

**Refugee
Week**

IN LANCASHIRE

16th to 22nd June 2025

Celebrating our Community

Community as a Superpower

lancashire.gov.uk





Refugee Week

IN LANCASHIRE



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OS AC0000850590

Not to Scale.



Photo from Life 2.0 exhibition by Libby Burke Wilde



What is Refugee Week?

Refugee week is an annual opportunity to celebrate traditions, food, music, history, art and stories from around the world. It is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the many and diverse cultures which make up our Lancashire community.

The theme for Refugee Week 2025 is 'Community as a Superpower'. Our Lancashire community achieves the incredible every day with simple acts of shared generosity, kindness can be multiplied to become an unstoppable force!



Photo from LIFE 2.0 exhibition by Libby Burke Wilde

“We can begin the process of making community wherever we are. We can begin by sharing a smile, a warm greeting, a bit of conversation; by doing a kind deed or by acknowledging kindness offered to us.”

bell hooks

Our communities can bring people together, bridging divides and offering support. They can offer spaces of resilience and places for healing.

This Refugee Week everyone is invited to spend time with friends and build new connections in and beyond our neighbourhoods. From communal meals and cultural celebration events to film screenings, litter picking and music-making, let's share the feelings of welcome and belonging. Listening, learning, and enjoying time with others in our community.

It's amazing what we can do when we move together towards a shared goal. So let's redefine and rediscover our collective power to shape hopeful futures and begin by practicing, celebrating and rehearsing it every day.

Join us for Refugee Week, 16–22 June 2025, and together let's unleash the superpower of community.

Adapted from **refugeeweek.org.uk**

What's On?

EVENTS BY AREA

Blackburn with Darwen



Blackburn with Darwen Refugee Week Launch Event

Launching the Refugee Week magazine and screening a short film to mark the beginning of Refugee Week in Blackburn with Darwen.

Monday 16th June 18:00 – 20:00

Mee Maws, The Exchange Building, 71-73 King William Street Blackburn, BB1 7DY

Free Please book through the link: <http://bit.ly/3SdooPe>

International Food Festival hosted by ARC

Join ARC Blackburn for an opportunity to dine on dishes from across the world. Share new cuisines and cultures!

Tuesday 17th June 11:30 – 14:00

Wesley Hall Feilden Street, Blackburn, BB2 1LQ

Free for service users, tickets available on the door for non-service users (suggested donation £3)

Global Tea Extravaganza with DARE

You are invited to share tea, culture and conversation at this community gathering from DARE.

Wednesday 18th June 11:00 – 13:00

**Central United Reformed Church, Duckworth Street,
Darwen, BB3 1AT**

Free (No booking needed - just turn up!)

Community Harmony Coffee Morning

Wednesday 18th June 11:30 – 13:30

**Friends Meeting House, Paradise Lane,
Blackburn, BB2 1LY**

Free - Please inform Community Harmony of your attendance on 07874 866321 or at communityharmonyproject@gmail.com

Darwen Tower Walk with Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Enjoy a walk, meet new people and appreciate the spectacular views from Darwen Tower. Please wear suitable footwear and outdoor clothing.

Wednesday 18th June Time: 11:30 – 16:00

**Pick up from ARC 1pm Pick up from DARE 1:30pm
Drop off also available**

Free (No booking needed - Just turn up!)

Community Drop In and Exhibition – Blackburn with Darwen Library

Come along for coffee, chat and a chance to view the Photo Voices photography exhibition.

Thursday 19th June 11:00 – 14:00

**Blackburn Central Library Town Hall Street, Blackburn,
BB2 1AG**

Free (No booking needed - Just turn up!)

Shared Sounds Interactive Early Years Workshop

Blackburn museum welcomes you to a fun, interactive music workshop including songs, rhymes and musical exploration. Suitable for pre-school aged children (0-4) and their parents and carers.

Friday 20th June 10:00 – 11:00 and 11:30 – 12:30

**Blackburn Museum, Museum Street,
Blackburn, BB1 7AJ**

Free (No booking needed - Just turn up!)

Refugee Week Community Celebration – Blackburn Museum

Join Blackburn museum for an evening of art and culture to celebrate this year's Refugee Week.

Friday 20th June 17:30 – 20:00

**Blackburn Museum, Museum Street,
Blackburn, BB1 7AJ**

Free (No booking needed - Just turn up!)

Photo Voices Exhibition – Blackburn

Monday 16th June – Friday 20th June

Viewable on the ground floor in library opening hours

Blackburn Central Library, Town Hall Street, BB2 1AG

Free (No booking needed - Just turn up!)



Photo from PLACE OF POWER exhibition by Libby Burke Wilde

Photo Voices Exhibition – Blackburn

Monday 16th June – Friday 20th June

Viewable on the ground floor in library opening hours

Blackburn Central Library, Town Hall Street, BB2 1AG

Free (No booking needed - Just turn up!)

Blackpool Community Party

Bringing together communities across Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool with The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army invite families from across the Fylde Coast to join them to share food, music, entertainment and a bouncy castle!

Saturday 14th June 2025 10:00 – 13:00

Kirkham Community Centre, PR4 2AN

FREE (No booking needed – Just turn up!)

Picnic in the Park With Empowerment Charity

Empowerment invite you to celebrate Refugee Week with a picnic in Stanley Park. Join them for live music and entertainment, arts and crafts, face-painting, games and sports, snacks and drinks and share your culture by bringing a dish!

Saturday 21st June 2025 12:00 – 15:00

**Stanley Park, West Park Drive, Blackpool,
Lancashire, FY3 9HQ**

FREE (No booking required – Just turn up!)



Burnley

Lunch and Play!

Celebrate Refugee Week with Burnley Youth Theatre

Join Burnley Youth Theatre for a fun family day open to all celebrating community strength. Explore our sensory room, take part in arts and crafts, hear community stories brought to life and enjoy tasty food from across the world!

<https://burnleyyouththeatre.org/>

Instagram: [@burnleyyouththeatre](#)

Facebook: **Burnley Youth Theatre**

Wednesday 18th June 10:00 – 13:00

**Burnley Youth Theatre, Queens Park Road,
Burnley, BB10 3LB**

FREE (No booking required – Just turn up!)

Music Event – Burnley Library

Come and watch live performances from a variety of performers and an appearance from the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Saturday 21st June 2025 TBC - Check What's On at
Burnley Library, Grimshaw Street, Burnley, BB11 2BD**

FREE (No booking required – Just turn up!)

REFUGEE WEEK

Lunch and Play! Celebrate Refugee Week with us!

Join Burnley Youth Theatre on **Wednesday 18th June 10am - 1pm** for a fun family day, open to all, celebrating the strength of our community.

Explore our sensory room, take part in arts and crafts, hear community stories brought to life and enjoy tasty food from across the world!



**FREE!
NO BOOKING
REQUIRED**

Wednesday
18th June

10:00am -
1:00pm

Email Kailey at
Kailey.McGowan@burnleyyouththeatre.org
for more information!

Free!

Burnley Youth Theatre,
Queens Park Road, BB10 3LB

Lancashire
County
Council



**BURNLEY
YOUTH
THEATRE**



Fylde

Refugee Week at The Well Church Café

The Well Church Café invite families from across the Fylde Coast to join them to honour the rich cultural heritage of the Fylde community. On **Saturday 21st June**, there will be live music, traditional country dancing (with guidance from an instructor) and a hot pot supper. On **Sunday 22nd June**, **the Well Church Café** will celebrate with crafts, food from different cultures, an open mic for performances of music and poetry from different cultures.

Celebration Ceilidh

Saturday 21st June 18:30 – 21:30

**The Well Church Community Centre, 92 St Alban's Road,
St Annes, FY8 1UZ**

FREE (No booking required – Just turn up!)

Craft & Food Cultural Mix-Up

Sunday 22nd June 12:30 – 16:30

**The Well Church Community Centre, 92 St Alban's Road,
St Annes, FY8 1UZ**

FREE (No booking required – Just turn up!)

Community Party

Bringing together communities across Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool with The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army invite families from across the Fylde Coast to join them to share food, music, entertainment and a bouncy castle!

Saturday 14th June 2025 10:00 – 13:00

Kirkham Community Centre, PR4 2AN

FREE (No booking needed – Just turn up!)



Hyndburn

Community Superpower: Sports on the Rail With PEP Enterprise CIC

In collaboration with Community Rail and Hyndburn Leisure Centre, PEP Enterprise invite you to join them for a picnic day out using the rail network, and a sports event centred around community cohesion and resilience.

Community Picnic Day out on the Train

Saturday 14th June 2025 12:00 – 16:00

Community Rail, TBC – see Facebook for more information

Sports Event

Sunday 22nd June 2025 12:00 – 16:00

Hyndburn Leisure Centre, Henry Street, Church, BB5 4EP

Lancaster

Refugee Week Party – The Gregson Centre

You are warmly invited to share in an evening of food, dancing and music from around the world to celebrate the beginning of Refugee Week in Lancaster.

Friday 13th June 16:30 start (until late evening)

**The Gregson Centre, 33 Moorgate,
Lancaster, LA1 3PY**

Roots Film Festival

Brought to you by Lancashire County Council, LA1 Shorts and the Dukes Theatre

Roots showcases powerful and important stories told by refugees and asylum seekers from our local Lancashire communities and beyond. We want to spread the message of the importance of our communities, and the support and connections we can build through each other. Community is a Superpower! With that in mind, this special event offers an opportunity to connect with diverse voices and experiences.

Roots presents a compelling collection of short films, from raw smartphone footage to professionally produced pieces, all capturing the realities of life as a refugee. Stories



of resilience, hope, courage, and the pursuit of dreams.

Lancashire Film Initiative and LA1 Shorts will premiere a new film made in collaboration with Lancashire County Council and young people from Ukraine.

Join us to engage with these important issues affecting our communities. Arrive early and enjoy a taste of world music before the screenings from DJ Wasswa. Then follow the films and join in the Q&A session with filmmakers for a deeper understanding of their stories and experiences.

Tuesday 17th June 2025 18:15 – 21:00

The Dukes Theatre, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QE

Price: £7

FREE tickets are available for resettlers: please contact

LRITcommunity@lancashire.gov.uk for more information.

Chai and Chat Around the World

St Thomas' Church Centre welcome you to 'Chai and Chat around the World', an event which is open to all and will bring the community together, to share a cup of tea and the food, stories and culture of home.

Wednesday 18th June 2025 13:30 – 16:00

**St Thomas' Church Centre, Marton Street,
Lancaster, LA1 1XX**

FREE (No booking required – Just turn up!)

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, THE DUKES & LA1SHORTS PRESENT

ROOTS FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE 17



LA1
SHORTS

The Dukes

Lancashire
County
Council 

WWW.DUKESLANCASTER.ORG



Photo from Life 2.0 exhibition by Libby Burke Wilde

Escape to Safety Exhibition

An immersive experience designed to recreate the journey of refugees travelling to safety; hear, feel, see and understand the refugee experience in this powerful interactive multimedia exhibition.

Thursday 19th June

13:00 – 20:30 (Panel of speakers and open forum at 19:00)

Lancaster Town Hall, Dalton Square, Lancaster LA1 1PL

East Meets West Cultural Fair

East Meets West invite you to join them for a round-the-world trip in Lancaster library! Twelve different stalls representing twelve different countries and cultures: visit the beauty of Sudan, South Sudan, Iran, Syria, Palestine, Kurdistan, Iran, Pakistan, Ecuador, Morocco, Afghanistan and Indonesia. Taste food, try on traditional clothes, look at photographs and crafts, have your photo taken, see your name written in another language/script. This event offers an enriched and fresh perception of different cultures which can be shared with family and friends. Children will have a special 'passport' and be able to collect 'stamps' from each stall after taking part.

Saturday 21st June 2025 11:00 – 15:00

**Location: Lancaster Library, Market Square,
Lancaster, LA1 1HY**

FREE (No booking needed – Just turn up!)

Refugee Stories – Carnforth Library

You are invited to view a powerful exhibition of stories from across the world, featuring works centred around migration from refugees in the UK.

Saturday 21st June 13:00 – 14:00

**Carnforth Library, 65A Lancaster Road, Carnforth
LA5 9LD**

Pendle

Sharing Our Traditional Food With Pendle New Neighbours

Pendle New Neighbours warmly invite you to join them to share wonderful traditional dishes from around the world, cooked by members of the local community. This event will provide an opportunity to learn about the many cultures that make up the community of Pendle.

Tuesday 17th June 2025 11:00 – 13:00

Nelson Library, Market Square, Nelson, BB9 7PU

FREE (No booking required – Just turn up!)



Preston

Community Fest!

Refugee Week in Lancashire is launched! With Lancashire Refugee Integration Team, Preston City Council and The University of Central Lancashire.

Experience culture, food, music and dance from around the world in Preston! Building on the success of last year's Home Fest , this year, Lancashire Refugee Integration Team and Preston City Council are working with UCLan to host an even more colourful, joyful and musical celebration of the diversity of our Lancashire community!

Taste food from Syria, dance to music from around the world, make Ukrainian Traditional Easter painting of eggs, - pysanka, try playing different instruments, watch dancing to Cantonese music, release your Latin spirit with a salsa workshop, sing with our choir that reaches across borders.....all in the heart of Preston.

This year we are also delighted to be joined by Dr Ryad Alsous, the real Beekeeper of Aleppo, who will speak about his journey from Syria to the UK, introduce you to his bees and tell us about The Buzz Project.

Dr Ryad Alsous with honeycomb from his hive

Saturday 14th June 2025 11:00 – 15:00

Location: The Foster Building, UcLan, Kendal Street, Preston, PR1 2HE

FREE (No booking needed – Just turn up!)



Dr Ryad Alsous with honeycomb from his hive



Refugee Week Preston City Council University of Central Lancashire UCLan Lancashire County Council

Community FEST ♥

Saturday 14th June 2025
11am - 3pm
**The Foster Building,
University of Central
Lancashire, Preston**

Join us for a day of **food tasting, stalls,**
performances
and family workshops
celebrating our communities
across Lancashire.

KIND REFUGEE WEEK 2025 Funded by Lancashire County Council

COMMUNITY CIRCUS SKILLS DAY

MEAL FOR EVERYONE

ALL WELCOME

WEDNESDAY 18. JUNE 2025 10AM- 1PM
HALLS 4 ALL, 44 MOSS LANE, LEYLAND PR25 4SH



Community Circus Skills Day With Kind Communities

Kind Communities welcome guests from across Preston and South Ribble to become a community superhero by learning a new skill! Try a range of circus skills in this fun community celebration event and then share a meal together.

Thursday 19th June 10:00 – 13:00

The Catherine Beckett Community Centre, 112 Deepdale Road, Preston, PR1 5AR

FREE (No booking needed – Just turn up!)

Refugee Week World Food Day

With The British Red Cross

The community who attend the British Red Cross drop-ins will be celebrating community by showcasing various food dishes and music from around the world. They welcome wider local community of Preston to experience a taste of the cultures and traditions of their home countries.

Thursday 19th June 2025 From 10:00

Location: Douglas Hall, St Cuthbert Church Centre, Lytham Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3AR

FREE (No booking needed - Just turn up!)





Refugee Week Community Events

Preston City of Sanctuary invite you to join them for a range of events across Refugee Week, and the weeks that follow, centring around this year's theme of community as a superpower.

Caring for our Community Litter Pick

Be a community superhero and join Preston City of Sanctuary to show you care about keeping Preston clean. Free drinks and snacks and toilet facilities available.

Wednesday 11th June 2025 From 10:00

The Old Tram Line, Preston

FREE (No booking required – Just turn up!)

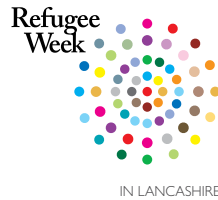
‘Living Sustainably in Our Community’ Gardening Workshop

Learn all about gardening, including gardening in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way and supporting your local community through gardening projects.

Monday 16th June 10:00 – 12:30

Let's Grow Preston, Ashton Park Walled Garden, Ashton Park, off Pedders Lane, Preston PR21HL

FREE but spaces must be pre-booked by emailing
letsgrowpreston@gmail.com



‘Creativity in the Community’ Arts, Crafts and Knitting Event

Join Preston City of Sanctuary for an afternoon of crafting.

Thursday 17th July 13:00 – 16:00

Location: St Stephen’s Church, Bird Street, Preston PR18DY

FREE

‘Fun in the Park’ Family Gala

You are warmly invited to an afternoon of fun in the sunshine at Hartington Road Park. Bring your friends and loved ones along for an afternoon of family friendly activities.

Monday 11th August 3:00 – 16:00

Location: Hartington Road Park, Hartington Road Preston PR1

Please contact City of Sanctuary for more information on other upcoming events including a trip to Blackpool (Saturday 16th August) and a Historical Walking Tour of Preston (Thursday 4th September) bookable here:

<https://preston.cityofsanctuary.org>



South Ribble

Refugee Week World Food Day With The British Red Cross

The community who attend the British Red Cross drop-ins will be celebrating community by showcasing various food dishes and music from around the world. They welcome wider local community of Preston to experience a taste of the cultures and traditions of their home countries.

Wednesday 25th June 2025 From 10:00

**Location: Leyland Baptist Church, 247 Leyland Lane,
Leyland, PR25 1XL**

FREE (No booking needed - Just turn up!)

Community Circus Skills Day With Kind Communities

Kind Communities welcome guests from across Preston and South Ribble to become a community superhero by learning a new skill! Try a range of circus skills in this fun community celebration event and then share a meal together.

Wednesday 18th June 10:00 – 13:00

**Location: The Catherine Beckett Community Centre, 112
Deepdale Road, Preston, PR1 5AR**

FREE (No booking needed – Just turn up!)

Wyre

Community Party

Bringing together communities across Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool with The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army invite families from across the Fylde Coast to join them to share food, music, entertainment and a bouncy castle!

Saturday 14th June 2025 10:00 – 13:00

Kirkham Community Centre, PR4 2AN

FREE (No booking needed – Just turn up!)

Rossendale

‘Creating a Rossendale Community Quilt’

at **The Whitaker Museum and Art Galley** on

Friday 20th June. Details available from June on our website

www.rrrsg.co.uk, or email **contact.rrsg@gmail.com**.

Our Other Projects

Refugee Run Club

On a brisk April morning the first meeting of the refugee run club took place. Meeting outside the iconic “splash” statue a Preston North End’s Deepdale Stadium the group got in their first training session with the goal of completing the Preston Park Run - a weekly 5k where participants can run, walk or jog through Preston’s scenic Avenham Park.

Training sessions are held weekly, with participants joining a mix of longer runs, short runs and official park runs with encouragement from volunteers. Despite language barriers and the unpredictable Lancashire weather, spirits remain high. The group is fantastically diverse with members from Syria and Afghanistan and a host of other countries. The group is proud to cater for all abilities and confidence levels! Supportive and empowering, the aim of the run club is to improve the health and wellbeing of our resettler communities across the county. Running not only boosts physical fitness but also enhances mental well-being—and when paired with a supportive community, it becomes a powerful catalyst for personal growth and connection.

“The running club is a vibrant example of diversity and equality, cultivating a strong sense of community where we’ve become friends, celebrating each other’s achievements, encouraging one another to keep going. Also, enhancing the wellbeing of everyone involved. “

A running club participant

The Refugee Run Club is a volunteer-led initiative that has come to life thanks to the dedication and passion of its founding members. A special thanks goes to Bob Helm, whose tireless groundwork laid the foundation for the project. As Bob

embarks on his travels, Steve will be stepping in to lead the club forward with the same energy and commitment. We at LRIT are incredibly grateful to both Bob and Steve for their unwavering support and hard work. Their contributions have been instrumental in creating a welcoming and empowering space for resettlers in Lancashire. Both Bob and Steve also volunteer with Talk English, where they devote countless hours to helping newcomers integrate, learn, and thrive in their new communities. Their efforts truly embody the spirit of solidarity and community support. If community is a superpower, Bob and Steve are our community superheroes.

If you're interested in joining our inclusive, beginner friendly run club please email: lritcommunity@lancashire.gov.uk

Also please get in touch if you would like to volunteer to lead a run club in your area!





The Compassion Project

As well as being an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our communities, Refugee Week is also a chance to raise awareness of the many challenges faced by people who have experienced forced migration. During Refugee Week, we are excited to be able to deliver our hugely successful Compassion Project; an educational workshop developed by members of Lancashire Refugee Integration Team, who have lived experience of forced migration.

Our refugee-led initiative offers an opportunity for students to hear firsthand from individuals who have experienced the refugee journey.

Our 45-minute sessions are available to primary and secondary schools as well as colleges, and sixth forms. We engage students in meaningful conversations about the challenges faced and resilience of refugees and asylum seekers. The sessions are designed to break down stereotypes, promote empathy, and encourage a deeper understanding of the refugee experience.

By partnering with The Compassion Project, you're giving students a chance to understand the importance of compassion and inclusion, helping to build a generation that values diversity and human connection. Together, we can create a more welcoming community for everyone.

We will be continuing to deliver this workshop in schools across Lancashire during Refugee Week, but it is a project which runs throughout the rest of the year too. If you would like to book this workshop, free of charge, for your school or community group, please email **LRITcommunity@lancashire.gov.uk** with the subject line "Compassion Project" and we will be in touch.



The Compassion Project



Contact us at:
LRITCommunity@lancashire.gov.uk
to book your session now





Our Re:Welcome App

Arriving in a new city or town can be very daunting; it can take time to find your way around, to find the services you need to support you. Our Re:Welcome App brings together all the amazing support services for resettlers across Lancashire in one place, helping users to locate English classes, healthcare centres, advice drop-ins and more.

The app is available for free and can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

Youth Voices Board

On 27th May, the very first Youth Voice Board meeting took place at County Hall in Preston, bringing together young refugees, asylum seekers, and resettlers to share their views and shape the future.

The session welcomed five passionate young people, who spoke openly about their experiences and hopes around education, future opportunities, and job prospects. Their insights were powerful, thoughtful, and inspiring — setting the tone for what the Youth Voice Board is all about: amplifying youth voices and turning ideas into action.

The day also included music-making activities with Lancashire Youth Challenge, a shared lunch, and time to reconnect with friends from previous youth events. It was a space filled with creativity, connection, and purpose.

This is just the beginning. The Youth Voice Board will continue to meet and grow, ensuring that young people from refugee and resettled backgrounds have a real say in the decisions that affect them.

Youth Voices Board

**CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-25
FROM RESETTLEMENT BACKGROUNDS**

**WE WANT YOU TO JOIN OUR YOUTH
VOICES BOARD!**

- Have your say on issues that matter
- Organise events in your local community
- Try music, creative activities or non-contact boxing with Lancashire Youth Challenge



**Scan the QR code to sign up or email
LRITCommunity@lancashire.gov.uk
to find out more**



LANCASHIRE
YOUTH
CHALLENGE



Lancashire
County
Council





MORE INFORMATION

Whether you are a resettler yourself who has moved to Lancashire and are looking for support, or you simply want to find out more about refugee resettlement in the county, visit our website lancashire.gov.uk/resettlement-in-lancashire

For more information about Refugee Week and other events taking place nationally, please visit www.refugeeweek.org.uk.

Our 'Refugee Week in Lancashire' Programme is a yearly event which we very much look forward to. If you would like your events or activities to be included or advertised in next year's programme, please email LRIT@lancashire.gov.uk

نیکی کن و خیر به تو خواهد رسید
بہ و کړئ بہ و مومئ
فعل خیراً تلقّ خیراً

Роби добро - добром озветься
Do good and good will come to you.