



# Mid Wales Refugee Action - Y Canolbarth dros Ffoaduriaid

# THANK YOU MACHYNLLETH!!

## Yearly report

Here is a report of the work we have done **between July 2017 and July 2018.**

## Fundraising & Awareness-raising

### From July 2017

- July 11 - Stop Funding Hate protest at Marks and Spencer's, Aberystwyth - part of a national campaign to ask M&S to stop advertising in the Daily Mail newspaper.
- July 19: Fundraising and awareness raising at the Machynlleth Wednesday Market
- July 31 - August 2: Redress the Balance at El Sueno Existe Festival - putting the Fun into Fundraising through MWRA's lavish dressing-up tent.
- September 8-11: Tent clean up at Festival no 6
- October 21: MWRA's first birthday celebration at Pantperthog Village hall, with information about our activities and discussion about how people would like to get involved
- November 10: Stall at Magic Lantern's Watch Africa film festival
- November 21- Stand at Aber Food Surplus event in aid of Help Refugees.
- November 23: Machynlleth officially granted 'Town of Sanctuary' status
- November 24: Ffilm and Ffalaffel - 'Terrafirma', Pantperthog village hall. Film about an Italian fisherman and his family caught between the law of the land and the law of the sea when he helps a group of migrants rescued from an overburdened raft. Raised £298
- November 25: Charity Fair at Y Plas Machynlleth

- November 28: Members of Mid Wales Refugee Action met with Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies at the Sanctuary in Parliament event to campaign for a more humane asylum system.
- November 18: MWRA members attend demonstration at Yarlswood detention centre to call for an end to the indefinite imprisonment without trial of migrants, including children.
- December - MwrMen Calendar fundraising project.
- December - Lobbying of Calais prefecture to ask them to provide emergency accommodation for migrants sleeping rough in winter conditions.

### 2018

- January 27 2018 - Film & ffelafel event Pantperthog 'They will have to kill us first'.
- February 21 2018 - Sanctuary day visit, Syrians resettled in Newtown and Aberystwyth visit Machynlleth market and Centre for Alternative Technology
- February 21 2018 - Vigil for Ghouta Machynlleth clock tower
- March 8 - 24 hour hunger strike in solidarity with detainees at Yarles Wood detention centre.
- March 9 - Film, 'The White Helmets' Q&A and live link to Ghouta. Y Plas, Machynlleth.
- March 24 2018 - Mid Wales meets Middle East, music night and fundraiser in Morlan Centre. Bus from Newtown.

- April 10 - Presentation to St Peters church
- April 13 - Social media action. #solidarity is not a crime: in support of the UN statement condemning the intimidation of aid workers.
- May 6/7 - Continuum Festival: Redress the Balance
- May 13 - Machynlleth Share & Repair event: Redress the Balance
- June 1-3 - Fire in the Mountain - Redress the Balance
- June 16 - Eid celebrations in Newtown, help organising and supporting Aberystwyth people to attend
- June 20 - Refugee Week stall at Machynlleth market
- June 23 - Family forest school activity day, first of three, in collaboration with Outdoor Learning Wales
- June 23 - Members attend NEON movement builders five day training Cardiff
- June 30 - Braich Goch community celebration, Redress the Balance.
- July 7 - Second family forest school activity day.
- July 18 - Market stall Machynlleth.
- July 18 - MWRA member completes level 1 and 2 OISC law immigration training

## With funds raised we have...

- Funded six volunteer visits to France and Serbia, providing 60 days of voluntary work directly assisting refugees and grass roots organisations in Northern France and in Serbia, where hundreds of people are living without adequate food, shelter or access to water or services.
- These trips include the delivery of essential donations and the ability to identify urgent financial needs and enable calls for financial donations from MWRA funds raised.
- July 2017 - £200 to Kesha Niya, who supply food and hot meals to refugees on the French / Italian border
- August 2017 - £666 to Kesha Niya to enable them to repair their van.
- September 2017 £500 Dunkirk ground support van
- November 2017 – January 2018 £325 - MWRA sponsors a series of Women’s only Tai Chi classes in Aberystwyth to support Syrian women living in Aberystwyth and to promote cross-cultural friendships.
- February 2018 £188 - donation to support refugee safe travel through Serbia.
- February 2018 - £264 Calais wood yard
- February 2018 - £100 Calais hospital visits & transportation
- February 2018 - £750 to Utopia 56 who distribute food and clothing in Dunkirk and Calais and provide police surveillance to try and protect refugees from state violence and intimidation for one week running costs.
- February 2018 - £143.85 Sanctuary day visit for resettled Syrians living in Newtown and Aberystwyth
- February 2018 - £100 Dunkirk Women’s Centre, providing support and resources for women and children
- March 2018 - £205 donation to Utopia 56
- March 2018 - £300 Calais wood yard to respond to extreme cold weather needs.
- March 2018 - £105 White Helmets film costs for resettled Syrians.

- March 2018 - £350 transport for resettled Syrians in Newtown to MWRA/Aberaid event in Aberystwyth.
- April 2018 - £150 Railcards for resettled Syrians
- May 2018 - £100 Auberge in Calais
- May 2018 - £300 emergency tents for Calais.
- June 2018 - £100 Eid celebrations in Newtown
- June 2018 - £165 Keysha Nya Eid celebrations Italy/France border.
- June 2018 - £85 travel for Family Forest school day for resettled Syrian families.
- July 2018 - £150 travel for Family Forest School day.
- July 2018 - £100 CEFN north Wales refugee support charity
- July 2018 - £30 Railcard for resettled Syrian family.

## Volunteering & Deliveries

- 31 July 2017: delivery of essential donations by member en route through Calais.
- 23 September 2017: one day volunteering at Calais kitchen by members returning through Calais.
- 26 - 30 October 2017: 3 volunteers to Calais with donations including clippers for a mobile barber, volunteering in the kitchens, wood yard, distribution and sorting of donations.
- 9 - 14 November 2017: 2 volunteers o Calais with car full of donations for L’auberge des Migrants and culture project promoting sporting activities in Calais, volunteering in the kitchens, wood yard, distribution and sorting of donations.
- 2-8 December 2017 2 volunteers to Calais
- 21 - 29 December 2017: 2 volunteers to Serbia to volunteer with BelgrAID and learn more about the refugee situation on the edges of the European Community borders.
- 13-18 February 2018: 2 volunteers to Calais and help in hospitals emotionally supporting injured people and providing transport. In the wood yard enabling purchasing of essentials for the distribution of firewood in extreme cold and volunteering in the kitchens and distribution and sorting of donations. Enable MWRA donation to

Utopia 56 of one weeks running costs to help them through gap in access to finances,

- 25 - 31 March 2018: 3 volunteers to Calais, continue with support for wood yard, getting involved in infrastructure support for distribution and data recording, volunteering in the kitchens, distribution and sorting of donations.
- 26 May – 2 June 2018 : 1 volunteer to Calais presenting new software for more efficient infrastructure processes for recording distribution data, distribution of food and clothes, assisting with transportation and support for detained refugees.

## Local outreach

- Ongoing – weekly drop ins on Monday in Aberystwyth and Friday in Newtown organised by local support groups and attended by MWRA, meeting with resettled Syrian families, making friends, helping negotiate utility bills, understanding correspondence and facilitating needs.
- November 2017 – March 2018 Tai Chi Classes in Aberystwyth
- February 2018 – Hosted Sanctuary Day for local resettled families visiting Machynlleth market and CAT
- February 2018 – Vigil for Ghouta at Machynlleth clock tower.
- February 2018 – secure funding for collaboration with Outdoor Learning Wales for 3 family forest school sessions.
- March 2018 – Facilitated showing of White Helmets film and live link to Ghouta, home for some from Syria.
- March 2018 – Co-organised Middle East meets Wales event in Morlan Centre in Aberystwyth
- April 2018 – Facilitate family Railcards for resettled families in Newtown
- June 2018 – Facilitate Eid celebrations in Newtown and attendance by Aberystwyth people
- June 2018 – First family forest school session.
- July 2018 – Second family forest school session.