



PRESS RELEASE

DAY TRIP FOR UKRAINE REFUGEES

Last Sunday [16 July] some 80 Ukrainian refugees presently living in the South Shropshire and North Herefordshire area, together with members of local support groups, enjoyed a day out on the Severn Valley Railway.

The day was organised by the North Herefordshire and South Shropshire Ukraine Support Group and the Ludlow Refugee Support Group, and was funded by the Rotary Clubs of Knighton and Ludlow.

It comprised a trip by steam-drawn train from Bridgnorth to Highley, where the refugees enjoyed a picnic lunch and a tour of the numerous steam locomotives and other exhibits in the Engine House Visitor Centre, before returning by train to Bridgnorth.

Speaking afterwards about their day, Olena, one of the Ukrainians, said “I cannot begin to describe how important this event was in maintaining our morale at such a difficult time. Living temporarily so far from our homes and worrying about our loved ones still in war-torn Ukraine can be really difficult. So it was wonderful to be able to meet up with other refugees to laugh a little, and also to cry a little, as we shared experiences and time together. Even the rain didn’t bother us. It meant so much, especially for our children who had been counting the days until the trip”.

One of the organisers, Erica Garner, added “Many of the Ukrainian refugees in the area are now at the point of transferring from living with family hosts to independent living. This is a natural development, but can bring many stresses when trying to find an affordable house and furnish a property from scratch. This can sometimes mean moving out of the area they have become accustomed to, and moving children to a different school. This can be isolating and disorienting. So we hope that events like this bridge that gap and help individual families maintain contact and support each other. We are particularly grateful to the Rotary Clubs of Knighton and Ludlow for their encouragement and financial support which made this event possible.”

Notes for Editors

1. The enclosed photos may be used with the text.
2. For further information please contact: Barry Forrester at forrester.ludlow@gmail.com or 01584 878872 / 07786 078470.