



Before you start reading scroll down for details of the important event on 29th June - got that in your diary? Good, now here's our news update:

A very good evening last Thursday in the Liberty Suite: Faraday Fernside told us about her work creating Open Heart Open Borders, based in Plymouth and dispatching donated aid to Syria and elsewhere. You can find out much more on her [website](#) and [facebook page](#).

Faraday also spoke about the movement of refugees through Plymouth and the work of many agencies supporting them. Plymouth is a "dispersal city" where refugees and asylum seekers are sent whilst awaiting processing by the Home Office. This provides many challenges, particularly when they "get status" and suddenly are legally here and can look for work but have no money, possessions or further support from official agencies.

Rachael Alexander who works with [Start - Students and Refugees Together](#) - in Plymouth and currently in Truro expanded on the work of getting refugees settled into their new communities.

One really interesting and relevant point she made was that many Syrian refugees come from rural or small town backgrounds and feel just as out of place in cities like Plymouth as perhaps we do. Launceston will make an excellent new home for some of these families.

Matt Booth from Sidmouth talked about his work with the Ottery St Mary Refugee Response Group and the political difficulties of working with the district council - after many challenges the first family has now [arrived in Sidmouth](#) and been welcomed there.

At lot to learn and many many thanks to the speakers for a fascinating evening. A full report will appear on the website in due course.

If you reply to this email it will go to Frances and Carolyn as co-ordinators (info@lrsrg.org.uk)

LRSRG Needs Help

We urgently need someone to take on the role of **Secretary** for the group. This is one of four key positions we will need in order to have a formal structure required for getting charitable status.

The role involves writing up notes of meetings and keeping track of internal business for the group - it need not be an onerous task but is really important. If you are interested please contact Frances through email to info@lrsrg.org.uk.

We also need someone to work with Richard Raggett on the financial side and take on the role of **Treasurer** - keeping track of money. Richard is not able to continue past September so we need someone to come forward now to pick up the reins. Find out more by contacting Richard at treasurer@lrsrg.org.uk or Frances as above.

These two roles are absolutely essential - without them we can not really proceed so if you have any relevant experience please do get in touch.

As well as appointing Richard as interim Treasurer, the meeting on Thursday appointed Frances as Chair, and RogerC-O as Vice-Chair until a formal meeting in the autumn. Carolyn continues as co-coordinator with Frances but is unavailable for a period. The info@lrsrg.org.uk email address forwards to all three.

Donations and Items needed

As well as continuing collection of items needed for distribution around Calais we are now able to accept cash donations.

We need to raise around £15,000 to get the first family settled in Launceston. We have had a splendid start with a very generous donation from the Launceston Brotherhood but we need your help as well...

Please consider setting up a small (or large!) monthly standing order - this is easy to do if you use online banking.

Alternatively simply make a one-off transfer whenever you can spare a little.

Our bank details are:

Account Name: **Launceston Refugee Support Group**

Account Number: **24335460**

Account Sort Code: **30 94 91**

Donating in this way avoids the 3%+ charges for card transactions - we will also be accepting debit card donations online in due course. For now the best way to help is to do a direct transfer through your online banking.

Cheques should be made payable to Launceston Refugee Support Group and sent to LRSRG, Knighton Farm, Lewannick, Launceston PL15 7QT. Cash donations can be taken at any of the meetings or events.

Weekly collection and sorting of donated items at Central Methodist Church (Room 6) 10am-Midday every Tuesday.

Or contact info@lrsrg.org.uk or 07812 585002 to arrange a drop off.

Important Event on 29th June

We are delighted to be hosting **Baraa Ehssan Kouja** of *from Syria with Love* at the Liberty Suite above Jerichos on Thursday 29th June.

From midday there is an exhibition of work by children in Syrian refugee camps including paintings and recordings of them talking about their past and present situation, their dreams and feelings for the future.

At 7pm Baraa will give a talk on his own experiences being a refugee, having to flee his home and re-build his life in a new place.

[More details on the website](#) where you can also download posters and flyers to display and give out.

Please do share this and the [event on facebook](#) as widely as possible

Location: Liberty Suite (3rd Floor) above Jerichos, 4 Northgate St. PL15 8BD

Time: exhibition from midday, talk at 7pm (come earlier if you would like to get a coffee or drink from Jerichos before we begin)

Launceston Refugee Support Group's aims are:

- to build local networks, and contribute to the work being done to collect, sort and dispatch useful items to stranded refugees
- to work towards welcoming 2 Syrian families to Launceston, as part of the government's pledge to resettle some of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in the UK.

Don't forget Thursday 29th June - put it in your diary now!

contact: info@lrsrg.org.uk

Other events and links:

Bude RSG are having a **cream tea, raffle and home-made cake sale** on Saturday 24th June at Magpies, 9 Poundfield Close, Stratton from 2:30pm. £4.50 entry, 01288 395928 for more details.

Open Hearts Open Borders are collecting items to send to **Greece**. Those who were at the event in Launceston Central Methodist in the autumn will know the background - the crisis there continues without media attention. OHOB have a collection point in Saltash - info@ohob.org.uk for details. They particularly need deodorant, shaving stuff, shower and hair wash stuff, sanitary towels, wet-wipes, anti-bacterial hand gel and many other items.

Our website and facebook pages are getting better organised. Do take a look -

- www.lrsg.org.uk
- <https://facebook.com/LauncestonRSG/>

The facebook posts are replicated on the website at <http://lrsg.org.uk/facebook-blog/> for the benefit of those who don't do facebook.