



**LEWES ORGANISATION IN
SUPPORT OF REFUGEES
AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

www.losrras.org

Lewes Town Hall, Lewes, BN7 2QS – email: info@losrras.org

**Next Open Meeting:
Academics and Advocates:
How can research and action inform each other in Sussex?**

8th May 5.30 –7.30 pm

The Convening Space, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University.

Lifts available – contact info@losrras.org

In a break with tradition, our next open meeting will be held on the Sussex University campus, to take advantage of links with refugee research groups there. The main event starts at 5.30 but LOSRRAS members are invited to join us at the earlier time of 5pm for tea and cake, in advance of the main event. For anyone unable to attend, this event will be streamed live to the IDS Facebook page.

As we approach World Refugee Day, LOSRRAS, in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies, will host a public meeting to showcase locally produced research with relevance to refugees, and asylum seekers, and those seeking to assist them. This event brings together refugee support groups and academics to reflect on implications of the research for local support work, and engagement of local advocacy and action groups in future research.

Jody Harris – IDS researcher and chair of trustees of LOSRRAS

Dolf te Lintelo (IDS) Wellbeing & Protracted Urban Displacement: Refugees and Hosts in Jordan and Lebanon

Mark Doidge (Brighton) Sport and leisure and their role with refugees

Elisa Sandri (Sussex) Makeshift Humanitarians: Informal Humanitarian Aid Across European Close(d) Borders

Mel Steel – Director of Voices in Exile

Directions:

By train or bus: From Falmer Station, follow signs to Sussex University that lead under the road and onto campus. Buses from Lewes also stop outside the station. For IDS, follow the path straight to the centre of campus, across the courtyard with the library building to your left. IDS is the low brick building on a hill to your left after the library: After passing the library steps, follow the narrow path and steps up to your left, until you see the IDS entrance on your left.

By car: Parking on campus is free after 5pm. At the University, follow the boundary road straight and around to the left, following signs to Car Park 7 / Arts Car Park. There is a small car park directly behind IDS, or a large multi-story a few steps away.

LOSRRAS Plant sale: Market Tower, Lewes

Saturday May 18th 2019, 9:30 - 11:30.

Quality plants from local gardens plus preserves, craft and ceramics. Please join in this successful annual fund raising event by:

- * Displaying the enclosed/attached poster and encouraging your friends and neighbours to come along.
- * Donating seedlings, cuttings, plants and preserves (e.g. jams/chutneys) - PLEASE all labelled beforehand - to Belinda Kirby on 01273 474935.
- * Offering to transport plants to the venue on the day and/or assisting during the morning contacting Belinda as above.

Refugee Week and Refugee Tales

As all our members will know by now, Refugee Tales, the wonderful outreach project inspired by Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and set up by Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, is walking from Brighton to Hastings via Lewes and Alfriston this summer, see www.refugeetales.org Instead of our usual summer meeting at the Linklater, we are supporting Refugee Tales events, especially the first evening of music and storytelling at Christ Church in Lewes on **Saturday 6 July** at 7.00pm: author David Constantine will read 'The Orphan's Tale', actor Shobu Kapoor will speak the words of a former detainee who recently spent a year in Lewes and Rihab Azar, a Syrian oud player will perform. As they reach Lewes, local a cappella group, Angels with Attitude will welcome walkers.

In the lead up to the walk and evening performances, there are some interesting events coming up:
9 May Refugee Tales appetiser in Alfriston: Much Ado Books, 8 West Street, Alfriston will be hosting an Introduction to Refugee Tales with a reading by Alex Preston of his story The Witness' Tale at the bookshop at 7pm. Please do come along and let others who may be interested know about this event.

24 May Migrant and Refugee Solidarity @ the University of Brighton welcomes Sri Lankan born novelist and film-maker Roma Tearne, <http://romatearne.co.uk/>, as she reads The Father's Tale, from the soon to be published volume *Refugee Tales Vol III*. MARS and Refugee Tales also welcomes speakers from the Virtual School for Children in Care in East Sussex, Kurdistan Solidarity and the University of Brighton. Refreshments at 6pm, the reading of the Father's Tale begins at 6.30pm at M2 Grand Parade, University of Brighton

Note! The annual LOSRAS sponsored Walk is cancelled

This event is cancelled this year due to the plethora of other activities LOSRAS is running or involved in over the next few months, including Refugee Tales (see above). Instead you may want to join the day walk, Walk With Us, on 18th June from Falmer Station to Lewes. Further details and sign up nearer the time at <http://refugeetales.org/getinvolved/gdwg-walking-project-for-former-detainees-gdwg-visitors-and-refugee-tales-walkers/>

Tutor help urgently needed

We have had two requests for help with schoolwork from a couple of the families we support in the Lewes area (Seaford and Peacehaven). In particular, we need people with experience of year 8/9 English and Maths, as well as more general homework topics, to help once a week after school. Ideally this would be a longer term commitment, but even if you can help just for the summer term initially, please contact me as soon as possible (term just started!): janeandrew953@gmail.com

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group currently needs men's trainers, size 8 – 10, medium jumpers, small and medium T-shirts, jeans (waist 32") and travel bags. Collections at All Saints Centre, Friars Walk, Lewes, open Mon - Sat 9-11 am. Ring 01273 486391 for other times (if door shut, try office on the right side of the building). Please bring items in a carrier bag and put in black 'LOSRRAS' box inside entrance. Contact Val or Arnold Simanowitz on 01273 480011 with any queries.

LOSRRAS aims to promote the welfare of refugees & asylum seekers in and beyond the Lewes District by:

- raising awareness of issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers
- providing practical help and responding to local issues as they arise
- advocating and lobbying to improve the rights of refugees and asylum seekers

Chair: Jody Harris info@losrras.org **Treasurer:** Tony Sims

Membership Secretary: Belinda Kirby 01273 474935, belinda.kirby@btinternet.com

Committee Members: Jane Andrew, Alison Bell, Jean Gould, Jane Lancashire, Gill Lipson, Jane McIntosh, Annie Ralph, Gill Tipping