

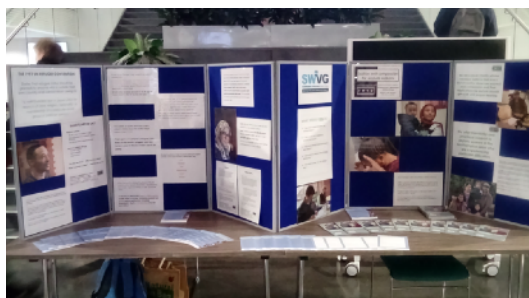


Holocaust Memorial Day

On 25th January 2018 SWVG had a display in the Jane Austen Lecture Theatre in Southampton Solent University marking of Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day. It was organised by the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations, hosted by both Southampton Solent University and University of Southampton. 'The Memorial Day is dedicated to the remembrance of victims who were persecuted as a result of genocide and discusses the discriminatory issues which society faces today'. The theme this year was 'The Power of Words'.

The Mayor of Southampton opened the evening. There was a talk by Dr Emmanuel Ngwa who had worked on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, as well as reflective pieces and drama performances from Southampton Solent University. The event closed with statements read by the Southampton United Nations Association.

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust literature was also on display, along with 'Helping victims of hate crime' presented by Hampshire Constabulary, 'Stand up to racism' and 'October books'.



New Year's Party

The annual SWVG New Year's Party was held on 27th January in the very spacious and bright hall of St Edmund Church in Southampton. Approximately 45 people came - a mixture of Visitors and Clients. There was a lot of delicious food brought in by both Visitors and Clients and everyone enjoyed tasting food from many different countries.

Many thanks to all who helped to make it an enjoyable occasion.

Football Tournament

Another football tournament will take place on the 9th June. Members can already save the date but more information will follow.

Dates for the Diary

9 April - General Meeting

9 June - Football Tournament

Message from Chris Stephens, SWVG Coordinator

Current Areas of Activity:

Five new clients have been taken on since January: three single men, one from Sierra Leone and one from Nigeria in NASS accommodation, and one man from Somalia in the hostel; one mother and two teenage children from Nigeria in NASS accommodation; and one single woman from Cameroon in private accommodation. Currently in the hostel is full.

Clear Springs, the NASS housing provider, has taken over the block of flats at 151-159 the Southampton High Street. For those of you who know the area these are Below Bar and they are on the right hand side above the army careers and RBS. They have moved in an additional 50 asylum seekers, mainly from Cardiff.

This takes the number of asylum seekers in Southampton from about 130 to 180 and is already impacting on schools, services and us!

Current Client Statistics:

Visiting: During the 2-month period 26 visitors have worked regularly with clients. Others have acted as back-ups or helped with one-off or occasional tasks.

English Tuition: 7 members are teaching one-to-one English. All have full SWVG training and all but one are or have been visitors.

Clients: During the 2-month period we have regularly visited 37 clients (with 12 babies/children). 8 of these are on NASS support and 12 get ASSIST support. 6 have Leave to Remain. In addition, we have been in occasional contact with about 38 more clients. 1 client (an Iranian Kurd) has been granted Leave to Remain with Refugee Status (5 years).

Thanks to all members whether you are visitors or working on other areas for all your hard work.

Chris

English Teaching News

We have heard recently that we have received a grant of £3500 from the Santander Foundation, to be spent on English teaching over the next 12 months. We are delighted with both the money to help our students, and the recognition of our work.

We are now teaching about twenty students, most of whom are clients or ex-clients, and more approach us every week, so that we now have a short waiting list. Our students have varied needs, and some of them also attend classes at CLEAR or elsewhere. A series of new short courses in speaking and listening at Pre-Entry and Entry 1 run by CLEAR may be of interest, including to clients who have been here less than 6 months, as there are no barriers to enrolment. Short courses in basic reading and writing for parents of pre-school children are also available. If you think either of these might benefit your client, please direct them to Rowan at the CLEAR office for an assessment, or if your client needs extra help, do ask one of us.

Catherine Hartley: catherinehartley1@gmail.com

Ruth Carr: ruth@keithandruth.me.uk

Help needed

As Nele van der Wielen is spending much time abroad with her work at the moment she is unable to coordinate the work of the Southampton Events group. The group keep contact using WhatsApp, but the occasional meeting needs to be organised to generate ideas and welcome new members into the group. We need someone to take on this coordinating role. If you feel you could do this please contact Anne Leeming: anneleeming31@btinternet.com

Donations, Grants and Fundraising

Our grateful thanks for the following:

Donations

Individual donation: £500
Individual donation: £400
Individual donation: £200
St Peter's Church: £1,500

Grants

St Clare and St Francis Trust: £500
Tolkien Trust: £20,000

Fundraising events

Anne's Book Quiz: £345

Half Marathon Fundraising

Some SWVG members will run the Southampton half marathon on the 22nd April to raise money for SWVG. If any other members want to join the run please contact Nele van der Wielen (n-wielen@gmx.co.uk) so that we can organise a joint fundraising page.



Yoga

The yoga group meets once a week to practise breathing exercises and various poses such as tree, warrior, dog or the sun salute under the guidance of Rose Fudio. The ladies are building up physical strength and flexibility whilst also enjoying the calm and meditative aspects of this activity.



The deadline for material for the March Newsletter is 20 March 2018. Please send contributions to Naomi Hartley at naomihartley1@gmail.com.