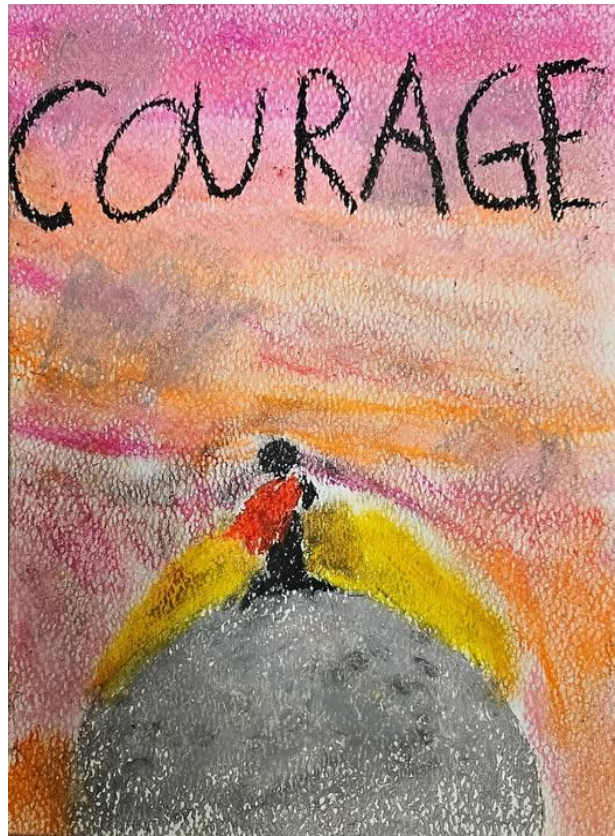


## Refugee Fortnight in Craven 2026



**There were many varied events in Craven during Refugee Fortnight. Displays, meetings, talks, story time, installations, music, and cake.**



**Participants at a talk in Settle library, a social event with tea and cake .**

**Books** are a very special way of raising awareness and telling the stories of refugees ...



A display of relevant books in the Settle Library.

**Below - Settle library story time with Christine Gordon.**



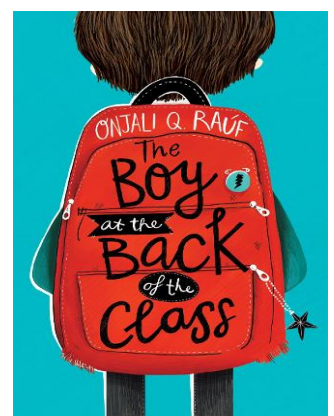
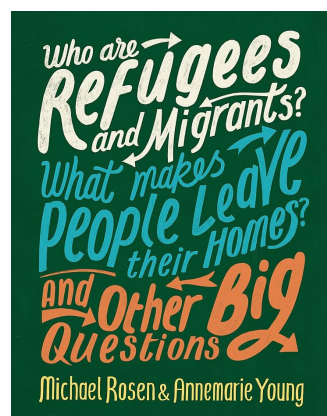
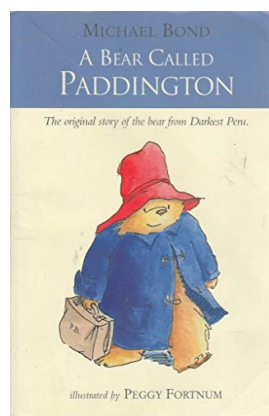
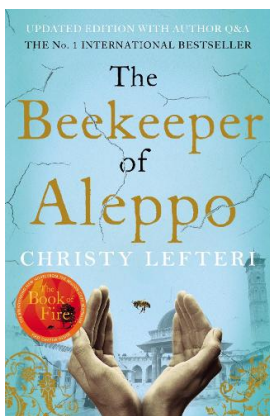
**Settle & Giggleswick primary schools** all had copies of the Michael Rosen book. Other story times were in playgroups: Edith Diggles, Jan Michael, Catie Jones all helped to encourage awareness of life as a refugee.



More books! Here on display at [Limestone Books ,Settle.](#)

[John Frankland](#) from North Yorkshire Library Service produced a book list 'Courage' and provided copies to the main libraries in Craven.

[See the complete list at the end of this summary.](#)



Bentham, Ingleton and Skipton libraries as well as Settle had books on display

## Long Journeys to Freedom.

A talk was given by Tim Smith ,a photographer,about Poland and this was accompanied by a short film 'Under the Radar'a portrait of a Polish Community.

This took place at Victoria Hall Settle.



The Long Journeys to Freedom event included John Hebblethwaite speaking about his mother Anna, born in Poland now Ukraine, who settled in Bentham after spending WW2 on a German Labour farm.

## My Long Journey to Freedom



Also linked to Settle - **Caitlin Greenwood from The Folly, Settle** created an online display

Check out the Folly website to view the display <https://thefolly.org.uk/>



THE FOLLY

Settle, Yorkshire Dales

[Plan your visit](#) [What's On](#) [Coffee House](#) [Q](#)

## Refugee Week 2026

In honour of Refugee Week (15–21 June), this exhibition celebrates the many people who have made North Craven home over the centuries into the present day.

We are grateful to Settle Town Council, Pippa Doran, Craven District of Sanctuary and Alison Marshall in the creation of this online exhibition. You can buy Alison's book, *Journeys of Hope*, from [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) or all good bookstores.

This exhibition was made possible thanks to National Lottery Players and Arts Council England.

**COURAGE!**  
**COURAGE!**  
**COURAGE!**  
**COURAGE!**  
**COURAGE!**

# Bentham

Bentham always produces a thought provoking installation

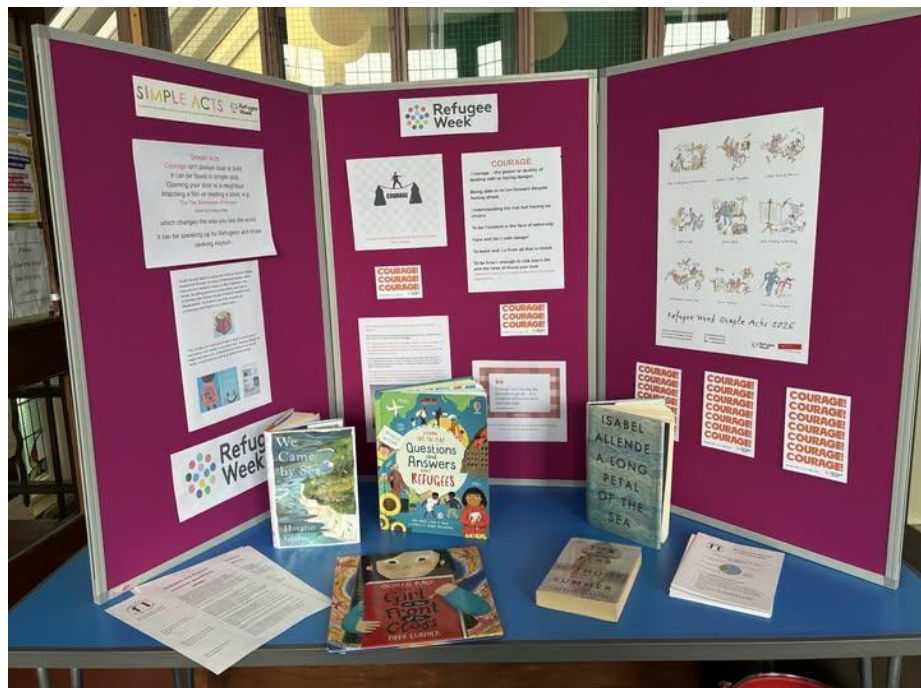
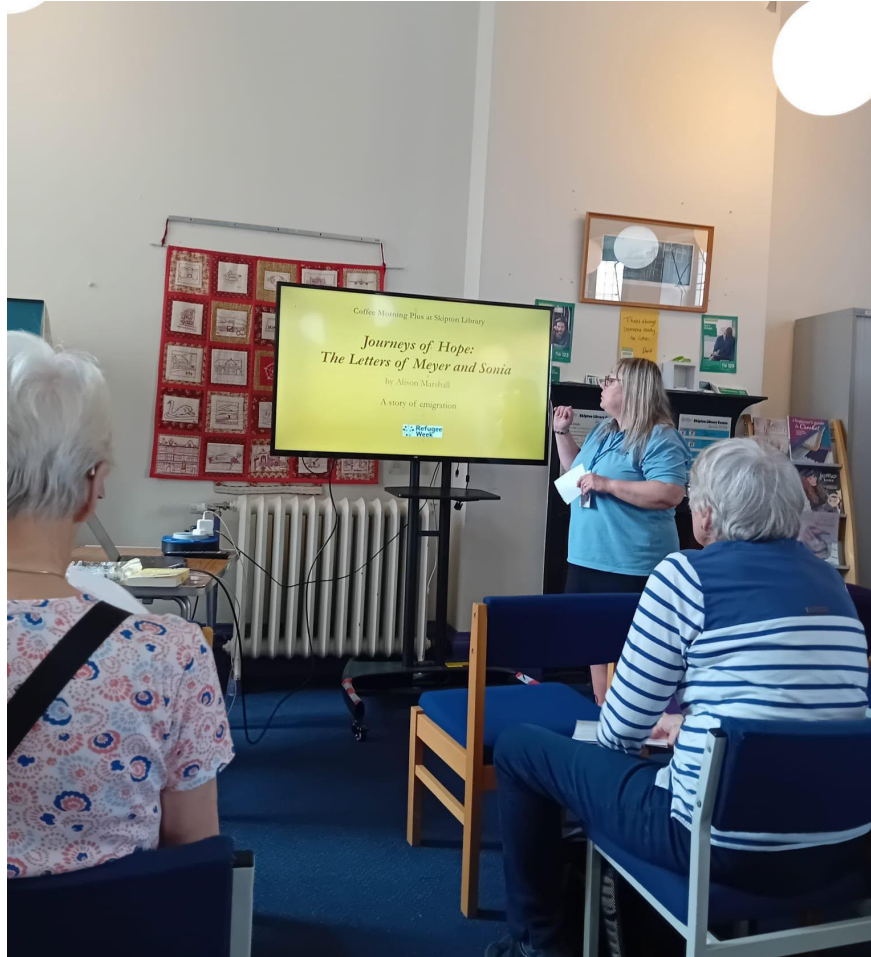
This year was no exception '**Step into Courage**', an installation near the High Street.

**An opportunity to put yourself in someone else's shoes.**



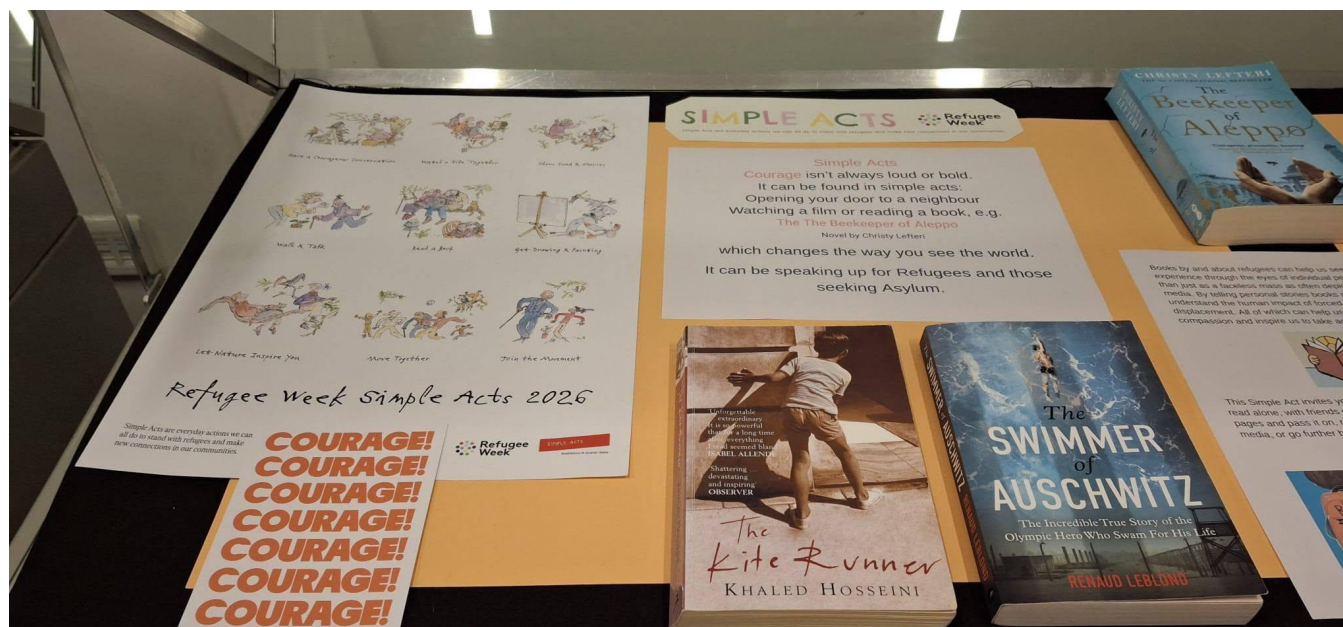
# Libraries

The libraries were integral in providing space and time for Refuge Week. At Skipton library there was a display and a talk was given by **Alison Marshall** in Skipton library, facilitated by **Alison Court**.



There were also displays in the foyer of the Town Hall and at the Skipton Friends Meeting House.

Below - one of the two Town Hall cabinet displays.



Simple Acts of Kindness on display at the Friends Meeting House.



Share food and stories Go for a walk Read together

Also at the Friends Meeting House Skipton a talk was given by local historian **Jane Lunn** entitled 'Guests of the Nation: national and local responses in Craven to Belgian refugees during WW1.



Outside Skipton library the Skipton refugee Support Group set up a stall to encourage folk to sign a petition and raise awareness of refugee week.



To round off the fortnight there was a Jazz evening at **Craven Arts in Skipton** . Music provided by **Skipton Jazzers** ,a group of musicians who provided an entertaining evening with additional songs sung by **Meg Eyre**.



No Refugee week would be complete without the Refugee and Asylum Fact Sheet 2025 prepared by Stella Perrott.

This is an annual publication with the data regarding displaced persons globally during 2025. Copies are available on request

## Refugee and Asylum Fact Sheet 2026



### 117.3m displaced people in 2025

- 5% decrease on previous year. ‘
- Other’ includes Ukrainians on humanitarian visas.
- 82.5% remain in their own country or adjoining country.
- 40% children. 2.3M children were born as refugees.
- 71% of refugees are hosted in low or middle-income countries.
- Prior to Israel’s most recent attacks on Lebanon, Lebanon hosted 1.5m refugees (280 per 1000 population).

There is also an excellent Question and Answer sheet covering common questions regarding refugees and asylum seekers. A very useful guide to have handy when engaging in courageous conversations.

**See the extract below.**



# Refugee and Asylum common questions (2026)

What is a refugee, an asylum seeker, or illegal immigrant?

- A **refugee** is someone recognized as having a well-founded fear of persecution in their own country because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.
- An **asylum seeker** is someone who has applied for refugee status.
- A **'failed' asylum seeker** is someone whose asylum claim has been rejected (39% of appeals were allowed in 2025).
- An **illegal immigrant** is not a legal term but used to describe people who have entered and stayed in the UK without prior permission or have overstayed their permission (visa) to stay. In UK law 'entry' without prior permission is illegal but, under international and UK law, a refugee is free to seek sanctuary in any country and to arrive in whichever way they can.

**Asylum seekers are not 'illegal' immigrants.**

Why don't they come through legal routes rather than by small boats?

- People living in war-torn countries that generate a high number of refugees are usually denied visas to work, study etc. in the UK. The UK has cut work visa grants by 50% since 2023.
- All humanitarian safe routes to the UK (E.g. Ukraine, Hong Kong, Afghanistan etc.) have closed.
- Before 2018 there were no 'small-boats' and most refugees crossed the Channel by lorry. Since then, entry to the French ports has been fenced with high levels of security for many miles. (Recently, there has been a return to the lorry route from Belgium ports).

**Asylum seekers would come by legal safe routes if they could.**

Why don't they stay in the first safe country they come to rather than come to the UK?

- 67% of refugees are hosted in a neighboring country. The poorest and Muslim countries take the most refugees.
- Refugees are determined to seek safety. For many, other countries, particularly France, is not considered safe.
- Some want to unite with family/ kin where they know they will have support.
- Many are fleeing former British colonies and have long standing ties to the UK.

**There is no requirement for asylum seekers to stay in the first 'safe' country**

Why can't the French stop the small-boats?

- Under international maritime law, it is illegal to intervene in a boat at sea (except for rescue) - including boats leaving from the UK.
- 120 miles of coastline with hundreds of small beaches and embarkation points. It is not possible to patrol them all on current resources.
- International law requires all boats to rescue and take to the nearest port, those who are in danger at sea.

## Finally - the Courage Refugee Collection 2026

|                            |                                      |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Bond, Michael,             | A bear called Paddington             | Junior Fiction     |
| Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi  | Americanah                           | Adult Fiction      |
| Brown, Natasha             | Assembly                             | Adult Fiction      |
| Menasse, Eva,              | Darkenbloom                          | Adult Fiction      |
| Aber, Aria,                | Good girl                            | Adult Fiction      |
| Finkelstein, Daniel        | Hitler, Stalin, mum and dad          | Adult Non Fiction  |
| O'Donnell, Svenja          | Inge's war                           | Adult Non Fiction  |
| Rabinowich Julia           | Me, in between                       | Junior Fiction     |
| Hayden, Sally              | My Fourth Time, We Drowned           | Adult Non Fiction  |
| Matar, Hisham              | My Friends                           | Adult Fiction      |
| Temelkuran, Ecee           | Nation of strangers                  | Adult Non Fiction  |
| Bruton Catherine           | No ballet shoes in Syria             | Junior Fiction     |
| Vuong, Ocean               | On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous      | Adult Fiction      |
| Seiffert, Rachel,          | Once the deed is done                | Adult Fiction      |
| Daynes, Katie              | Questions and answers about refugees | Junior Non Fiction |
| Cooper Helen               | Saving the butterfly                 | Junior Fiction     |
| Lefteri, Christy           | The Bee Keeper of Aleppo             | Adult Fiction      |
| Williams, Pip              | The bookbinder of Jericho            | Adult Fiction      |
| Raulf Onjali Q             | The boy at the back of the class     | Junior Fiction     |
| Mann Manjeet               | The crossing                         | Junior Fiction     |
| Extence, Gavin             | The end of time                      | Adult Fiction      |
| O'Connor, Joseph           | The ghosts of Rome                   | Adult Fiction      |
| Raulf Onjali Q             | The girl at the front of the class   | Adult Fiction      |
| Shafak, Elif               | The Island of Missing Trees          | Junior Fiction     |
| Hosseini, Khaled           | The Kite Runner                      | Adult Fiction      |
| Jones, Naomi & James       | The Perfect Fit                      | Junior Fiction     |
| Cadbury, Deborah           | The school that escaped the Nazis    | Adult Non Fiction  |
| Allende, Isabel            | The Wind Knows My Name               | Adult Fiction      |
| Glasfurd-Brown, Guinevere, | The year without summer              | Adult Fiction      |
| Nott, David                | War Doctor                           | Adult Non Fiction  |
| Clare, Horatio             | We came by sea                       | Adult Non Fiction  |
| Kerr Judith                | When Hitler stole pink rabbit        | Junior Fiction     |
| Jamieson, Victoria         | When stars are scattered             | Young Adult        |
| Rosen, Michael             | Who are refugees and migrants?       | Junior Non Fiction |
| Skalietska, Yeva           | You don't know what war is           | Junior Non Fiction |

