



Three Speakers this Thursday 25th May

- **Faraday Fernside** of Open Hearts Open Borders will talk about organising aid to Syria, France and Greece and her work with Plymouth City helping refugees already in the area.
- **Matt from Sidmouth** will talk about their experiences resettling a refugee family in their town
- **Rachael Alexandra** has spent much time working in camps in France and recently has been part of the Start Team resettling four Syrian families in Truro under the Council led scheme.

In addition our own Carolyn Burch and Richard Raggett are part way through a fundraising cycle ride around Devon and Cornwall and will entertain us with tales of wind and rain and hills and the tremendous warm reception they have been receiving from places they have visited so far.

Rob Butler is delivering your donations to Calais from May 21st so we hope to have an update from him on the situation on the ground there.

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

Time: 7:30pm (come earlier if you would like to get a coffee or drink from Jerichos before we begin)

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

Organisation Update

Finally we have a working bank account so we can start accepting donations towards hosting a family here.

A small donation of a pound or two at the door will help get things moving - we are also setting up ways for regular donations to be made. Full details at the meeting on Thursday.

Collections for Calais/Northern France

Rob Butler is there this week with a party from across Cornwall and a van full of donated items to distribute.

Just before he left he was getting reports of a family with 2 young children found living in the woods near Calais with only a tarpaulin for shelter and minimal possessions. An example of the desperate situations that have arisen since the main camp was closed and people dispersed.

Items still needed for future trips

FOOD UHT milk and fruit juice, baby milk, rice, dried pasta, lentils, cooking oil **in cans**, tinned tomatoes/chickpeas/vegetables/fish/fruit, , coffee (**not in glass**), tea

HEALTH Toothpaste & toothbrushes, Ladies sanitary pads, Shampoo, Shower gel, Nappies & baby wipes, Paracetamol & Ibuprofen, Rehydration salts, Bandages & dressings & plasters & steristrips, Anti-bacterial gel, Antiseptic cream, hygiene gloves (latex or other)

CLOTHES (All children & babies; Men **small / medium**; Ladies 8,10,12,14)

Waterproof jackets, fleeces; jeans, socks & underwear (**new only**), Scarves & hats & gloves, Trainers & walking boots (from children`s - adult size 10)

SHELTER Tents & tarps & groundsheets, Blankets, Sleeping bags and sleepmats, Wind-up/solar lamps/torches

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

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

LRSRG June Meeting

We have a really special event in June - on Thursday 29th June we are hosting



Talk and exhibition with Baraa Ehssan Kouja

From Syria with Love is a charity set up to provide direct help to refugees living in camps in Syria. Baraa was himself a refugee, and once established here set up the charity to provide support for children in the camps.

This event consists of an exhibition of art, voices and a book produced by children living in the camps telling stories of their past, present, fears and hopes, and their dreams and feelings.

In the evening, at the slightly earlier time of 7pm, there will be a talk by Barra telling his personal story. This is a unique opportunity to hear directly what the refugee experience is like for those being displaced.

The exhibition is open from midday, and Baraa will be on hand throughout to help provide the context for the extraordinary items on show.

It is from camps in Syria that our Government resettlement scheme draws its clients – LRSRG is working towards resettling at least one family in Launceston.

This event is an important chance to hear some of the background to the family who will eventually arrive here.

See www.fromsyriawithlove.org and www.facebook.com/pg/Fromsyriawithlove/

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.

See you on Thursday

contact: info@lrsg.org.uk



Our Facebook page



Our website