

Herts welcomes Syrian families

Newsletter #3 2016

Dear all,

1. Arrival of the first families

Eight local authorities across Herts have been working together to draw up a plan that will meet the Government's Statement of Requirements for the scheme. These councils are St Albans, Stevenage, Three Rivers, Hertsmere, Welwyn Hatfield, East Herts, Watford and North Herts. The plan is by now almost or actually finalised and signed off.

We're really delighted that this consortium of councils has charged the Refugee Council with coordinating the local support to refugees. Most likely, some of this support will be provided by the councils, some by the voluntary sector (including us!).

The Refugee Council have appointed a project manager, who is going to contact us once in post at the end of this month.

Our first arrivals will be in Stevenage, at some point from the end of this month to mid-March. The councils are arranging to stagger the arrivals of families between them over the spring and the early summer. Dacorum is participating in the scheme too. Broxbourne is not.

2. Open Event 31st January

Over 200 people came and it was so, so encouraging to see how passionately people want to help. The report was written up in local press - here is one article: http://www.hertsad.co.uk/.../herts_welcome_syrian_families_ev.... Lots of good networking connections were made and it has raised our profile as a group well, with a flurry of activity and communication following the day.

The Asylum Dialogues



Saturday 5 March, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church

The Peace & Justice Group are proud to host a performance of **The Asylum Dialogues** by actors from the human rights-focused theatre group **Ice and Fire**.

Scripted by **Sonja Linden**

Conceived and researched by **Christine Bacon**



Drawn from real life conversations with three pairs of friends – one an asylum seeker and the other a British citizen – this script explores the positive transformations created by their

encounters with each other.

Here are some audience responses: **'enlightening', 'amazing', 'exactly the kind of truth that should be presented on the British stage today', 'very moving', 'empowering', 'makes me want to take action'.**

A performance of roughly an hour, then refreshments and discussion.

Free of charge and open to all.

<http://iceandfire.co.uk/>