



**HORSHAM  
REFUGEE  
SUPPORT  
GROUP**

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**Warm wishes to all our supporters from everyone at HRSG. Things have been changing for us during 2026, so read on to find out more.**

### **Moving forward after Cisswood House closure**

With the closure of Cisswood House as a refuge for asylum seekers, HRSG is once again adapting to changing circumstances – and our amazing volunteers take it all in their stride. Our three years of working alongside the residents have been challenging, amazing, traumatic, happy, sad, joyous and intense. We organised English lessons, activities, sewing groups, advice clinics, parties and so much more. Our volunteers learned to deal with such a diverse range of issues that other organisations now approach HRSG's experts for advice, not realising that we simply learnt on the job. What a long way we have come in 10 years. With more refugee families – mostly, but not exclusively, from Afghanistan - now housed in Horsham district, HRSG is once again focused on outreach and helping newcomers integrate and learn about life in the UK. It feels as if we have come full circle, though there will be many more circles to come.



### **A new drop-in**

Our new, weekly drop-ins at the **Drill Hall** are proving a great success. They're a chance for families to bring issues and problems they need help with as



well as socialise, take part in craft and sewing activities and practise English. With families now spread around the district, transport is always

an issue – new arrivals rarely have access to their own vehicles and public transport is not always available. Long gone are the days when we only had 10 Syrian families in Horsham town! We have formed a partnership with **Billingshurst Community Minibus** so that we can transport people from rural areas, which many mums are finding a huge benefit.

### **Summer fun!**

To help our families to entertain their children during the long school summer holidays, we ran weekly family sessions at the **Park Barn**, featuring crafts and toys, refreshments, and English conversation with volunteers. We also ran our new drop-in session for problem-solving support. Our highlight this summer was a social gathering for all families at **Cornerstone Church**, which should have included a visit from the wonderful Flying Seagulls. Unfortunately, volunteers received the news that a broken-down van had stopped the Seagulls from flying over! Deciding it was best to go ahead, our fabulous team pulled out games and activities for everyone attending and ordered pizzas to finish off the afternoon. A great time was had by all.

### **New recruits**

We're just finishing our most recent recruitment round and have 5 new volunteers joining our team this month. Thank you to everyone who helped promote these roles. We will let you know when we are recruiting again.

### **Gift Aid success!**

Thank you to everyone who completed a Gift

Aid form to go with their donations. We have just submitted a claim for Gift Aid on **£2230** worth of donations!

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