

Welcome to our latest e-Newsletter in which we provide selected brief information to supporters and stakeholders. If you will like us to include your news items in our next newsletter please [contact us on here](#).

---

## Bradford Refugee Week 2019 was a blast!

The 2019 Refugee Week took place 15-23<sup>rd</sup> June across Bradford. It was hugely successful with a variety of activities and participation by a wide range of organisations.

The launch event took place at Capital of Cycling presided over by the Lord Mayor of Bradford Cllr Doreen Lee with a parade in City Park on 17<sup>th</sup> June. Other activities included exhibitions, film screenings, picnics, open mic nights, training workshops and parties across Bradford, reflecting the contributions refugees make to the city. The events took place throughout the week in libraries, schools and community centres and included the UK premier screening of a new film, Gaza.

Children from local schools took part in singing with the wonderful Bradford Friendship Choir and a fantastic and creative parade took place led by a colourful taxi bike.

The week culminated in a joint event in Peel Park as part of the national Great Get Together celebrations in memory of Jo Cox MP.

The Refugee Week Planning Group did a fabulous job coordinating the wide range of activities. Our own Schools of Sanctuary Coordinator Sarah Cartin and our volunteers Deborah Mullins and Mary Blacka contributed hugely to the success of the activities.

Deb Collett, chair of the Refugee Week Working Group (and Coordinator at Artworks Creative Communities) said:

“Bradford has a proud tradition of welcoming people from across the globe, particularly those who have fled from their home countries as a result of persecution. Celebrations during Refugee Week arise from a coming together of refugees and their supporters.”

## Bradford City of Sanctuary Art Exhibition

As part of the Refugee Week programme, Bradford City of Sanctuary organised the much-celebrated an Open Art Exhibition at Capital of Cycling (a pop-up gallery, in Capital of Cycling in the city centre) throughout the week. As in previous years, the exhibition organised by our fantastic volunteers Mary Blacka and Deborah Mullins was an all-age, mixed media exhibition, with individual and collaborative work from schools, art students, established artists and groups of all kinds. 279 people visited the Exhibition this year. We express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the following exhibitors:

1. Mike Barrett: Be kind
2. Bevan Wellbeing Centre: Butterfly Group: Giant dress. (Helen Lincoln)
3. BIASAN / Bradford Refugee Forum: Hearts of Bradford (Julia Leech)
4. Bowling Park Primary School: Work by New-to-English students (Harriet Crossley)
5. Bradford Christian School: Drawing and painting by Years 7 & 8 (Andrew Leedham)
6. Jenny Cousens: Blended strands
7. Creative Threads / Bradford Action for Refugees: Gardens of our past, planting for the future (Shine West Bowling - Sam Thirkill)
8. Jo Dunn: Painting
9. Farah Farouka: Traditional paintings, illustrating some old Circassian folk tales
10. Feversham Academy: Work by a Year 9 student.
11. Lapage Primary School & Nursery: Work by pupils from Early Years to Year 6. (Mariya Mobeen)
12. Deborah Mullins: Borders
13. St Cuthbert & the First Martyrs' Catholic Primary School: Collage by pupils from Reception to Year 6. (Jo Bamford)

14. St Matthew's CE Primary School: Collage (Julia Leech)
15. Touchstone: The art of friendship. Quilt. (Shaeron Caton Rose / Jenny Ramsden)
16. Westminster CE Primary Academy: Collaborative painting by New-to-English pupils in Key Stage 2 (Juliette Rawnsley)

Some comments from visitors to the Exhibition:

*"Beautiful pieces of art and a joy to see artwork from children" Kay Holden*

*"Lovely exhibition. I particularly liked the dandelion seeds representing different people on different journeys." Kat Balcomb*

*"Great art exhibition." James Field*

*"Hopeful and inspiring images from people wanting to share the future - refreshing contrast to the negative stereotypes being trotted out constantly by politicians and the media." David Dodwell*

*"Great way of sharing peoples stories! No borders. No nations. Refugees are welcome HERE!" Coralie Data*

## **Bradford Schools celebrate Sanctuary in our City!**

Children and staff from schools across Bradford came together to create a vibrant and celebratory launch for Refugee Week. Existing and future Schools of Sanctuary were among the 140 people who attended the launch event which took place on Centenary Square and at the Capital of Cycling.

The launch event was attended by the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Cllr Doreen Lee, who led the parade of schools, local organisations, banners and music around City Park on a customised taxi bike, built and decorated by unaccompanied asylum seekers as part of an art project with Artworks Creative Communities.

The procession then travelled to the formal launch of the Art Exhibition, kindly hosted by the Capital of Cycling, which showcased the talent of schools, groups and individuals in the district who had worked to prepare moving, striking and poignant pieces to reflect the theme; "You, me and those who came before".

The artwork was celebrated by the Lord Mayor, who commended all the continued work to make Bradford an outstanding City of Sanctuary. The Lord Mayor also presented Lapage Primary School with their School of Sanctuary award, recognising their work over the last school year to learn, embed and share the principles and values of the award.

The Friendship Choir led the beautiful singing, bringing together many cultures and languages and inspiring the children to dance and sing. The celebratory mood of the event reflected the week as a whole and plans are already underway for 2020!

Any schools interested in finding out about applying to become a School of Sanctuary are warmly invited to contact Sarah on [schools@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:schools@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org)

## **Bradford learns more about the Sanctuary Movement**

Our AGM took place 12<sup>th</sup> June at Millside Centre. In addition to our formal business this year we invited a guest speaker. Sara Trewitt, City of Sanctuary Regional Coordinator, Yorkshire & Humberside kindly accepted to speak at our AGM.

Sara's very excellent presentation focused on the activities of the City of Sanctuary movement including Network Voice (commitment to increase sanctuary seeker voice), schools of sanctuary, shops of sanctuary, gardens of sanctuary, libraries & museums of sanctuary and campaigns (Asylum Matters project, Lift the Ban Coalition, Families Together, Ending unlimited detention, Sanctuary in Parliament, Experts by experience panel, Unlimited detention) etc.

A very productive interactive discussion and networking followed.

## Would you like to know more about volunteering?

Bradford City of Sanctuary in partnership with the Bradford Volunteer Centre are providing information sessions for asylum seekers and refugees on volunteering. During the interactive session we discuss the meaning, benefits and the knots and bolts of volunteering. A current asylum seeker or refugee volunteer comes along to share their experiences with participants. We provide participants with a list of organisations that have expressed interest in hosting volunteers. The Volunteer Centre helps those interested to register with them for more volunteering opportunities.

Several refugee support organisations have expressed interest to work in partnership with us on this initiative.

Our next session will be on 3rd September 2019, at 3.15PM at Refugee Action. To find out more information or book a place please contact Sarli on: Mob. 07378 304 724. [Email](#)

## City of Sanctuary Book now available!

The much-awaited book, 'A Hundred Thousand Welcomes', written by Tiffy Allen, previously National Network Coordinator for many years, brings to life the story of City of Sanctuary through a tapestry of personal stories from all over the network. It is a useful and readable introduction to both the City of Sanctuary vision and raises awareness about the issues affecting people seeking sanctuary. You can order your copy online at [Lulu here](#).

---

### Upcoming events

- BCoS monthly meetings: 14 August, 11 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December. Contact: Will [Sutcliffe:chair@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:Sutcliffe:chair@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org) Mob. 07505 053149
- BCoS Open themed meeting: 11 Sep. at Millside Centre. The theme of this meeting is access to health services by sanctuary seekers, difficulties and how to overcome them. All welcome.
- University of Sanctuary Working Group: Thur 12 Sep 2019 10am - 12pm, Contact: Dr Mel Cooper: 01274 236 440, 07827 981 927
- Universities of Sanctuary Conference in York - Wed, 4 Sep 2019, [Further details here](#).
- Sanctuary in Parliament - November 2019.

---

*Copyright © 2019, Bradford City of Sanctuary, All rights reserved.*

#### **Our mailing address is:**

Bradford City of Sanctuary.  
c/o Touchstone, 4 Easby Rd, Bradford, BD7 1QX  
M: 07505 053149; F: 01274 395324  
Registered Charity Number 1160553  
<https://bradford.cityofsanctuary.org/>

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

This email was sent to [chair@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:chair@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
BRADFORD CITY OF SANCTUARY · C/o Touchstone, 32 Merton Road · Bradford, Brd BD7 1RE · United Kingdom

