



Shropshire Supports Refugees – second half of September 2024 update

Shropshire Supports Refugees (SSR) works 6 days a week to help as many Ukrainians as possible throughout Shropshire. It has been a unique two weeks for SSR with a rollout of the incredible opportunity to support Ukrainians with their eVisa applications. This new project allows the SSR Team to develop & improve new skills & knowledge which has only further enhanced the support SSR offers to the Ukrainian community.

eVisa

SSR is delighted & proud to be selected by the government to support vulnerable people with the transition to the UK's new digital eVisa system!

Since the UK is replacing physical documents with an online record of immigration status, SSR will support those who require help to update their physical document to an eVisa throughout Shropshire.

We'll offer free drop-in sessions and practical support. Please, get in touch with us for additional information: stanislav.kudym@shropshiresupportsrefugees.co.uk

SSR has already helped 29 Ukrainians within the last 2 weeks of September and is expanding its support.

International Food Day & the High Sheriff of Shropshire visit

SSR held "International Food Day" in the Hub on 26/09/24. We were honoured to have a visit from the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Brian Welti JP, who was treated to Ukrainian, Persian and Syrian food cooked by people who use the Hub. Ukrainians had an opportunity to chat, have a good time, taste delicious Ukrainian and Syrian dishes, and meet our special guest - the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Brian Welti JP.

In addition to the above, a free yoga session for Ukrainian women was held in the Hub with certified trainer Olesia to empower self-love, the daily joy of life, feminine nature, wisdom, beauty and a concept of balance in every step women make.

Talk & Create: Art Workshops

Join us at "Talk & Create", a series of art workshops hosted by the Sea Change for 16-25 y.o. at the Community Hub. These sessions offer a safe, supportive space for everyone to express their experiences and emotions through creative art. The workshops aim to foster, community connection, and personal growth. All materials are provided, and no prior art experience is necessary. Come, create, and connect.

Community Hub & Free sessions

400+ Ukrainians visited the Community Hub within the second half of September:

- 120+ were from different towns throughout Shropshire;
- 150+ Ukrainians visited the ESOL classes;
- 70+ participated in activities & events, etc.

Within the last two weeks of September, SSR held 8 free Swedish massage sessions, an art workshop "Talk & Create", yoga for children & yoga for adults. Also, with the help of SSR, Ukrainians still have an opportunity to have mental and emotional support counselling as well as expert guidance, free housing & employment sessions, free entry to Attingham Park, and free support on legal issues from a Ukrainian lawyer with a total experience of more than 11 years in jurisprudence.

Shropshire Supports Refugees Dinner Dance Fundraiser

SSR would like to invite you to our first-ever celebration and fundraising event on Friday 11th October from 7 pm till late at the Albright Hussey in Shrewsbury: you will get a main course and a pudding, an auction, a fun evening of celebrating and a fabulous night of dancing to an eclectic mix of tunes from "Revolution Grooves".

This is a much-needed fundraiser, but more importantly, an opportunity to celebrate the journey that SSR has made over the past 8 years, and how collectively as a community we have helped to ease the resettlement of thousands of refugees in the county.

Please, contact SSR at info@shropshiresupportsrefugees.co.uk to book your ticket and additional information!

The Paddock

Our dear friend, Ian Ross, the lovely Ex Reverend of the Abbey, is opening his beautiful garden on the 12th October and any money he raises through the sales of refreshments will go to SSR as his chosen charity. The garden is wonderfully beautiful & highly recommended (https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/the-paddock-sy5/?fbclid=IwY2xjawFsaz1leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHUKElcDwdbFSjZtDNbimHPp5cXwMshmv0UD52vYpwEGZUuiUggBKXqktVg_aem_dKn1mM-8UtAn03BGtfbiQg). He's also taking donations of cakes and jams/chutneys if you happen to like making them!

SSR hopes to continue its support through the coming months with the new eVisa project, as well as taking on any new challenges that may present themselves in the ever-changing landscapes of Ukrainian support.