handspringpuppet.co.za/our-work/talks-and-publications/handspring-puppet-company-book/>

### **Meeting Little Amal in Erdington, Birmingham**



Those of you with experience of small children will know that planning an excursion via two trains to meet a giant puppet might be fraught with a mixture of feverish excitement (them) and potential stress (me). I desperately wanted to give my three and five year old grandsons the chance to be part of the Little Amal story which had impressed me for many months. For those of you that don't know, this splendid puppet of a nine year old Syrian girl in search of her mother had travelled from Turkey across many countries in Europe where she was welcomed by huge crowds and many celebrities along the way.

The remit was for different towns to find ways to make her feel welcome and to respond to the challenge using music, dance, art and anything else to create what was described as 'an artistic odyssey that showed something profound about ourselves, about how we live and about what we mean by home'. This excellent community project aimed to raise awareness of the plight of unaccompanied young refugees and how positive greetings would build solidarity and emphasise humanity.

So how did it pan out in Erdington, Birmingham? When we arrived clutching our home made welcome placards which had got a bit bashed about on the long journey, there was a very small crowd of people huddled on the High Street. We still had an hour to wait before the estimated arrival so killed a bit of time in a warm nearby coffee shop eating cake. From the window we could see that more people were arriving, so we needed to find a good spot. After travelling all this way I was a bit worried that we might

miss seeing very much. Fortunately, the colourful placards got us some attention from the organisers, so I was able to ask about the best vantage point.

We placed ourselves right at the end of the street next to some entertainers who were encouraging children to dance and join in with lively games. The five year old was a bit tentative but had a bit of a dance, whilst the three year old was getting distinctly fed up and decided to run across to the other side of the street! Cajoled with too many sweets and repeated descriptions of the glorious puppet, their enthusiasm was starting to wane and I was developing a headache. One last energetic promise of 'She's coming – I can hear her big feet tramping on the pavement!' fixed their attention and then at last her big head appeared peeping round building at the end of the road.

All I can say is that it was worth the long wait. The astonished expression on their little faces as she came nearer and nearer captured the specialness of the occasion. Even more memorable was that she made a beeline for their home made placards, took one of them in her massive hand and looked at it, then held it aloft! The three of us were completely over awed and I hope that they will always remember it.

As we travelled back on the train we talked a bit about what we thought of Little Amal, and whether we could have a go at making little puppets sometime. We also had a look at the beautiful book 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna as a way into talking about the plight of real refugees.

I am so glad that we managed to make such a special memory together and have commemorated it by making some dolls which now have pride of place in their bedroom.

**Karen Argent, volunteer**



## Open House on 3rd December 2021

It was such a relief to be able to fling open the doors (and windows); pull out blankets and wraps for outdoor seating and finally be able to get together and feel *something* like normal!

It was so very good to catch up again with friends and also to meet new arrivals and new volunteers. (I was busy in my head putting name labels from Zoom meetings to actual faces).

Ruth kindly set us up with hand-gels, wipes, napkins etc, etc; Lyn found blankets and warm wraps, Sue was an amazing 'tidy-upper' afterwards and people kindly brought biscuits, flowers, chocolates and mince pies. Thank you to everyone who came, in fact.

Raghad deserves the warmest thanks of all however: she so kindly made two truly delicious soups and she organised me for the flat breads and coffee cups. I have asked her for the soup recipes. *Please see below.* The top tip I took from this was to always roast the tomatoes first when making tomato soup. I've asked her to add her thoughts about the day too.

Truly, Raghad was in her element, being the host for the day, serving her soups and Arabic coffee and making sure everyone was feeling at home and comfortable. I am so very grateful to her.

We hope to have another bring-and-share picnic before too long, when the weather is warmer (and dry – it's tipping rain as I write this.)

**Jean Bryant, volunteer**

Raghad writes:

*It certainly was a lovely day for me, on 3rd December. I was very happy to help.*

*We always have a good time and support, when we meet as Malvern Welcomes. You are really good friends of ours and I'm pleased to share my soup recipes with you.*



**Soup recipes with thanks to Raghad**

**Tomato Soup**

*These are the ingredients for tomato soup and how you can make it.*

1 kilo tomatoes/2 medium onions/2 garlic cloves/basil/ salt.

1. Cut the tomatoes in half, sprinkle with black pepper and olive oil and put in the oven, for 30 minutes at 250 degrees.
2. After roasting the tomatoes, it is preferable to remove the peel from them.
3. Cut the onions and garlic into cubes and fry the onions a little before adding the garlic.
4. Add the tomatoes with half a tablespoon of tomato paste and mix all the ingredients together.
5. Add half a litre of water, salt as desired, leave to boil for 15 minutes.
6. Add the basil and puree until smooth.

## Lentil Soup

*These are the ingredients for lentil soup, and how you can make it.*

A cup of red lentils /a medium onion /a clove of garlic /a small carrot /a small potato.

1. Cut the vegetables into cubes.
2. Fry the onions in oil until their colour changes a little, add half a teaspoon of turmeric, then add in the garlic, carrots and finally the potatoes.
3. Wash the lentils well and put them with the vegetables, stir a little, then put boiling water to cover the lentils and vegetables. Add the stock cube and season with salt.
4. After it is cooked, you have to puree it and it's ready to eat.

## And some more favourite family recipes

### Al-Shakria

**with thanks to Ammouna**

*"My family and I have a favourite recipe*

*which is Al-Shakria."*



*In this recipe we need:-*

1 kilo yoghurt/ 1 kilo chicken/ 1 kilo rice/ 1/2 cup vermicelli/ 6 cups of water/ 2 tablespoons cornflour/ 1 teaspoon turmeric/ ¼ cup oil/ Salt/ Black pepper

1. Wash the chicken very well and put it in a bowl of water with one tablespoon vinegar and one tablespoon salt. Leave for half an hour.
2. Rinse well again and then boil it in fresh water until cooked (keep the water after).
3. Put the yoghurt in a pan with the cornflour and mix. Heat on the hob until it boils.
4. Add chicken and chicken water, turmeric and salt to the yoghurt.
5. Wash rice well and drain.
6. Heat oil in a pan, add vermicelli and cook until brown.
7. Add rice, salt and pepper and stir.
8. Add the water and bring to the boil.
9. Reduce the heat and simmer rice until it is cooked.

## Mahashi

with thanks to Khadija



*"It's a delicious dish!"*

*To make the recipe we need:-*

2 kilos small courgettes/ 200g minced meat/ 1 ½ cups short grain rice/ chopped parsley/ mashed garlic/ dry mint/ salt and pepper/ tomato sauce

1. Cut the heads off the courgettes and core them.
2. Soak rice in hot water for 10 minutes.
3. Rinse the rice.
4. Mix together the rice, minced meat and all the other ingredients.
5. Stuff the courgettes with the mixture leaving some space at the top (the mixture will expand).
6. Place the courgettes in a pan and cover with the tomato sauce.
7. Simmer on a medium heat until cooked -this should take 40 to 50 minutes. Taste after 40 minutes to see if it is ready.

# Settling a new family

As lead volunteer in welcoming a new family, Julian found inspiration in “The Jumblies” by Edward Lear <https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/poems/the-jumblies/> to explain the confusion and frustrations – and ultimate achievement - of navigating bureaucratic systems in the UK

FAR AND FEW, FAR AND FEW,  
ARE THE LANDS WHERE THE JUMBLIES LIVE;  
THEIR HEADS ARE GREEN, AND THEIR HANDS  
ARE BLUE,  
AND THEY WENT TO SEA IN A SIEVE.  
- EDWARD LEAR -

LIBQUOTES.COM

## Part I

They set to sea in a sieve they did , they set to sea in a sieve.

They didn't know it was full of holes, but that's how it turned out to be.

They sailed for distant lands, they did, where bright lights shone and there was plenty of gold.

But they found that wherever they looked, the lights were dim and the gold just a light in the sky.

They set to sea in a sieve they did, they set to sea in a sieve.

But whatever they did, the sea came in, and they feared they would never reach land.

The energy company were hard to find, and even harder to understand.

It took many a week, and many an hour to learn what they'd spent, on demand.

What they'd paid before, there was no sign of on shore, and the bill was increasing each time,

But with patience and tea, and determined to win, they found they were nearing the land, at last,

They found they were nearing the land.

One day, they looked, the internet link was hooked, and a payment they made online.

It was hard to believe, but they had to concede

that the bill that they owed was no more, no more. The bill that they owed was no more.

*(with apologies to Edward Lear)*

## Part II

They were told when they came, Universal Credit was their aim,

And to get it would not take so long.

But five weeks became six, one month became two, and even then,

what was their due, continued to go wrong, go wrong.

Whatever was asked, we did what we could, but still we were taken to task.

The forms that we gave, the pictures we sent

Didn't dance to the tune, by the light of the moon,

That the offices needed so soon.

What was sent to Wrexham, they needed in Malvern or did they want the runcible spoon?

Then all of a sudden, by wit or by luck, or by running amok,

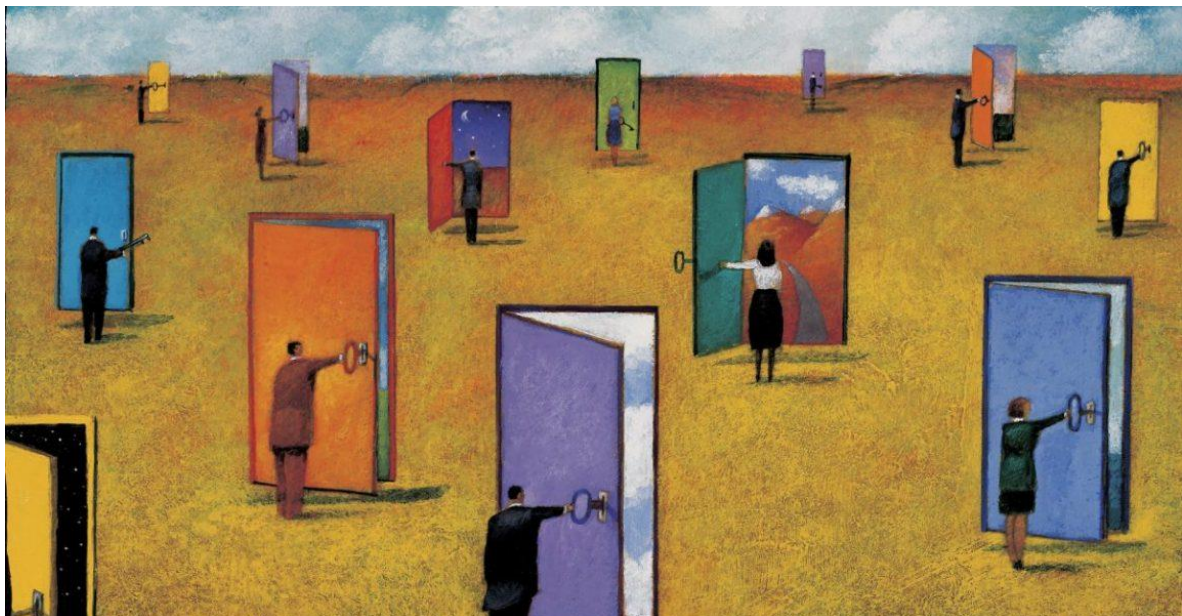
all at once, the tables were turned.

Messages flew, and the payments were due, and the family gained what they'd earned, they did.

The family gained what they'd earned.

So beware any families that come to these shores, the Credit they promise may not quite be yours, but if the wind blows your way, and Malvern Welcomes have their say, you may find we can open doors we can, you may find we can open doors.

**Julian Brown, volunteer**





# Research

**“Exploring processes that nurture resilience of young refugees living in the UK.”**

In February Sylvia Michael attended a zoom meeting with Malvern Welcomes volunteers to present a summary of the findings of her doctoral research. In the course of this, she interviewed in confidence 12 refugees living in the UK between the ages of 14 and 24 , 6 males, 6 females, 8 originally from Syria and 4 from Iraq.

*“During this time of Brexit and with people constantly becoming forcibly displaced, it is a crucial time to understand what processes help and support young refugees to do well and thrive.”*

The processes identified by the young people were:

- ❖ Resources that preceded their arrival in the UK and carried on in the present: examples were hope of a better future, fun and humour, the comfort and meaning of their religion, the role of community, their family’s safety and togetherness.
- ❖ Seeing the world anew - recognising how their experiences had changed them, the stresses they had undergone, the wisdom they had gained, their ability to get through difficulties and their consequent openness to take up new opportunities, their sense of what’s important in life, especially their family relationships and cultural values.
- ❖ Being seen and what follows... The young people seemed to adapt and flourish when they felt acknowledged, valued and supported, especially when help was proactively and sensitively offered, when they were offered small acts of kindness, acceptance and friendship, when they were protected from racism and bullying and connected to people with shared backgrounds, when they made new connections and were shown the ways of living in the UK, when they received support for improving their proficiency in English.
- ❖ Having the opportunity to give or give back – to their families, people who supported them and future young refugees.
- ❖ Being motivated by being able to see a future which seemed promising and reachable to them.

These insights provide valuable pointers for schools, policy makers and those like Malvern Welcomes supporting young refugees. We are reminded to consider joined up co-ordination for young people to access resources, to focus on relationships, to think about how support is offered and to remember the meaning and importance of fun, hope, religion and community.

For more information, please contact Sylvia on [sylvia.michael@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sylvia.michael@hotmail.co.uk)



# The plight of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

In February, Cherry and I attended a webinar organised by the Balfour Project and presented by two representatives of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP): Wafa Dakwar, programme manager for MAP in Beirut, and Rohan Talbot, MAP Advocacy and campaigns manager, based in London. The webinar was very intense, but excellently presented by Wafa and Rohan. Note that MAP work closely with other organisations and NGO's on the ground, in Lebanon and elsewhere.

Given that we are supporting a Palestinian resettled family, it seemed relevant and important to know something of this background, even if the host country is different.

As a result of the displacements of 1948, 1967, 1982 and other key dates in Israel/Palestine history, Palestinians number one in three of all refugees worldwide. Currently there are 450 000 refugees still registered with UNRWA, who are the body responsible for the humanitarian needs of Palestinians still living in refugee camps in the Middle East. Of these, some 97 000 are living in Lebanon in 12 camps.

The circumstances in Lebanon may be worse or better than other host countries (Jordan, Syria) or within Palestinian jurisdiction (Gaza). However, the situation in Lebanon has deteriorated considerably since 2019, due to the marked economic crisis in the country, and the effect of the COVID pandemic.

## Rights

Palestinian refugees are classified as foreigners in Lebanese Law. They are excluded from access to public services, from owning property and barred from 39 key professions, including 22 medical professions.

**Housing and infrastructure:** The area of land which holds the refugee camps has not increased since originally established, even though the refugee populations have increased enormously. This has led to many of the buildings being added to with more and more stories; however, these buildings are makeshift, unregulated and often dangerous with regard to electricity, sometimes leading to loss of life. There is poor quality of water and waste management. There is often no space for children to play.

**Health:** There is very high incidence of mental health difficulties (> 50% of the population). Food and nutrition are a constant problem. Healthcare is very limited, as there is no provision by the Lebanese Government. There are high levels of poverty, which clearly impact on physical health.

**Education:** Palestinians are amongst the most literate of refugee populations (remarkably, over 97%) and have very high academic aspirations.

**Economic Situation:** Since 2019 Lebanon has experienced a severe economic crisis, with currency devalued by 90%. Food prices have increased 700%. Poverty levels almost doubled between 2019 and 2021. There is a severe shortage of fuel and often less than 2 hours electricity per day. All of this has a knock-on effect on the refugee population.

## What can the UK do?

Firstly, and most urgently we need to restore the cut in the UK overseas aid budget. This has led to a **more than 50%** cut in the UK's contribution to funding for UNRWA, which provides much of the welfare needs of Palestinian refugees, apart from the support given by other local charities. This year UNRWA has a \$100m shortfall in its overall budget, equivalent to payment for 28 000 staff.

Secondly, in the medium term, Britain needs to put on pressure to remove the discriminatory practices which severely limit opportunities for refugees, even though many of them are educated and capable of valuable work.

Thirdly, along with Europe and the United States, we need to work towards a full solution to this crisis, a denial of rights of Palestinian refugees, which has existed for almost 74 years. If we don't the situation may well continue for another 74 years.

We can also support other charities such as the Red Crescent which provides international scholarships to train health workers.

For information on the Balfour project go to : <https://balfourproject.org/>.

UNRWA funding: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/05/un-palestine-aid-agency-is-close-to-collapse>

**Julian Brown, volunteer, February 2022**

## Thank you, Malvern NCT

A family new to Malvern and supported by the Local Authority and Malvern Welcomes have had great practical support from the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) Malvern branch. NCT is the leading charity in the UK for parents. The Malvern branch is really active and has lots of different groups and activities.

# <https://www.nct.org.uk/local-activities-meet-ups/region-west-midlands/malvern-hills>

Frances Thurlow of the NCT invited us round so she met directly with some of the family including the baby, and was able to provide various items of baby and child clothing, together with a beautiful sewing machine. Since then, members of the group have also provided sewing things and baking tins. (A small boy was asking his mum for cake!) Malvern Welcomes would like to thank the NCT very much for their brilliant input.

**Sarah Mawditt, volunteer**



Looking ahead....

## Kite making with Jim



## Well Dressing with Karen

Malvern Welcomes is working with The Letterpress Project to create a well dressing outside Malvern Link station between 29th April and 6th May. If you would like to be involved in making some leaves like this for a tree please get in touch - we will provide all the materials and explain what to do!



We also need volunteers for other bits and pieces to make sure that it is all ready as a big team effort!

Please contact [karen.argent@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.argent@btinternet.com) if you would like to join the fun of this community project

# Malvern Welcomes AGM



The Malvern Welcomes AGM will be held  
on Wednesday, 15th June at 7:00 pm  
at Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church  
Malvern WR14 2AW

Our guest speaker will be Natasha White, Operations Manager for the Worcestershire County Council Resettlement Programme, who manages all the resettlement schemes in the county and will give us an overview of the current situation.

Everyone is welcome to attend (voting by members only – so please remember to renew or join!)

*Malvern Welcomes would like to acknowledge and thank every individual, group and organisation that donates to the work we are doing. Without your generous contributions we could not support the resettled families we have welcomed into our community or raise awareness of the very real and difficult challenges refugees face across the world. Thank you, for every pound you donate to Malvern Welcomes. Thank you also for every gesture of kindness you make to support refugees and make them feel welcomed within our community and beyond.*



Email: [malvernsanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:malvernsanctuary@gmail.com)



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