

NEWSLETTER

JULY '25



Barnsley
City of Sanctuary

City of Sanctuary is a national organisation of support groups throughout the UK making their cities, towns, schools and organisations places of welcome and hospitality for people seeking safety from persecution and war. If you would like to volunteer with the Barnsley group, please email info@barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org

Welcome

Welcome to the summer '25 edition of the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary newsletter featuring all the latest on services and support available for refugees and asylum seekers across Barnsley!

In this edition, we celebrate an action-packed Refugee Week in Barnsley and showcase the national recognition gained by Barnsley Libraries and Museums for creating a culture of welcome, alongside Penistone St John's, the first School of Sanctuary in Barnsley.

We also celebrate 12 months since the Refugee Bike Project moved into its new home in the town centre, transforming bikes and lives.

We want to hear your views on the newsletter so please help us by taking a few minutes to complete our brief survey – details on page 7. If you want to get in touch with ideas for content, please email us at:

info@barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org

Thank you!

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Your Refugee Council in Barnsley, Here to Help!

The Refugee Council is a national independent charity that works across the country to support refugees and asylum seekers. The National Refugee Council leads the Barnsley Refugee Council. The Barnsley Refugee Council has funding to work in Barnsley, offering support to Asylum Seekers and Refugees living in the town.

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Wellington House, 36 Wellington Street, Barnsley S70 1WA

Open 10.00am - 2.00pm Monday to Thursday

01226 320111

FIND YOUR VOICE BUILD YOUR FUTURE



Free support for
refugees, Asylum
Seekers & EU
Migrants in
Barnsley



**ESOL & FUNCTIONAL
SKILLS CLASSES**



**COMMUNITY DROP-IN &
VOLUNTEERING**



**SIGNPOSTING FOR
HELP & SUPPORT**



FOOD PANTRY

WE ARE OPEN: MONDAY - FRIDAY (10:00 - 3:00)

SUPPORTED BY



VISIT US:

FIRST FLOOR, 29 WELLINGTON STREET, BARNSELY, S70 1SW



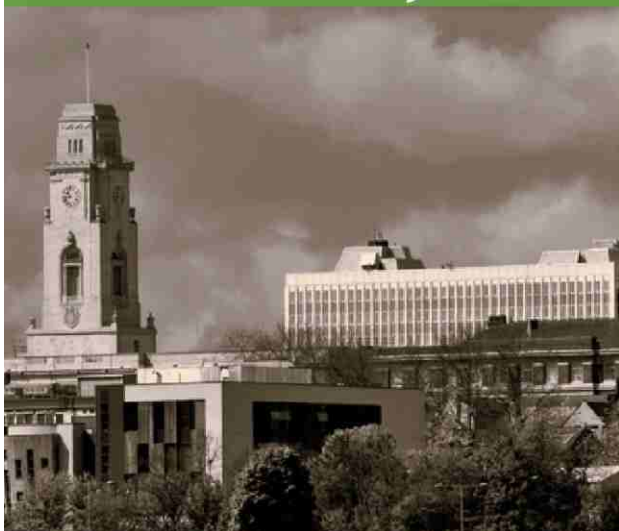
01226 249494



info@elshub.org.uk



www.elshub.org.uk



Award-Winning Employability Training at FareShare Yorkshire

The Yorkshire charity that tackles food waste and hunger by collecting and redistributing surplus supermarket food is also making a difference to the life chances of refugees. In addition to redistributing food to over 400 charities, schools and community groups, FareShare Yorkshire also offers training and employability programmes in their Barnsley and Leeds warehouses.

The training, which is open to anyone in need of support to get into work, covers Manual Handling, Health & Safety and Food Hygiene, as well as general Employability skills. The two-day-a-week course extends over 13 weeks and is free of charge. Attendees also receive travel expenses, free lunches and necessary clothing. To gain a certificate, they must complete all 26 sessions.

Mo Aryana went on the course and was employed by FareShare as a fork lift truck driver in their Leeds warehouse. He has since been promoted to Warehouse Supervisor. You can read Mo's story on the national Refugee Council website here <http://bit.ly/45ftJgH>

Andy Atkinson, who leads the Refugee Men's Support Group in Barnsley, spent a long time finding suitable training and work experience for those in the group. Now he works with the Refugee Council in Barnsley to introduce both male and female refugees to FareShare. Andy said,

"From my very first meeting with Rachel Morgan, Head of HR, I felt that this Employability Programme was going to be the one for my clients. The warm, friendly greeting and the instinctive understanding that our clients all had their individual backstory.

"The practical and experiential approach is an ideal way to learn and make progress. The range of experiences allows confidence to blossom. Working in friendly and sympathetic teams has encouraged language confidence to grow. Then there is Chris the Chef in the FullCrumb kitchen. What a wonderfully unique offering to have a professional kitchen where our clients can excel and share the delight of their own cuisine with others."



"The Employability Programme at FareShare was a great experience for me. It was amazing to be part of an organization working for such a good cause. Also, it was my first time seeing and working in a real workplace in the UK, which was very important for me. The best part was how kind, supportive, and helpful all the staff were.

Scher Yilman

"FareShare was a great experience for me. I improved my English, and it helped me get used to working in a professional environment again. I gained practical experience and met new people. It also encouraged me to take steps towards further training and personal development. It was a really positive experience."

Burcu Pirkavi Sonmez

To find out more, visit:

<https://www.fareshareyorkshire.org/employability/>

or contact:

enquiries@fareshareyorkshire.org

Barnsley Refugee Bike Project Reaches New Milestone!

Barnsley's Refugee Bike Project recently celebrated a major anniversary – a year since receiving the keys to their new town centre home which has transformed the project from backyard venture to significant service provider, all staffed by volunteers.

The project's new home in Wellington House, supported by the National Lottery Fund, enabled the addition of workshop facilities. Now those who receive the bikes can help to recycle them, learning new skills from expert volunteers. The workshop has not only helped to provide affordable transport for refugees and asylum seekers but has also offered a place to improve language skills and make friends.

Volunteer Co-ordinator Alex Simon, who founded the project, explains that it's been a team effort: "Thanks to the efforts of those who helped with the planning, securing bids, donating bikes, delivering cakes, renovating bikes, building websites and supporting the team, we have managed to donate almost 200 bikes since June 2024."

Overall, since starting, the project has donated over 500 bikes to those in need and has gained a national reputation, with features on the BBC website <http://bit.ly/4kbmcDj> BBC Look North and BBC Radio Sheffield. CEO of the national Refugee Council, Enver Solomon, officially opened the workshop last autumn with Olympian Ed Clancy OBE, South Yorkshire Active Travel Commissioner. The project had a stand in the Tour of Yorkshire finishing zone and was featured in the video review of the stage.

Not only does the project donate pre-loved and recycled bikes, Alex and the team also organise monthly bike rides, which have become central to the project, supporting mental and physical health. The rides have enabled those new to Barnsley to explore the scenic routes across the Borough, helping to familiarise them with their new surroundings as well as providing opportunity for making connections. More trips are planned, including longer distance ones.

Alex Simon sums up: "One of the successes of the project has been meeting so many talented, committed and selfless individuals who have given their time and energy to build our community. Most importantly, through the workshop and the bike rides, we have supported those who needed a helping hand, a mode of transport and a place to meet new friends."



Have a bike to donate? Contact:

Penistonebikedonations@outlook.com

Need a bike? Contact:

Abdel.Mohamed@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk



Welcome to the New Inclusion Volunteer Coordinator at Barnsley CVS

My name is Mohammed Alshurafa, and I'm excited as I start my new role as Inclusion Volunteer Coordinator at Barnsley CVS. I recently completed my master's degree in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution as a Rotary Peace Fellow from Bradford University. I bring several years of international experience coordinating volunteers and supporting community initiatives.

Prior to moving to the United Kingdom, I lived and worked in various places around the world, including Gaza, where I'm originally from, as well as Turkey, Somalia, and the United States. My background is in community development and safety, and volunteer coordination. I have a combination of work and volunteer experience with international organisations, as well as grassroots and community-based organisations.

As the Inclusion Volunteer Coordinator, I aim to foster inclusive communities in Barnsley and empower asylum seekers, migrants, and refugees through volunteering. I will provide support to volunteers to easily access volunteer roles, assist them through the application process, recruitment and selection process, and during the settling-in period. I will also work with charities across Barnsley to ensure volunteer policies and procedures are inclusive.

I speak Arabic and enjoy meeting people from diverse backgrounds, and learning from others' experiences. I'm passionate about volunteering and currently volunteer as an Independent Visitor at Leeds City Council.

Please feel free to reach me at:
Mohammed.Alshurafa@barnsleycvs.org.uk

Telephone: 01226 812183
Please note that I work 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday.





ESOL classes

for Living and Working in Barnsley

ESOL classes at Barnsley Adult Skills and Community Learning can help you to :

- develop speaking and listening skills
- learn and improve reading and writing
- develop employability skills for volunteering and work
- know about services such as health care or education
- become an active member of the local community
- get ready to move on to further learning
- be more confident in day to day tasks such as shopping and travel



To find out more or to get started:

email: adultlearning@barnsley.gov.uk

phone: 01226 775270

visit: Wellington House, Market Street, Barnsley, S70 1SN



What Do You Think of Our Newsletter?

The Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary newsletter has been going for four years now. Aiming to bring together information about services and activities across Barnsley which support asylum seekers and refugees, it comes out three times a year and is distributed both digitally and in print. We would like to find out what you, the readers, think about it, what you like and how you think it could be improved. Please help us by taking a few minutes to complete a short questionnaire which we've tried to keep as brief and straightforward as possible. It will help us to plan for the next phase and make sure that what we're producing is what you need. Thank you!

Please take the survey: <http://bit.ly/3U6v6r2>



Reporting Hate Crime

My name is Rachael, and I am the Hate Crime Coordinator for Barnsley within South Yorkshire Police. I am fairly new to this role, just starting at the end of February 2025. Prior to this, I have been travelling to Europe, Australia, and South East Asia, as well as completing my Masters Degree and Undergraduate Degree.

Part of my role as Hate Crime Coordinator involves increasing awareness about hate crime, specifically what it means, what constitutes a hate crime, and how to report it.

The official definition of hate crime is "Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender identity." So, in other words, a hate crime is any criminal act or behaviour which the victim, or anyone else, believes to be motivated by hostility or malice towards someone because of a personal characteristic.

If you, or someone you know, has been victim of a criminal offence and believe you were targeted because of your race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or disability then this can and should be reported. You can report hate crimes to the police by visiting <https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/> going to 'Report' and selecting 'Hate crime', then following the steps to complete the form. If you do not want to report directly to the police, visit <https://www.stophateuk.org/> select 'Report' then follow the steps given.

To contact me, your Hate Crime Coordinator for Barnsley, please see below:

Email: rachael.ferrington@southyorkshire.police.uk

Mobile: 07464 985 266

Sports News - Barnsley Gets a Fair Shot at Footie

In our last edition, we reported on the launch of Reds Unite, a programme to promote the participation in football by Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities in Barnsley. Run by Barnsley FC Community Trust, it's already been a great success, attracting good numbers to the Monday evening training sessions at Grove Street. So much so that Reds Unite has been invited by the national Refugee Council football project, Fair Shot, to team up with their national football squad.

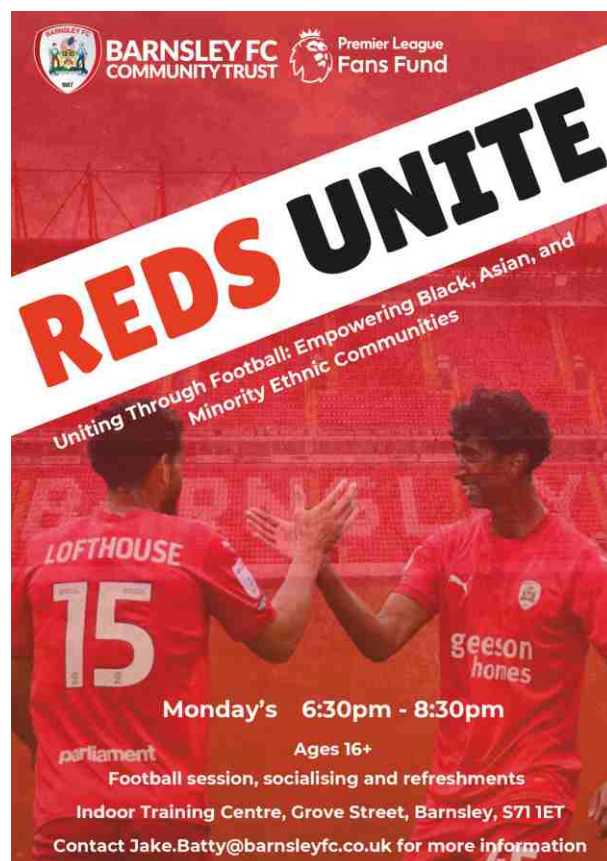
The Fair Shot national squad are all refugees and people seeking asylum including players from Afghanistan, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Namibia, Senegal, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria and The Gambia – all united by their passion for football. Fair Shot is already showing how the 'beautiful game' can transcend borders and backgrounds. Reds Unite will become a partner club for season two and will potentially contribute some players.

Luke Stewart, Fair Shot Project Manager, and Georgie Thomas, Stories and Fair Shot Coordinator, from the national Refugee Council, visited Barnsley in April to take a look and meet Jake Batty, Reds Unite Project Manager. They were impressed by the Reds Unite squad. Luke said:

"Thanks again for inviting us to the Reds Unite session last night, it was very inspiring to see how much it has grown in a short space of time and really speaks to what we're trying to communicate through the Fair Shot campaign."

To find out more about Fair Shot, visit: <https://www.fairshot.org.uk/>

For more information on 'Reds Unite' and how to get involved, email: jake.batty@barnsleyfc.co.uk



Cricketers Now on the Front Foot Thanks to Donated Kit

Three talented cricketers originally from Afghanistan are now able to practise their skill and play in matches thanks to a substantial donation of kit from cricket charity Front Foot. The three cricket fanatics are regular attenders at the Outwood Academy in Shafton. Aimal and Haroon love batting and their new kit means they can spend more time in the nets to fulfil their ambition of signing up for Barnsley Woolley Miners' Cricket Club. Medium pace bowler Saifullah has already been signed up.



Front Foot Trustee, Tim Gill, handing over the donated kit to Andy Atkinson



Refugee Men's Group Leader Andy, showing off the new kit



Aimal, Haroon & Saifullah sporting their smart, new, cricket kit

We're looking for donations...

Emergency food for local people in crisis.

Thank you for your support.

- 
- Tinned fish
 - Tinned meat
 - Baked beans
 - Soup
 - Rice
 - Pasta
 - Biscuits
 - Tinned tomatoes
 - Tinned veg
 - Tinned fruit
 - Rice pudding
 - Custard
 - Tinned spaghetti
 - Cereals
 - Sweets
 - Instant potatoes
 - Gravy granules
 - Tinned potatoes
 - Instant noodles
 - Crisps
 - Pasta sauce
 - UHT Milk
 - Tea/Coffee
 - Toothbrushes
 - Toothpaste
 - Nappies
 - Baby wipes
 - Shampoo
 - Toilet Roll
 - Dog/Cat food
 - Cleaning products

Barnsley Celebrates Refugee Week 2025

Refugee Week is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity, and resilience of people seeking sanctuary. Founded in the UK in 1998, it takes place every June alongside World Refugee Day. This year it spanned 16 to 22 June.

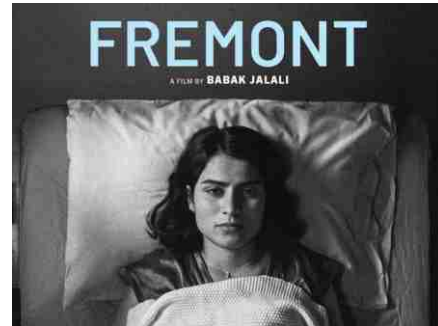
Barnsley was buzzing with activities for Refugee Week, ranging from theatre and film to craft activities, musical performances and awards ceremonies. Events were supported and promoted by the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary Group. Chair George Arthur said, "We are really proud that we can organise these events to bring communities together."

Monday. It all kicked off with a busy open morning at the Education Learning Support Hub (ELSH), home to free, accessible education for those seeking sanctuary. In the afternoon, 'Fremont' was showing free-of-charge at Library @ the Lightbox – a film by Iranian-American director Babak Jalali about a young woman working in a fortune cookie factory in California after fleeing from Afghanistan.

Tuesday. Hope House Church hosted a powerful performance of 'How To Be Lucky', a play exploring the contemporary reality of being a refugee in Britain today. Later that evening, Brazilian-born professional journalist Livia Barreira compered an open mic session for 35 people at the Library @ the Lightbox, giving a voice to those with a passion for poetry, spoken word and music.

Fellow Brazilian musician, Ruth Mariana, was one of the many people who sang, read poetry or presented at this event.

Wednesday. Winners of the 2025 City of Sanctuary School Art and Poetry Competition were announced at a presentation in the Council Chamber attended by over 40 people.



Livia Barreira



Ruth Mariana



Refugee Week



Winning artworks produced



Prize-winner, Sana, from St John's Primary School receiving her certificate from the Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress.

Penistone St John's received their certificate for gaining School of Sanctuary status – a landmark achievement as the first school in Barnsley to do so. See the March edition of our newsletter for details: <http://bit.ly/4npR8CT>

Barnsley Libraries received their Libraries of Sanctuary award in recognition of their work to create a culture of welcome (see page 12). Barnsley Museums Service was recognised with a Museums of Sanctuary award for their 'Feels Like Home' group and associated project work (see page 13). Awards were presented by the Mayor of Barnsley, Cllr David Leach, who said: "I am thrilled to have been invited here for Refugee Week for this special time to celebrate resilience, hope and coming together as a community. Barnsley has always been a warm and welcoming town that opens its arms to everybody. We believe diversity makes us stronger and better. Today is about reminding ourselves of what makes Barnsley so special – kindness, inclusivity and unity."

A craft and poetry workshop celebrating this diversity and welcome followed in the afternoon.

Friday. The week ended with another showing of the moving comedy-drama 'Fremont'.



Ann Nixon, Deputy Head at Penistone St John's Primary School, receiving the School of Sanctuary award certificate.



Barnsley Celebrated as a Place of Sanctuary

Barnsley has won two national awards recognising outstanding work by the Borough's Libraries and Museums to create a culture of welcome.

The awards have been made by national charity City of Sanctuary, which supports organisations across the UK to offer welcome to those seeking sanctuary from war and persecution. City of Sanctuary awards are based on three key principles – learn, embed and share. Organisations have to demonstrate that they:

- Help their staff to **Learn** about what it means to seek sanctuary
- **Embed** welcome, safety and inclusion in the way the organisation works and what it offers
- **Share** these ideas and initiatives with the wider community to help raise awareness and create a network of welcome.

Read the Barnsley Council press release: <http://bit.ly/46kOU1f>



Marianne Fraser-Hussain,
Library Manager (centre right)
and Kathryn Green,
Head of Libraries (r)
receiving the
Library of Sanctuary certificate
from the
Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (l).



In Barnsley, the award-winning Library Service offers a Conversation Café which meets every Monday in Library @ The Lightbox, supported by volunteers. Here people can come to practise their English. The libraries also offer books and newspapers in other languages, free access to computers, public WIFI and printing, as well as events and activities aimed at those seeking sanctuary. In addition, library staff work hard to ensure that those new to Barnsley know about all events, activities and services on offer.

Kathryn Green, Head of Libraries, said, "We're delighted to be presented with the Library of Sanctuary Award. The Library Service always looks to be a welcoming space for everyone in our community to come together to socialise and learn new skills and enjoy the wide variety of services and activities that we have to offer. We've worked very hard over the last few years to articulate that offer to people in Barnsley and to introduce new offers as well, such as last night's Multilingual Open Mic which was a huge success. We are seeking to increase our accessibility and inclusivity for everybody. This has been due to the hard work of our library staff who welcome people every day. Find out more about the Barnsley Libraries' offer for those seeking sanctuary: <http://bit.ly/4eicCNI>





Joanna Sutcliffe and Steven Skelley from Barnsley Museums (r), with Ambreen from Feels Like Home (centre), receiving their award from Fran Postlethwaite (l) representing the local City of Sanctuary award assessment team.



Community Heritage Curator, Steven Skelley, tells us about the award: “This award means the world to us, we’re over the moon, because it’s recognition of the work we’re doing. It helps us to believe in what we’re doing and it gives us credibility when we go to funders.

“The mainstay of our offer for refugees and asylum seekers is our 'Feels Like Home' group. In 2018 Feels Like Home was a footnote in our activity plan, with a £2,000 budget for the whole year, no members and no prior experience of working with any refugees or asylum seekers. Since then, it has blossomed into a flagship community group with over 200 members of many nationalities, which contributes to the welcoming atmosphere of our museum sites and throughout the whole of Barnsley.

“The group meets every week and that is the bedrock of what we do. I think a lot of places do projects and then they move on until the next funding comes, but we make sure we are always there. We learn about each other’s cultures and we also do cultural projects, some of them major. Back in 2021, we hosted Little Amal, the giant puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee child who has become a global symbol of compassion and human rights. From performing at Destination Barnsley and Bright Nights, to establishing the Blossom Choir, Feels Like Home has become an integral part of Barnsley’s cultural scene. Alongside that, we offer practical support. The group has become like a family, and we help with all of life’s issues, not just cultural activities.”

Feel Like Home meets every Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 at Barnsley Town Hall.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/4lous3Q>

Hear the Feels Like Home anthem, developed with Barnsley Libraries: <http://bit.ly/45I3uzQ>

Listen to the Blossom Choir, the latest development in partnership with the National Trust through the Voices Blooming project: <http://bit.ly/4eolPUH>

See how Barnsley Museums welcomed international puppet star Little Amal on her walk from Syria: <http://bit.ly/3HWWdSN>





EAT GOOD FEEL GOOD

Eat Good Feel Good Barnsley

If you're looking for affordable food close to you, there are 9 Good Food Pantries located around Barnsley, each designed to serve the local community - including the latest addition at St Helen's Church Hall, Hight Street, Thurnscoe, which opened on Monday 2nd June with a fantastic array of food available.

All the pantries provide sustainable and affordable food and are open to all people who live in the local area. You simply pay a small weekly fee (between £3 and £7 per shop) and in exchange you get to choose up to 4 times that value of food. Here are details.



Royston provided by Royston Friends Association

- Address: Manor Court Community Centre, West End Avenue, Royston, S71 4LN.
- Opening times: Friday 10.30am to 12pm.

Education, Learning Support Hub (ELSH)

Serving Barnsley's migrant community.

- Address: First Floor, 29 Wellington Street, Barnsley, S70 1SW.
- Opening times: Wednesday 1pm - 3pm and Saturday 11am - 1pm

Crossroads

- Address: Crossroads Cafe, 18 Barugh Green Road, Higham, Barnsley, S75 1JT.
- Opening times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am to 2pm.

St George's Church

- Address: St Georges Church, York Street, Barnsley S70 1BD.
- Opening times: Thursdays 12pm to 2pm.

Priory Centre provided by BettaLives Priory Centre

- Address: Priory Campus, Pontefract Road, Barnsley S71 5PN.
- Opening times: Fridays 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Darfield Community Centre provided by BettaLives

- Address: 157 Darfield Rd, Cudworth, Barnsley S72 8RX.
- Opening times: Mondays 1pm to 3pm.

Barnsley Recovery Connections in partnership with Barnsley Recovery Steps

Supporting the recovery community and those affected by alcohol or drug related issues:

- Address: McIntocks Recovery Hub (Crookes Street entrance), off Summer Lane, Barnsley, S70 2NZ.
- Opening times: Tuesday and Wednesday 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

Honeywell Community Centre provided by North Area Council

- Address: Honeywell Community Centre, 59 Honeywell Street, Barnsley, S71 1PZ.
- Opening times: Wednesday 12pm to 2pm.

St Helen's Church Hall

- Address: St Helens, Church Hall, High St, Thurnscoe, Rotherham S63 0RH
- Opening times: Monday 10am to 12pm.

Community Shop on the Go mobile food provision run in partnership with the Community Shop. Taking fresh fruit and veg to locations where it's needed and sells it at a fraction of the usual cost.

You can mix and match: Small bag - six items for £3 / Large bag - 12 items for £5

Visit [Community Shop on the Go on Facebook for updates on the dates, times and venues.](#)

More details on how to find local, low cost, good quality food in your area can be found at <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/healthy-living/eat-good-feel-good/>

A Place to **Welcome** Through the Ages

Steven Skelley is Community Heritage Curator at Barnsley Museums. His role is to collect and showcase evidence of the people and the stories that make Barnsley what it is today. Steven reminds us that people have come to Barnsley from all over the world for many centuries past – passing through, but often staying for work and making Barnsley their home.

"Coins minted in Cleopatra's name have been found in the fields of Barnsley. Emperor Hadrian came here when the Romans ruled Britain. When the Vikings came, they left us words that we still use today. So much so, that when we have Danish visitors, they sometimes recognise these words and comment. For example, we say 'laking out' to mean 'playing out'. There are many examples. Embedded within our museums are lots of stories of people coming and going, some sad, some happy – the result of war, migration and the search for work."

Steven knows this from his own experience: "My surname is from the West Coast of Ireland and I know my family came here to work in the mines when food was scarce in Ireland. We recently organised a blue plaque to commemorate the Hungarian mine workers who came here in the 19th Century. Earlier, in the 16th and 17th centuries, Barnsley saw the arrival of Huguenots escaping religious persecution in France. They helped to set up the Barnsley linen trade which was the finest linen you could buy in the country. The list goes on. We had a Polish resettlement site at Cannon Hall, which is part of the museum service. During the second World War, loads of people were sent here escaping Nazi persecution and when the war ended a lot of them stayed. We try to capture all these stories in our museums and show that, without all these waves of people, there would not be a Barnsley as we know it."



Standing Room Only for Ukrainian Play

A classic Ukrainian play performed by the Ukrainian British Friendship Group from Huddersfield was a popular highlight of Penistone Arts Week this year. The capacity crowd at St Andrew's Church, Penistone, was treated to singing, dancing and drama telling the story of 'Chasing Two Hares', about a man who chases two women but comes unstuck. The poignant moral of the tale is 'Truth always wins'.

Production Director, Natalia Mirkun, interviewed by Penistone FM, said: "It's amazing when people are laughing at our jokes and connecting with our story. It's what art is all about – connecting with our souls – and today, I think, we've connected with a lot of souls."

The idea of holding an event in Penistone Arts Week came from local resident Iryna Vasylyv, a member of the Ukrainian British Friendship Group. Iryna and her children, now aged 13 and 9, came to the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme in 2022. Iryna said: "I was very proud that the event was taking place in Penistone where I live. I feel it is my duty to help my community to understand about Ukraine. In the current world order, we need to get to know each other better and be closer to other people."

Introducing the performance, Iryna invited the audience to complete an imaginative journey around Ukraine, with the final stop at the Chasing two Hares monument next to St Andrew's church in Kyiv, a symbolic link with Penistone.

Together with Ukrainian ladies from Barnsley and Huddersfield, Iryna organised food at the event, which was a major feature alongside the play. People could sample Ukrainian dishes whilst meeting members of the cast and browsing a compilation of thought-provoking posters telling the story of the background to the current war in Ukraine. Dishes included:

Borscht – a UNESCO heritage dish
Buckwheat potato pie and cabbage rolls with choice of gravies – also heritage dishes
Cutlets and dumplings
Curd cheese balls, curd cheese buns and curd cheesecake
Dressed herring salad and garlicky pickled carrot
Poppy seed roll and potato pancakes
Rye bread and traditional fizzy malt drink Kvas – served as a welcome gift
Waffles with condensed milk – a favourite with the children



Iryna was delighted with the turnout and the response to the meal: "I thought the food was a great way of engaging people. Ukrainian ladies love cooking. Where many Ukrainian ladies are gathering, always expect lots of food."



The play, which took three months to prepare, was such a success in Penistone that Natalia, the Director, has received requests to stage it elsewhere: "We have had invitations to stage the performance in other places including Cambridge, London and Manchester. But first, we want to show the play at a main theatre in Huddersfield because even though it was created there, it has never been shown there. Together, we can win."

Comments from the audience interviewed by Penistone FM:

"It's been absolutely fantastic, such a warm welcome from the Ukrainian community."

"The food is comforting and warm... It's homely and lovely and clearly made with love."

"I thought it was excellent, really lovely."

"To do the play in a foreign language was really impressive - and the costumes as well. It was so enthusiastic, so well done."

"It was a wonderful performance and it was very moving because of the situation."

With thanks to:

The Ukrainian British Friendship Group

St Andrew's Church, Penistone,
who hosted and part-funded the performance

The organisers of Penistone Arts Week

The Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seeker
Support Group who part-funded the performance





Cinema Trip

Earlier this year, a trip to the Parkway Cinema to see 'The Dogman' was a great success. Organised by Genna Prior, the new Community Development Worker at the Refugee Council, the trip was attended by 40 clients including many children. With thanks to Mears and the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group for supporting the trip, and to the Refugee Council and volunteers for making it possible.




Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary group featured guest speaker Najib Maram. A successful and high-profile journalist in Afghanistan, Najib faced losing everything in one night five years ago, including her freedom, employment and education. She managed to come to the UK in 2024 and has since been studying and volunteering, but would ultimately like to work here. The 26 attendees at the 4th June meeting welcomed her excellent presentation and congratulated her on her abilities and fortitude in such difficult circumstances. After Najib's presentation, reports of activity from the last year were given, the annual accounts were presented and new officers were nominated. It was agreed to move regular City of Sanctuary group meeting times to 3-5pm on the first Monday of every month.

Next meeting: Monday 1st September 3-5pm in Room 12, Barnsley Town Hall. Everyone welcome!





**Barnsley
Carers
Service**

Barnsley Carers Service is a free service for unpaid carers. Many people do not see themselves as carers and miss out on information and support to help them in their caring role.
"I support my child at school due to his medical needs"

Examples of being an unpaid carer are:

"I help my husband/wife dress and undress"

"I support my child at school due to his medical needs"

"I cook and take my sister all her meals"

"I do all my Mum's household duties"

Barnsley Carers Service is commissioned by Barnsley Council to provide carers aged 18 and over with resources to improve their lives, health and wellbeing. We help carers to find balance in their busy lives and access the support they need and are entitled too.

How can we help?

We can answer queries you may have about your caring role and help in any way we can.

Examples are:

Benefits and grants – we provide benefit checks and can even help to fill out the forms.

Information and advice – we have staff who can help signpost services, give advice and information or even provide some emotional support during difficult times. This can be as one-to-one support or at a drop-in session.

Events and fun activities – such as day trips to places like York and Knaresborough, Christmas parties, bowling events for cared for children, as well as useful training sessions.

Group support – we have lots of groups offering peer support as well as activities such as crafting, gardening, walking, parent carer group or just a coffee and a chat in a friendly atmosphere.

Get in touch today to find out how we can support you.

Telephone 01226 288772

Email barnsleycarers@cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk

<https://barnsleycarers.co.uk/>

Priory Centre, Pontefract Road, Barnsley S71 5PN



Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker Women's Group

Come along to our women's group to meet new people,
get help & advice, take part in activities. Children welcome too.

Every Wednesday 10:00am - 12:00pm
Hope House Café, 2 Blucher Street, Barnsley S70 1AP

To join, please contact Abdel Mohamed from the Refugee Council
Mobile: 07917 135843
or email abdel.mohamed@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk



Volunteers needed at the Woman's Group.
A chance to meet woman from many cultures,
have fun and help with activities.
To find out more, contact the Refugee Council above.

Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker Men's Group

A group that is restarting for men to meet,
socialise, get help & advice

Every Tuesday 12:30pm - 1:30pm
The Quakers Building, 2a Western Street, Barnsley S70 2BP

To join, please contact Abdel Mohamed from the Refugee Council
Mobile: 07917 135843
or email abdel.mohamed@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk



Find out why retired teacher Andy Atkinson
Volunteers to lead the Refugee Men's Support Group on the
Refugee Council UK website here:
<https://bit.ly/4jQBH3G>

Multi-Agency Drop-in for Barnsley's Migrant Communities

Every Wednesday 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Hope House, Blucher Street, Barnsley S70 1AP

Information, support and advice on: migration, housing, work and benefits, health and wellbeing,
education, volunteering, social activities, community groups, safety, children and youth services,
Barnsley information, council services and more.

Free Hairdressing, Drinks & Snacks, Foodbank Referrals, Children's Activities

Everyone welcome!



Barnsley Healthcare Federation



Social Prescribing is about helping people improve their health and well-being by connecting them to non-medical support in the community. In Barnsley, our service supports individuals with a wide range of needs - from mental health and social isolation to accessing practical help with housing, debt, education, or finding community activities. We take a personalised, one-to-one approach and work closely with local partners to make sure people get the right support.

If someone would like to access social prescribing support, they can ask their GP, nurse, or another professional to refer them.

Alternatively, they can contact the Barnsley Healthcare Federation Social Prescribing team on email bhc.socialprescribing@nhs.net.

Or Self-referral link below:

<https://services.thejoyapp.com/en/listings/5628>

**citizens
advice**

Barnsley **DO YOU NEED HELP AND ADVICE?**

We are a local charity that has been supporting people living in Barnsley for more than 60 years.

We help with many things, such as managing debt and other money worries, claiming universal credit and other benefits, as well as issues with housing, gas and electricity. We can also help to improve your digital skills and access to digital equipment.

There are many ways to get our help...

IN PERSON: We deliver private, in-person advice sessions at many locations around Barnsley.

For most sessions, no appointment is needed. You can just turn up and wait to see an adviser.

ONLINE: If there isn't an advice session in your area, or it's better for you to ask for advice out-of-hours, you can submit an online form with your contact details and a brief description of your issue and an adviser will get back to you, usually within 2 working days.

Our website can be translated into many different languages.

We also work with Yorkshire Building Society (YBS) on Cheapside in Barnsley town centre, to offer in-person advice appointments.

You don't have to be a YBS customer to access this service. More information can be found at ybs.co.uk/citizens-advice

Details of the advice sessions can be found on our website at barnsleycab.org.uk/get-advice (below the contact form, towards the bottom of the page).



/barnsleycab



/barnsleycab

USEFUL CONTACTS

Adult Learning Services

Floor 2, Wellington House, Market St, Barnsley, S70 1WA

Tel: 01226 775270/775271

Email: adultlearning@barnsley.gov.uk

Website: www.barnsley.gov.uk/adultlearning

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary

Email: info@barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org

Website: <https://barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org>

Barnsley Foodbank Partnership

Unit 14 Aldham Industrial Estate, Wombwell, Barnsley, S73 8HA

Tel: 01226 235280

Email: manager@barnsley.foodbank.org.uk

Website: <https://barnsley.foodbank.org.uk>

Health Integration Team Barnsley

Support for new asylum seekers and refugees and those not yet registered for health services

170a Sheffield Road, Barnsley S70 4NW

Tel: 01226 731686

Email: healthintegrationteam@swyt.nhs.uk

0-19 Public Nursing Service Barnsley

Support for children, young people and families of asylum seekers and refugees.

Tel: 01226 774411

Email: 0-19HealthTeam@bbarnsley.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Barnsley

Guidance and advice on debt, employment, housing, benefits, tax credits and immigration issues

1 Wellington House, 36 Wellington Street, Barnsley S70 1WA

Call: Freephone 0800 144 88 48

Website: <https://barnsleycab.org.uk/>

Education Learning Support Hub (ELSH)

First Floor, 29 Wellington Street, Barnsley, S70 1SW

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am to 3pm, Wednesdays 9am to 12pm

Tel: 01226 249494

For details of courses visit: www.elshub.org.uk

Emergencies – Health

If you think you have a life-threatening illness or injury, phone 999 and ask for an ambulance.

In a non-emergency, phone 111.

Emergencies – Crime

For emergencies, phone 999 and ask for the Police.

In a non-emergency, phone 101.

USEFUL CONTACTS CONTINUED

Feels Like Home

An opportunity to practise English with friends and discover Barnsley and the UK

Barnsley Museums Learning Lab, Town Hall, S70 2TA

Call/text: Joanna: 07873 655035 Email: feelslikehome@barnsley.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Feels-Like-Home-100877908934396

Hate Crime

To report hate crimes, call: 101 or 999 in an emergency

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired you can textphone 18001 101 or SMS 07786 220 022.

Visit: southyorks.police.uk/hatehurts

Rachael Ferrington, Hate Crime Coordinator Barnsley T: 01226 736372 M: 07464 985266

Safer Neighbourhood Services Hub

IDAS

For those experiencing or affected by domestic violence or sexual abuse.

Tel: 03000 110 110 Email: info@idas.org.uk Website: www.idas.org.uk

Live Well Barnsley

For information on health care and support services, Visit: www.livewellbarnsley.co.uk

Migrant Help

Help with housing, accommodation, maintenance, ASPEN cards and relocation.

Tel: 08088 010503 - Website: www.migranthelpuk.org

Migration Partnership Barnsley

Supporting collaborative and holistic service provision.

Email: migrationpartnershipbarnsley@gmail.com

Website: <https://migrantaction.org.uk/the-migration-partnership-barnsley-mpb/>

Refugee Council

Address: Wellington House, 36 Wellington St. Barnsley S70 1WA (open Monday - Thursday 10am-2pm)

The Advice Workers can be contacted on 01226 320111 or 07917 135843

Barnsley Refugee Integration Service (BRIS)

Tel: 01226 773439

Mobile: 07775 033443, 07392 277775

Email: advice@barnsley.gov.uk

Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker Men's Group

Meets at: The Quaker Building, 2a Western Street, Barnsley S70 2BP

Every Tuesday 12:30pm – 1:30pm - Call Abdel: 07917 135843

Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker Women's Group

Meets at: Hope House Community Café, 2 Blucher Street, Barnsley S70 1AP

Every Wednesday 10am – 12pm - Call Abdel: 07917 135843



MAKING BARNSELEY A SAFE PLACE FOR THOSE FLEEING WAR AND PERSECUTION

OPEN MEETINGS
3-5pm on the First
Monday of every month
(not August)

**Check website
for venue**

OUR AIMS

- Create a culture of welcome for asylum seekers and refugees, challenging hostility and discrimination in all its forms
- Publicise and celebrate the contribution of asylum seekers and refugees to their local communities and to UK society and culture
- Work with local communities and with other relevant organisations to support asylum seekers and refugees
- Campaign for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees and oppose anti-migrant legislation
- Encourage organisations and institutions in Barnsley (including BMBC) to become part of the City of Sanctuary national network
- Amplify the voices of people with lived experience to ensure they are central in our activities and decision making.

✉ info@barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org
🌐 www.barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org