



**‘Community
as a
Superpower’**

"Five Acre Farm is a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme set up in 2012. Thanks to the help and support of friends, we started growing veg. We believe that those who join our volunteer team grow so much more than vegetables. We are Community! With regular social events, crafts and skill sharing to embrace there's even more than the delicious organic produce to enjoy." The group supports refugees and asylum seekers to volunteer allowing them to benefit from: "Improved overall physical and mental wellbeing, growing and discovering new interests, learning and growing organic vegetables, meeting new friends."



Compassionate Kenilworth and Onside Coaching

"I volunteer because we can do better. When I first met some of the guys, I asked what they thought of the UK. They said the only British people who had spoken to them were shouting '[go] off back to your own country' from passing cars. That hit me hard, and I couldn't ignore that. I started Worldwide FC to change that, to create real, human connections and show both sides that we have more in common than we think. Football became our bridge. What we've built is about dignity, respect, and belonging. Over two years on, we now have players who have now been dispersed all over the midlands coming back to play as well as the local teams who have been involved asking for more matches."

Mark Morrey from Onside Coaching



Conversation Cafes in Leamington and Rugby

"My initial interest in volunteering with the local group stemmed from a life long interest in meeting people from different backgrounds, from different nationalities, who speak different languages. Along with other volunteers I know that we derive great satisfaction helping folk to settle into the local area, navigate the complexity of a way of life that must be so puzzling to them, establishing friendships along the way. When looking for a name for our group back in 2017, I asked Roger from Stratford Welcome Here, if we could use it too, as it seemed to sum up precisely what we do. Happily he agreed.....and I am so glad he did!"

Penny Halpin from Welcome Here Leamington and Warwick

"Our learners are so grateful to the volunteers. We love seeing their smiling faces, so often knowing that behind the smile lies a hard, sometimes tragic story. We are humbled by their courage. We will be pleased to hear from new volunteers in the Rugby area. Contact the Benn Partnership Centre who can put you in touch with me."

Ian Sydenham



Hand in Hand with Refugees and ArtLabrtry – Integration through Art

"Having lived in Ukraine and having friends there," **Helen Aris** was strongly motivated to want to provide support for Ukrainians as they began arriving in Warwickshire in February 2022. From the initial practical stage of connecting a guest with a host, the visa application and transportation to the UK, the support Helen through Hand in Hand with Refugees has provided has evolved into building a new community in which all Ukrainians are welcome and can play a part. Whether through regular social activities, celebrating significant events or simply creating time and space to listen Helen's impact at an individual and community level has been critical in enabling integration and building resilient support networks for Refugees

"I firmly believe that everyone possesses a creative inner child. At ArtLAB, we believe in the power of art to help individuals discover themselves through immersive and mindful activities. Our goal is to provide a space where artists of all ages and levels can dream, create, and inspire each other. Come join us for the perfect art adventure tailored just for you! ArtLab nurtures the latent artist within each student, irrespective of their age, background, or prior artistic experience. Our passion lies in illuminating the transformative power of art in people's lives."

Libby Estler ArtLabrtry



Kenilworth Lions Club

“Kenilworth Lions Club is part of the family of Lions Clubs International and with c60 members is one of the largest clubs in the country. Our motto is “We Serve” which means we support and serve communities within the Kenilworth and Leamington area and overseas where our financial and physical support can make a difference.

We run a number of fund-raising events each year; the most well-known of which is our Lions Furniture Store in Kenilworth. Here we receive donations of second-hand furniture and every Saturday morning we are open to the public for sales. The money raised goes towards our many charitable causes.

We also donate furniture to support families in need and within the past two years have helped around 50 families from Ukraine who have settled in the area. A number of our members have also, within the past year, driven donated ambulances to the Ukraine border to help with humanitarian aid.

We continue to serve and are always happy to hear from like-minded individuals who wish to support our charitable efforts which is complemented by a good social calendar where we meet and socialise on a regular basis”

Ray Hulse



Welcome Here Leamington and Warwick, and Welcome Here Stratford groups

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Penny Halpin from Welcome Here Leamington and Warwick

"You start volunteering because you want to help, to let refugees know that they have come to a place where people welcome them. And that is so important. But you quickly realise that you are also meeting amazing people, both refugees and other volunteers. And that sense of our common humanity makes volunteering such a positive part of your life."

Roger Matthews from Welcome Here Stratford



The Bloom Group

"For me, what inspires me to volunteer with refugees and asylum seekers is simply a shared sense of humanity and empathy. I understand their struggles because, in a way, I am one of them. I believe every person deserves dignity and support, especially when facing difficult circumstances. The "superpower" of our Bloom lies in our ability to see the human in everyone, extending a hand of help without hesitation or discrimination, and building communities that welcome all."

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Welcome to
Warwickshire



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