

All information previously shared can be found on our [Support for Ukraine webpage](#) – where you will also find our '[Ukrainian Guest information hub](#)' which we encourage you to share with your guests. The online information hub is our equivalent of a 'Welcome pack' for guests (we are sharing information digitally so that we are able to keep our information regularly updated, and guests should be able to switch to view in their own language if they wish).

Please note that in addition to these emails, all hosts will receive information from us relating to DBS checks, accommodation checks, £350 monthly host and £350 one-off guest payments; hosts should already have received information from us about this through our welcome email.

At South Cambridgeshire District Council, we have also taken the decision to make available additional 'opt-in' payments of £150 per month to hosts on top of the £350 payments. This is in recognition of the extra costs, particularly rising energy bills, currently being experienced by many households and impacting those hosting guests in their home. Please see the section [Additional optional £150 host monthly payment](#) on our website (scroll to half way down the page) for more information and how hosts can apply for the payment.

For any questions not covered in this e-newsletter or on our Support for Ukraine webpages, please email [duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk)

### **Holiday and Food schemes for the Christmas festive break**

Cambridgeshire County Council will be running a Christmas Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme which is being funded by the Department for Education. Families in receipt of income-related free school meals can access a holiday scheme for up to 16 hours per child and will receive enriching experiences, a meal and snacks daily.

Ukrainian and other refugee families can attend, as well as families struggling financially. Read [details about the Christmas programme](#) - click on 'South Cambridgeshire Schemes'.

### **Campaign to recruit more hosts**

Next week, we are planning to launch a joint marketing campaign with Cambridge City Council to help recruit more hosts. The South Cambridgeshire community has been incredibly supportive of the Homes for Ukraine programme and we are extremely grateful, especially to our many hosts for their efforts.

However, our ambition is to recruit even more people to commit to becoming a host, in appropriate locations, as there remains a pressing need to ensure there are enough safe places for guests from Ukraine to stay.

So, from next week onwards, we wanted to let you know that you are likely to see this campaign both online and in-print, as well as at key locations in the local area. We would be very grateful if you could share this campaign, such as when you see it on social media, in the weeks ahead.

### **Support for Hosts of Ukrainian Families Online Event November 23**

The Association for Family Therapy and Systemic Practice (AFT) continues to run online forums where hosts can share ideas on how to help guests who are facing psychological trauma. The next session takes place online on Wednesday, 23 November, from 7.30pm, lasting 90 minutes.

Hosted by Family and Systemic Psychotherapists but with content guided by the participants, the sessions have changed slightly to focus more on hosts coming together to meet each other and share their experiences.

Topics range from self-care to preparing for your guests to arrive, the challenges and opportunities of hosting, accessing resources in your community, thinking about the impact of trauma and help with anonymised specific challenges. Sessions are free but hosts will need to register for [tickets](#).

### **Free Bizbike Rides**

Cambridge Electric Transport operates its Bizbike Community E-bike Services in several South Cambridgeshire communities and is offering free rides to Ukrainian guests. The service is available in the following towns and villages: Northstowe, Longstanton (at Park&Ride), Teversham, The Abingtons and Hardwick.

Ukrainian guests wanting to use the service should email [info@bizbike.club](mailto:info@bizbike.club) indicating their refugee status and they will be sent full instructions and registered for free rides.

### **Outdoor Forest School – places still available**

A special outdoor Forest School, which started at Milton Country Park last weekend, still has a few places available for children aged 8-11 from families who are registered under the Homes for Ukraine scheme in South Cambridgeshire.

The weekly sessions will run for seven weeks offering fresh air, lots of fun activities and a chance to make friends as the children learn through hands-on experience in a natural setting, thereby helping to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

The programme includes bushcraft skills, playing games, making friends, building dens, pond dipping, treasure hunts and lots more. The sessions will be held at the Wild Place at Milton Country Park on Sunday mornings from 10am to 12 noon, continuing from this weekend through to December 18. For more information or to register interest in attending, email to [ufs@cambridgesportlakes.org.uk](mailto:ufs@cambridgesportlakes.org.uk)

### **Chance for young guests to channel their inner actor**

We would like to gauge whether young Ukrainian guests would be interested in joining Drama Classes which potentially could take place in Cottenham in the new year. The classes for children/teenagers of 9-15 years old may take place on Thursdays of the first and third week of each month, running from 3:45 - 5:15 pm. The suggested dates being considered are January 5 & 19, February 2 & 16, March 2 & 16, April 30, May 4 & 18, and June 1 & 15

The classes would aim for participants to have some fun and entertainment with sessions starting off with a physical warm-up as a group, followed by a variety of drama activities and games ranging from word games, facial expressions, to splitting up into different groups or pairs and acting out sense in a variety of situations, both comical or serious. The activities will be tailored to follow what the group enjoys most, encouraging different ways of communication and entertainment and help for hidden talents to shine.

If your young guests might like to participate in such a scheme, please ask them to register their interest by emailing Sheila Gosling on [sheeba3434@hotmail.com](mailto:sheeba3434@hotmail.com)

Thank you for taking the time to read this latest update. We hope that it is useful for you and your guests, and we thank you for your continued support.

Bill

Bill Handley

Lead Cabinet Member for Communities

South Cambridgeshire District Council