

NEW ROUTES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

Welcome from Gee Cook

Dear Friends

At New Routes, we see extraordinary courage in the everyday. From learners taking their first steps in English, to families rebuilding a sense of safety and belonging, our community continues to show remarkable strength and resilience.

As we begin a new year, it feels important to pause and reflect on the year just gone. It was a year shaped by global uncertainty and local challenge, but also by kindness, connection, and determination. Across our programmes, we witnessed people supporting one another, building confidence, and finding their place within our community. These moments of everyday courage are what continue to inspire our work.

Looking ahead, we are entering the year with hope and purpose. The upcoming Refugee Week theme of Courage feels particularly meaningful, and it is already shaping our thinking and planning for the months ahead. We look forward to sharing more as these ideas develop and take shape.

As always, there are many ways to be part of our work. We warmly welcome new volunteers to support our programmes and help create welcoming, inclusive spaces. We are also incredibly grateful for donations to our Free Shop, both financial contributions and good-quality clothing, which make a real difference to families and individuals facing hardship. Every act of support, however small it may feel, helps to strengthen our community.



ESOL and Learning Updates

Our ESOL classes continue to grow, with new learners joining us every week. The commitment and enthusiasm from participants is remarkable, and we are grateful to our volunteer teachers who bring patience, expertise, and creativity to every session.

Free Shop and Community Support

Demand for our Free Shop remains high, particularly among individuals and families facing acute financial hardship. Your donations of clothing, toiletries, and household items continue to make a direct and meaningful difference.

We are now preparing winter supplies and expanding our partnerships to ensure no one is left without the essentials.



Youth and Community Activities

Bella is busy planning our winter programme of activities and our youth programmes are focused on creativity, sport and wellbeing. These safe and joyful spaces continue to be a lifeline for young people navigating new beginnings.

Women's Wellbeing and Community Groups

Our women's wellbeing group grows stronger each month. Sessions have included group cooking, informal conversation and support, and poetry.

Our football sessions have been very popular. Here's the lads after one of their typically intense games.



The new routes take on Cinderella!

Everyday Stories of Strength

Here are a few moments from the past quarter that remind us why we do this work:

- A participant who arrived terrified to speak in English is now confidently reading short texts in ESOL Level 1.
- A family supported by the Free Shop shared that they now feel 'safe and held by the community.'
- A young person joined our youth programme and is now attending every week, building friendships and confidence.

These are the quiet victories that shape lives.

Partnership Highlights

We have continued to work closely with a range of partners including:

- City of Sanctuary
- Red Cross
- The Bridge Plus
- The Zainab Project
- Voluntary Norfolk
- Bicycle Links
- And many others

These collaborations strengthen our services and create wider pathways for support and integration. We are grateful for the trust and energy each partner brings.

How You Can Help

If you'd like to support our work, here are a few ways to get involved:

- Volunteer in ESOL, youth, or the Free Shop
- Donate gently-used clothing and household items
- Support our hardship fund
- Partner with us through your organisation or workplace
- Share our social media posts to help raise awareness
- Sign up to become a regular donor—every little helps!

Your support strengthens our community.



Thank You

Thank you for being part of the New Routes community. Everything we achieve is made possible by staff, volunteers, partners, donors, and friends who believe in creating safety, dignity, and belonging for everyone who walks through our doors. We look forward to sharing more updates soon, including our exciting plans inspired by the theme of Courage.

Warm regards,

Gee

Chief Executive



Creating new beginnings for new arrivals
www.newroutes.org.uk