



Shropshire Supports Refugees – second half of July 2024 update

Shropshire Supports Refugees (SSR) continues to support Ukrainians in various ways, implementing plans & building new ones, creating & implementing projects, as well as improving & developing existing ones.

"Talented Ukrainians" Project & Free sessions

Ukrainians participated in the "Talented Ukrainians" project, created by SSR to help Ukrainians create/expand their client base, develop their own business, and popularise their skills and abilities in Shropshire. On the initiative of SSR, a cloud-based file to the contacts, type of occupation, prices of services/works, etc. of all the project participants was created and made public.

Ukrainians still have the opportunity to receive expert advice and counselling on psychological and emotional support, free statements of comparability, free entry to Attingham Park, free legal support from a Ukrainian lawyer, free Swedish massage sessions from certified Ukrainian massage therapists, and free tickets to visit charming private gardens throughout Shropshire.

Cancer Champions

On July 24th, SSR hosted the monthly Cancer Champions meeting to raise awareness and improve knowledge & skills regarding the very important topic of cancer. Two Ukrainian Cancer Champions took part in this meeting. SSR organised the meeting, provided an interpreter to eliminate the language barrier and distributed leaflets to raise awareness among all the Community Hub visitors.

Surveys

SSR is conducting two new surveys: ideas and suggestions on how Ukrainians would like to celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day and honour those who gave their lives for the freedom and future of Ukraine, as well as an eVisa survey: what do Ukrainians know about the e-Visa and how it works; and do Ukrainians know how to create & use eVisa and UKVI accounts. Ukrainians can still take these surveys because everyone's opinion is important to SSR.

SSR Summer English Programme & Fuel Poverty Workshop

SSR does not stop helping Ukrainians to learn English even during the summer holiday. So even after a very intensive ESOL year, SSR opened two new English classes: 'Walk and Talk', which takes place on Mondays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, and the 'English Café', which takes place on Tuesdays (2:00 to 4:00 pm) and Wednesdays (10:00-12:00 pm). These classes will run from the 22nd of July to the 1st of September. Everyone is welcome!

SSR not only provides information on free webinars and workshops, such as, for example, 'The Essentials of Financial Literacy and Savings in the UK', but also hosts them. Thus, on July 25, the "Fuel Poverty Workshop", which SSR organised in cooperation with the national charity organization National Energy Action, was held online in English with a Ukrainian translation.

Activities, Events & August Programme

In the last two weeks of July, SSR organised a Doodle Workshop, a Shropshire Hills Bus Tour and a "Talk & Create" session that were extremely popular among Ukrainians and the charity received nice feedback. In addition to organising and hosting events, SSR has created a selection of kids' summer clubs and all summer events happening in and around Shrewsbury, so that Ukrainians can plan their summer and their children's holidays.

Planned SSR activities & events for August (so far):

- Yoga for Kids, 03/08/24, 10:00-12:00 pm;
- Art Class with Nataliia Denysova, 03/08/24, 12:00-13:30 pm;
- Talk & Create: Art Workshop (in collaboration with The Sea Change Trust), 07/08/24, 10:30-11:30 pm;
- Yoga for Kids, 10/08/24, 10:00-12:00 pm;
- Art Class with Nataliia Denysova, 10/08/24, 12:00-13:30 pm;
- Djembe Drumming Workshop (in collaboration with The Hive), 13/08 & 16/08/24, 10:30-12:30 pm;
- BeWILDerwood Trip, 19/08/24 pm;
- Doodle a Plant Pot (in collaboration with The Hive), 20/08/24, 10:30-12:30 pm;
- Talk & Create: Art Workshop (in collaboration with The Sea Change Trust), 21/08/24, 10:30-11:30 pm;
- Art & Crafts Workshop (in collaboration with The Hive), 21/08/24, 10:30-12:30 pm;
- Art & Craft Workshop (in collaboration with The Hive), 23/08/24, 10:30-12:30 pm.

The charity does not rest on its laurels and is constantly looking for ways to help Ukrainians stay in Shropshire in safety and comfort. SSR always listens to Ukrainians about what they want & need and is always ready to consider any ideas and suggestions from Ukrainians themselves to make their integration even smoother.