

Welcome to the third issue of the HFU Chronicle where we will be looking at the following:

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Good News Stories

Before coming to the UK, Pavlo worked as a professional chef and HORECA top manager. He decided to do his own street food business. Participated in Engage for Ukraine program from Aston Centre for Growth where he received a solid support as Ukrainian entrepreneur.

After registering his own company, bought a special bus with kitchen and started street food business. Now you can try the Taste of Ukraine daily at the centre of West Bromwich, different street food festivals, and order services by:

E: tasteofukraineinuk@gmail.com

M: 07476 218000



Pavlo Kulish in the picture above

Home for Ukraine Scheme News

MOVE ON FUNDING

The Homes for Ukraine ‘move on’ package continues to be a significant offer to guests seeking/are ready to move on (out) from hosts. To keep it relevant, manage it effectively and reduce confusion, BCC has updated the eligibility criteria and made it clearer on what the fund can be used for. Please continue to check the link and attachments for details of the updated guidance.

[Homes for Ukraine – move on funding | Birmingham City Council](#)

THANK YOU PAYMENTS

In the October budget statement, the government extended the length of time that hosts can receive ‘thank you’ payments. Payments of £350 a month are made during the first 12 months of your guests’ stay. These will increase to £500 once your guest has been in the UK for over 12 months and is paid for a maximum of up to 3 years after your guest has arrived. This is to encourage sponsors who are able, to continue hosting for longer. Please note BCC incentivises the ‘thank you’ payments for guests that have been in the UK for under 12 months and will increase the payment to £500 per month.

Please check the links [Becoming a sponsor: Homes for Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [Paying sponsors: Homes for Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) for more information on ‘Thank you’ payments and being a sponsor.

The Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church Became a Haven for the Ukrainians' Christmas Celebration

Written by I. Tishkin - NB4U

NorthBirmingham4Ukraine organised a heart-warming Christmas celebration at the Baptist Church in Sutton Coldfield, providing a comforting haven for Ukrainian families who escaped from their homeland because of the War.

At the very beginning of the meeting the graceful movements of a Ukrainian dancer captivated the audience's attention as she performed modern dance, showcasing the drama of the Ukrainian nation because of the War.

Then the real Santa Claus and his young pretty helper presented gifts to Ukrainian children with inspiring words. They were happy, of course, to get such unexpected presents.

At one point the church was filled with the beautiful sounds of the choir of Ukrainian children singing traditional Christmas carol songs, bringing with them the cord of connection to their homeland.

Finally, it was time for dinner. The taste of the delicious homemade Ukrainian food and salads showcased the high-level culinary skills of the Ukrainian women.

Gathered in the Baptist church, Ukrainian people, generally Orthodox in their homeland, found a sense of togetherness, sharing stories of resilience and hope in the face of difficulties.

The community expressed their heartfelt gratitude to British friends, volunteers, NB4U and Birmingham Council who generously provided them with the opportunity to uphold their traditions in the new land.

The Christmas celebration at the Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church was a powerful testament to the unwavering strength of the human spirit and the importance of preserving cultural traditions in a new land. It served as a reminder of the power of unity and compassion in transcending borders, fostering a sense of belonging, and illuminating the path to a shared future built on understanding and solidarity.

We wish to thank Birmingham City Council who helped fund this event.



Local ESOL+ Support

Are you looking to learn and improve your English? We have many partners in Birmingham to assist by providing ESOL support. Below are the contact details of our partners:

ESOL HUB Birmingham

Providing:

- Help people with English Language needs by finding a suitable English course around the City.
- An online test to check your level of English
- A list of ESOL course providers

M: 0121 303 4318

W: www.birmingham.esolhub.co.uk

NORTH BIRMINGHAM 4UKRAINE

Providing:

- ESOL Classes
- Monday morning classes
- Offer a friendly learning environment with free refreshments
- Focus on making learning fun and appropriate to everyday life in the UK.

Contact: esol@nb4u.co.uk

W: www.nb4u.co.uk

BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA UK NETWORK

Providing:

- ESOL Classes
- Information, advice and guidance
- Social and celebration events
- Day trips

M: 0121 772 3052

W: www.bosniauknetwork.org

STEP UKRAINE PROGRAMME

Providing:

- Virtual 12-week English language and employment programme
- 2.5 hour daily English classes
- Options for morning, afternoon or evening lessons
- Remote and teacher led

M: 0800 319 6089

W: www.worldjewishrelief.org/stepukraine/

EWA - EASTERN EUROPEAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Providing:

- Bespoke employment advice, coaching and CV writing
- Vocational ESOL
- Access to Ukrainian speaking Psychologists
- General information, advice and guidance

M: 0121 740 0824

W: www.ewacic.com

MOSELEY FOR UKRAINE

Providing:

- Informal English classes
 - Beginner; 10:00 - 12:00
 - Intermediate; 13:00 - 15:00
- Course is free of charge
- Create a CV
- Translate your Ukrainian diploma/s if necessary.

E: Moseleyforukraine@gmail.com

W: www.moseleyforukraine.org

CENTRALA

Providing:

- ESOL Classes
- Tailored learning - cater to your unique goals
- Experienced Instructors - providing a supportive and engaging learning environment
- Practical approach - to support your language for everyday life
- Flexible scheduling - morning or evening classes

M: 0121 513 0240

W: www.centrala-space.org.uk

JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Providing:

- Offer short, intensive courses along with part time one-year courses.
- Vocational ESOL
- Can study other vocational qualifications alongside ESOL
-

E: info.adultlearning@jcc.ac.uk

W: www.jcc.ac.uk

Welcome pack

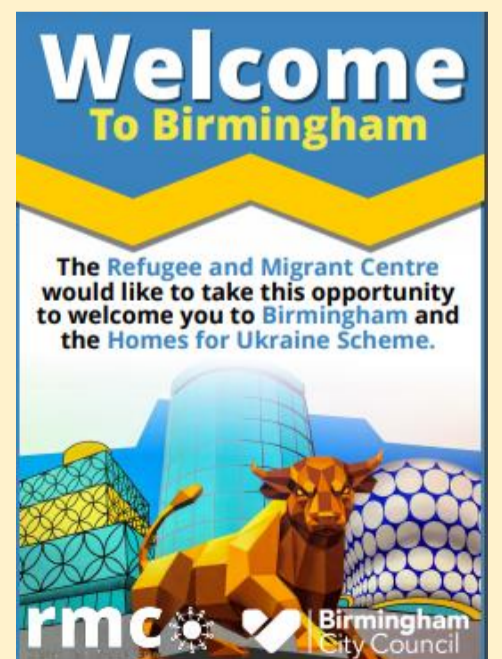


UKRAINIAN PACK:

<https://rmcentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HFU-Welcome-Pack-Host-Guest-Ukrainian.pdf>

ENGLISH PACK:

<https://rmcentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HFU-Welcome-Pack-Host-Guest.pdf>



NOTICE BOARD



Birmingham Homes for Ukraine Scheme Call Out for Hosts



The conflict in Ukraine is ongoing, and by offering a temporary home for six months to an individual or family from Ukraine, you can provide them with a crucial lifeline.

The government offers a monthly payment as a token of appreciation to support hosts.

If you're interested in becoming a host, please [follow this link](#) or scan the QR code and complete the Expression of Interest form.

Contact us for more details

Email: homes4ukraine@birmingham.gov.uk
Phone: 0121 303 1116



You are invited to join us for our

Homes for Ukraine - Hosts Networking Event



Date : 15th February 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

Venue: RMC Resettlement office, 57 Frederick Street, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, B1 3HN

We hope that current and prospective hosts will attend this event. Please bring along anyone who is interested in becoming a host via the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Representatives from local support providers will be present to explain the support that they are able to provide to hosts and guests. We will also have a guest speaker present **Professor Sara Jones** who will present current research regarding 'support for displaced Ukrainians in the UK.

Light refreshments and drinks will be available.



**BIRMINGHAM
LGBT**

FREE TRANSGENDER AWARENESS TRAINING

(Available for public healthcare, social care and 3rd sector workers delivering services in the West Midlands.)

These 2-hour training sessions include interactive elements and are delivered via Zoom.

This training will help participants to:

- Understand transgender related terms and definitions
- Increase confidence when working with transgender colleagues and service users
- Understand the Equality Act 2010 and Gender Recognition Act 2004 with regards to transgender people
- Make service provision more inclusive of transgender people

To book onto one of these public events, please see:

- 19/03/24 from 13:30 to 15:30 ([Booking link](#))
- 21/03/24 from 10:30 to 12:30 ([Booking link](#))
- 25/03/24 from 13:30 to 15:30 ([Booking link](#))
- 27/03/24 from 10:30 to 12:30 ([Booking link](#))
- 05/04/24 from 13:30 to 15:30 ([Booking link](#))

If you would like to arrange a private session for your organization:

Please email robynfoley@lgbt.org for further information and booking.

Spring Housing Association

Starting on 8th February from 12pm to 5pm Spring Housing Association will start a new fortnightly outreach surgery at Centrala. This is to help housing needs and advice. This is for guests on the HFU schemes who are looking to move into private rented properties within the Birmingham area. There will be group sessions and one to one support available in Ukrainian and English.



Picture at the top:
Sami Khan
Team leader
Spring Housing Association

Spring Housing Address:
Ansty Court, Unit 12, 24 Mary Street, Jewellery Quarter, B3 1UD

Centrala Address:
Unit 4 Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley St, Birmingham B5 5RT

Talking Space

Are You Having a Difficult Time?

Our Talking Space service offers an out of hours, safe place, to come and chat with our Crisis Intervention Workers. (with access to clinical support if needed)



ERDINGTON

SELLY OAK

NORTHFIELD

- WE CAN HELP WITH**
- Low Mood
 - Struggling to Cope
 - Anxiety
 - Stress
 - Suicidal Thoughts

Open to anyone aged 18+

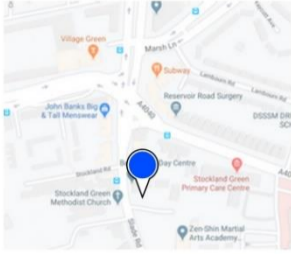
5pm till 11pm

Every Day

By Appointment
Simply call us:
0121 262 3555
Email:
help@birminghammind.org

Our Talking Space Venues

ERDINGTON



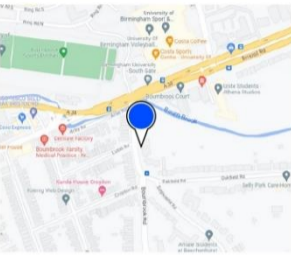
5pm till 11pm | Every Day

Beechcroft,
Rear of 501 Slade Road
Erdington, Birmingham
B23 7JG

Appointment Only
Call Us:
0121 262 3555

Bus routes: 11c, 11a, 65, X64

SELLY OAK



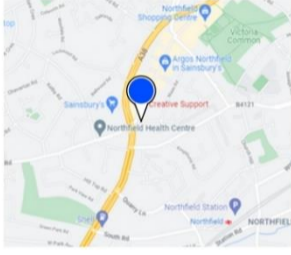
5pm till 11pm | Monday - Wednesday

grounded.
11 Bournbrook Road, Selly
Oak, Birmingham, B29 7BL

Appointment Only
Call Us:
0121 262 3555

Bus routes: 68

NORTHFIELD



5pm till 11pm | Thursday - Sunday

Creative Support, 888 Bristol Road
South, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2NS

Book Now

Bus routes: 61, 63, X20,18,27,76.
15 minute walk from Northfield Train Station



Free energy saving advice



These sessions will show you how to manage your energy costs and provide you with tools to help reduce your bills

Sessions start in Feb 2024 with limited places
Visit your local RMC branch to find out more



- Covering topics such as:**
- Identifying how people use energy in their households
 - Advising on ways to save energy, be warmer and save money
 - Showing you how to switch your energy supplier
 - Advising on energy/ water saving behaviour
 - Issuing you with FREE items to aid you in saving energy: draft excluder, reflective radiator covers, LED light bulbs
 - Signposting to other agencies that can provide further support with energy bills

Small changes = Smarter energy

The energy redress scheme at RMC aims to advise clients on how Small Changes = Smarter Energy. Our advisors will support through 121 and group sessions to discuss energy saving behaviours such as:

- Identifying how clients use energy in their households, advising on ways to save energy, be warmer and save money
- How to find the best energy deal for client's energy bills- demonstrating how to switch energy supplier
- Reducing the risk of fuel poverty on those responsible for their own bills
- Issuing free non-invasive items to reduce energy costs of those struggling with increased fuel costs: draught excluders, radiator covers and LED light bulbs
- Signposting for further energy saving support and debt advice
- Referrals for fuel vouchers

NEW English for Ukraine
Course **FREE** language courses

Improve your language skills and confidence for work, education and to make friends.

Are you an adult who has come to the UK through the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme/Homes for Ukraine Scheme, Ukraine Family Scheme or Ukraine Extension Scheme?



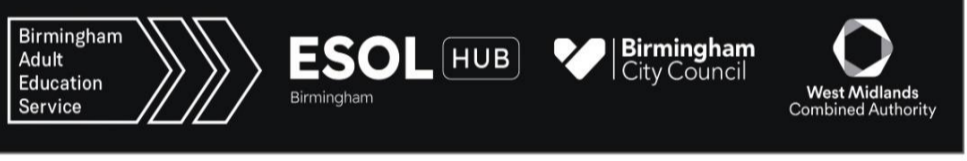
Join an online* or face-to-face course
Brasshouse Centre
Library of Birmingham, Centenary Square, B'ham B1 2ND

If you are already studying at another college or organisation, you can still join our courses at a time that fits with your schedule.

*We will try to match your level and preferred day/time with a suitable course
Please note, we may not be able to offer all levels for online courses

APPLY NOW

For more course information
email: ecclestont@baes.ac.uk
or sadiqs@baes.ac.uk



English for Ukraine - assessment days for FREE English language courses with BAES (Birmingham Adult Education Service)

For adults who have come to the UK through the:

- Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme/Homes for Ukraine Scheme
- Ukraine Family Scheme
- Ukraine Extension Scheme

<p>Assessment days on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 5 February • Thursday 8 February <p>Brasshouse Languages Library of Birmingham Centenary Square off Broad Street Birmingham B1 2ND</p>	<p>PLEASE CALL 0121 303 4318 or email information@baes.ac.uk</p> <p>now to book an assessment appointment.</p>
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Centrala

CEE US!

What's on this month?

February 2024

ESOL At Centrala, we offer ESOL, (English for Speakers of Other Language) don't miss this chance to improve your English language skills and open doors to new opportunities.	Wednesdays 10am - 12pm 6 - 8pm Saturdays 10am - 12pm
JOB CLUB The sessions can provide 1:1 support with CVs, applications, interviews, and job hunting.	Thursdays 10am - 12pm
DROP IN SESSIONS WITH RMC Offering advice and support for: social support; staying with hosts and moving on; health and mental health; art and culture; opportunities to get involved and be active, and housing advice. Sessions will be attended by RMC and Spring Housing.	Thursdays 11am - 12pm

WELL-BEING WORKSHOP

Find Your Place in Space: Art and Movement Workshop with Outside The Box.

Saturday 17th
12-2pm

EMPLOYABILITY WORKSHOP

Offering advice and support to enable Ukrainians in Birmingham to gain the skills necessary to find employment in the UK and learn how to navigate UK employments market.

Tuesday 20th
10am - 1pm

ADVISORY DROP IN SESSIONS

Offering advice or/and be sign posted to supportive agencies about employment, schools and education, housing, accessing GP and mental health service

Tuesdays
2 - 5pm

DROP IN SESSIONS WITH SPRING HOUSING

Offering advice on: initial housing support on arrival; move on support; post tenancy support, and actions and support planning for individuals

Thursday
8th, 22nd
12 - 5pm

GAMES CLUB

Boardgames, cards, chess, draughts

Saturday
12 - 2pm

Unit 4 Minerva Works
158 Fazeley Street, Birmingham, B5 5RT
0121 5130240

Dates for your diary

Reopening of the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery - 10th February

The Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is reopening on the 10th February. There are more than 160 works on display by various artists.

You can expect to see paintings, drawings, jewellery, textiles and metalwork.

Location: Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH

Website: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk



Chinese New Year celebrations - 11th February

Chinese New Year falls on different dates each year as it follows the lunar calendar. In 2024, Chinese New Year begins on February 10th and continues for 15 days, with the Lantern Festival marking the end of the celebrations.

Chinese New Year has a history that spans over 3,000 years. It originated as a way to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring. The festival is deeply rooted in Chinese mythology and folklore and has evolved over the centuries to become the grand celebration it is today.

There will be celebrations in Birmingham in and around Birmingham Hippodrome throughout the Southside district on February 11th 2024. It will include family activities, craft market stalls along with a firework finale welcoming the year of the dragon.



Valentine's Day - 14th February

Valentine's Day is celebrated by many worldwide. It is viewed as a romantic day and a time when people show feelings of love, affection, and appreciation to their loved ones.

It is common practice to buy flowers, chocolates, cards, jewellery and other gifts to express feelings of affection.

Valentine's Day can be traced back to a story of St Valentine, a Roman priest who was martyred on or around February 14 in the year 270 CE. How he became the patron saint of lovers remains a mystery but one theory is that the church used the day of St Valentine's martyrdom to Christianize the old Roman Lupercalia, a pagan festival held around the middle of February. It is believed that part of a relic belonging to St Valentine was in Ukraine during the 1900s and is now kept in a church in Sambir, western Ukraine



Host Networking Event - 15th February

RMC would like to officially invite all hosts to a networking event on Thursday 15th February from 6pm to 8pm at RMC Resettlement offices.

We have attached a poster in the notice board section for further information.

We hope to see current and prospective hosts joining us.

Address:

57 Frederick Street, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, B1 3HN.



Pancake Celebration with NB4U - 17th February

North Birmingham 4Ukraine will be having a pancake celebration on February 17th 2024 starting at 2pm.

Shaw Trust will be attending to offer help to Ukrainians with job searches.

Address:

Baptists Church Hall, Trinity Hill, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1TA



Support for Ukrainians from Moseley For Ukraine.

In February MFU plans to conduct two events for Ukrainians: Crafting Saturday dedicated to Valentine's day, poetry evening dedicated to the second anniversary of the full-scale war in Ukraine. The exact dates of these events will be determined later, so follow us on social networks.

- www.moseleyforukraine.org
- Telegram: <https://t.me/MoseleyForU>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/moseleyforukraine/>

Group Art Therapy for adults.

Every Monday at 16.00 in Moseley Exchange, 149-153 Alcester Road, Birmingham B13 8JP. WhatsApp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/H78ENmF02ja8DpKLArSX4p>

English classes with John.

Every Tuesday in Moseley Hive, 93A Alcester Road, Birmingham, B13 8DD.

- From 10.00 - 12.00 beginners-elementary level
- From 13.00 - 15.00 elementary-intermediate+ level

Yoga classes for adults.

Every Tuesday in Moseley Hive, 93A Alcester Road, Birmingham, UK B13 8DD.

- Group 1: from 17.00 till 18.00
- Group 2: from 18.00 till 19.00

WhatsApp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GMI8dT0DKwoBx5WMHAvGkN>

Drop-in sessions - offline information session with Ukrainians and representatives of RMC and Spring Housing. Help job search advice.

Every Wednesday from 11.00 till 14.00 in Moseley Hive, 93A Alcester Road, Birmingham, UK B13 8DD.

English speaking club Tea & Talk.

Every fortnight on Thursday at 16.00 in Moseley Hive, 93A Alcester Road, Birmingham, UK B13 8DD. WhatsApp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Jk4zzRKISQh7N5lsyWiK7A>

Online information session: every fortnight on Thursday.

Registration form <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KXIrhJmVBc9A3VZYddq3VB-6ztQIDjsKVTQnVbtYLvc/edit>

Walk and Talk with John - talk walks with John to various interesting places in Birmingham and beyond.

Every Friday in different place. Look for the announcement on the Facebook page "John & Rebecca's ESOL page".

**MOSELEY
FOR UKRAINE**



WHAT'S NEXT...?

We would like to continue sharing any feedback, so please do not hesitate in writing to ukraineb@rmcentre.org.uk with 'feedback' as the heading. We really want to know any suggestions you have in improving services or anything you think could be done differently. This will then, with your permission of course, be featured in a 'you said we did' section in future issues of the HFU Chronicle.

We would be very grateful if you can send us anything: for example, events you hold, a good news story, even classified for the March issue to ukraineb@rmcentre.org.uk FAO Sandra. Deadline for any submissions will be by close of play 28th February 2024.
