



The Walk for Justice: Wednesday 22nd June



We will be walking 10 miles from Bradford centenary square to Waterside Court in Leeds. This is a familiar destination to many asylum seekers who are required to report there on a regular basis. We will highlight the injustices in the asylum system which BEACON's projects address: destitution of refused asylum seekers, lack of access to legal aid, poor provision of English language classes and social isolation. We are raising money for BEACON through sponsorship and bucket shaking - do sponsor someone if you can't join us! All are welcome to join us at any point along the walk - just get in touch for more information and to sign up!

Details:

Start: 9.30am, Centenary Square (leaving at 10am prompt), Bradford

End: 4pm (approx.), Waterside Court, Kirkstall Road, Leeds (LS4).

Length: 10miles (approx.)

BEACON | 32 Merton Road | Bradford | BD7 1RE | T: 01274 727525 | beacon@beaconbradford.org

W: www.beaconbradford.org | T: @BEACON_Bradford | F: Beacon Bradford

Reg. Charity No. 1119463

All change at BEACON!

A lot has changed at BEACON over the last few months! New developments mean we are strengthening as an organisation and will be better placed to offer support to asylum seekers in Bradford.

New People

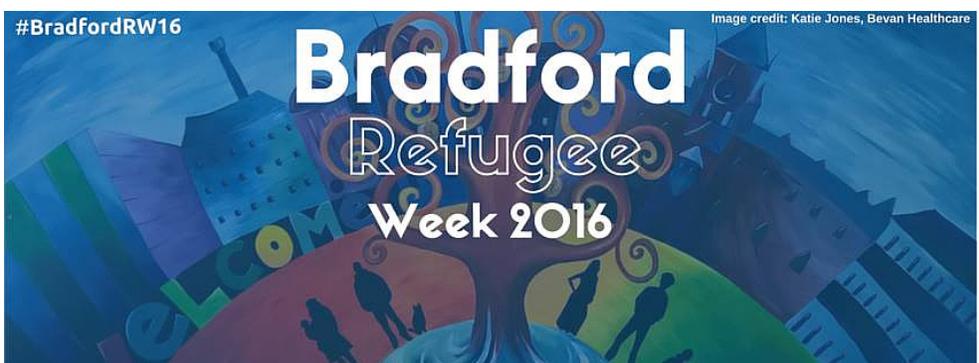
We are delighted to welcome Sarah Shaw, our new Admin Assistant. Sarah will be supporting Lizzie in the office and looking after the day to day financial admin. This new post came about after the retirement of our Treasurer of 8 years, Roy Howarth. BEACON would like to thank Roy for his amazing dedication and support of BEACON. We are also very pleased to welcome Roland Clarke as our new treasurer who will be joining the Exec this summer.

New Website

Our website will soon be getting a fresh new look thanks to Totaal IT. This will make it easier for all our supporters to find out about our work and for volunteers and partner organisations to keep in touch. Watch this space!

Under Review

We have commissioned an evaluation of our work and our organisational structure. This review will take place over the summer and it will help us to better meet the needs of the asylum seekers we support and strengthen us as an organisation.



Bradford Refugee Week promises to be full of exciting events with a festival on 4th June (Bradford University Union), film showings and an art exhibition from 17th - 22nd June!

Website: refugeeweek.org.uk/in-your-area/yorkshire-humberside/

Facebook: 'Refugee Week Bradford'

Email: schools@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org



PROJECT UPDATES



Dates for your diary

4th June - 22nd June:

Bradford Refugee Week

22nd June:

Walk for Justice. 9.30am,

Centenary Square

25th November: BEACON

AGM, the Delius Centre, 6-

8pm.



Artwork by a CHAT English Student,
May 2015

Support BEACON

Donate
theBigGive.org.uk

helping your donations go further

Volunteer

Excited by our project
updates? get involved!

Become a friend of BEACON

beaconbradford.org/

FriendsOfBeacon



The Hosting Project

The Hosting Project continues to support vulnerable asylum seekers who, without the kindness and hospitality of our hosts, would be homeless and at significant risk of exploitation. We would expand the project if we could find someone able to spare one to two days/week (flexibly) to work alongside Will, who set up the project and continues to run it in a voluntary capacity. If you - or someone you know- might be interested, give him a call on 07505 053149. More details are available on the Hosting page of our website.

McKenzie Friends

Whilst refugees on resettlement programs are housed and given access to benefits and work, asylum seekers struggle with an increasingly inefficient and damaging system. The combined effects of counterproductive 'austerity' measures, such as reductions in Legal Aid, or the closing of courtrooms at the tribunals, added to the consequences of the flooding of the Home Office in Leeds, are increasing delays throughout the asylum process. We have recently recruited and trained some excellent new volunteers, however our workload is increasing in size and complexity and we are reviewing how the project can be most effective. We are currently supporting 35 asylum seekers from 23 different countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Without the support of our volunteers they would often face the asylum system alone.

CHAT

CHAT English Conversation Club

CHAT English Club has successfully moved to Touchstone - numbers have stayed up and new students have joined us since the move. In May we took 10 students on a trip to Malham with People in the Dales - we had a picnic and Kurdish dancing on the top of Malham cove and we learnt lots about the history of the area. As of 1st June Lizzie will no longer be working on the CHAT Project, although she is staying on as BEACON coordinator. The classes will be run by volunteers with support from the trustees until September when the findings of our review will determine what the next steps will be.

CHAT Phoenix House

CHAT Phoenix House: Since 1st October 16 volunteers have offered a friendly face and a listening ear at the Tribunal on 64 mornings. We have given out 984 cuppas and have supported 126 asylum seekers, offering a friendly face and a listening ear and often signposting them to services in their local area. Although the service is free, some choose to donate and we have raised £364.83 from donations so far!