



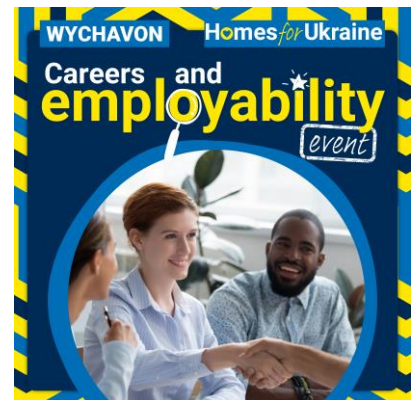
November Host Bulletin

Welcome to our November Host Bulletin for Wychavon. These bulletins will be released on a monthly basis and will hopefully give you additional information to support you as a host.

If you have not already, please make the most of your free membership to Hold for Hosts, a service designed to support you to succeed in your important role as a Host. This will provide you with access to a fantastic bank of resources and wide range of services including advice lines, podcasts, discounts, health and well-being app and much more. It will also enable you link up with other hosts across the UK. Please contact homesforukraine@wychavon.gov.uk and we can send you more information about logging in.

Careers and employability event

Earlier this month we held our first careers and employability event for Ukrainian guests. We welcomed over ten different national and local organisations to Evesham Town Hall. They offered advice and information on career progression and entrepreneurship; further education and training; use of international qualifications in the UK and opportunities in the volunteer sector. We received positive feedback from the organisations, with several very keen to continue working together to serve the Ukrainian community in the future. Over 50 guests from across Worcestershire attended the event, they were very satisfied with the information they were able to access, with several offered employment in the NHS.



Christmas celebration

It might be too early to be thinking about Christmas but with November nearly over, it's scary how quick it comes around! We would like to bring guests and hosts together to celebrate again this year. The Homes for Ukraine team are currently organising a free event of food, crafts and dancing. There will be live music, a range of activities for children and adults and also a special visit from Father Christmas. If you would like to donate any gifts to Santa, please let us know homesforukraine@wychavon.gov.uk



Tuesday, 19/12/23 | 17:00-20:00 | Evesham Town Hall.

We are asking that guests and hosts bring along food and drink to share. This can be a traditional Ukrainian or British dish, sweet or savoury, homemade or shop bought, to serve a couple of people or more, it's really up to you! There will information around allergens to complete. If you would like to bring something with you, please let us know homesforukraine@wychavon.gov.uk We have included some recipe ideas further in the bulletin.

We will also be running a raffle and are looking for some donations of prizes, big and small. Perhaps you know someone, or you yourself could contribute to this? It could be a meal or coffee voucher, tickets to events, household items...we are excited to hear your ideas!

Please contact us homesforukraine@wychavon.gov.uk if you are interested.

Wellbeing at Christmas time

Whether you celebrate or not, we recognise that the festive period can be challenging for many people. Whether it's the financial or social pressure, loneliness, grief and loss, or wanting to be elsewhere, you may be looking for advice for yourself and others.

MIND website has lots of useful information to support those having a difficult time over Christmas and raise awareness of the particular issues people face: [Christmas and mental health - Mind](#)

If you want to support your guests further, YoungMinds have developed a Christmas Wellbeing calendar with an activity to complete each day to improve mental health and wellbeing, there is a primary and secondary age version: [Wellbeing advent calendars | Resources | YoungMinds](#) . There is also an adult version from Action for Happiness, available to download in English and Ukrainian: [Do Good December | Action for Happiness](#)

There are other useful resources to support the mental health and wellbeing of your guests, both in Ukrainian and English. Some services offering counselling or someone to talk to. Take a look at the following links, they might not be useful now but are helpful to have, should you need to refer back to:

[Help for anyone fleeing the war in Ukraine | Helplines \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

[Mental Health Support \(opora.uk\)](#)

[Mental health information in Ukrainian \(stpatricks.ie\)](#)

[Nadiya - A quest for a safer place \(apartofme.app\)](#) (app aimed at children who have escaped conflict)

[Ти як? \(howareu.com\)](#) (includes a **crisis phone number**)

[ПСИХОЛОГІЧНА ДОПОМОГА ВІД НПА | Офіційний сайт НПА \(пра-ua.org\)](#) (includes a **crisis phone number**)

If you are concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of your guest, please contact us immediately at homesforukraine@wychavon.gov.uk and we can offer you support and signposting.

Activities for Christmas

With the nights drawing in, you might be looking for some ideas of activities to do with the children, or to encourage your guests to start a new hobby. There are lots of exciting events taking place across the region, both free of charge and for a range of budgets.

This weekend, Pershore and Evesham are beginning the Christmas celebrations with a Georgian Christmas Fayre and light switch-on in Pershore and the Battle of Evesham Christmas Artisan Fayre and Lantern Parade in Evesham. Both events are offering free entry and there will be stalls selling local products and food with music and Christmas lights alongside!

[Pershore Georgian Christmas Fayre – November 2023 \(pershorechristmasfayre.co.uk\)](#)

[Battle of Evesham Christmas Artisan Fayre | Visit Worcestershire](#)

[Evesham Lantern Parade - Visit Evesham](#)



Further into December, there will be a range of events across Worcestershire, including Santa's Grottos and the Victorian Christmas Fayre in Worcester. Many garden centres are also an excellent place to visit during the festive season, with activities for children and adults. Webbs offer a programme of events, which can be seen here: [What's On, Events and Activities | Webbs Garden Centres \(webbsdirect.co.uk\)](#)

Other events and attractions across Worcestershire can be found here: [Magical Christmas Days Out in Worcestershire | Visit Worcestershire](#)



If you are visiting Worcester at Christmas, be sure to check out the Christmas tree exhibition at Worcester Cathedral from 7th December. There will be many trees on display, decorated by local community groups, schools and organisations. You could combine your visit to Worcester with a meal out in TGI Fridays, who offer free kids meals: [Kids Eat Free All Day, everyday | 2023 | TGI Fridays UK](#) or Asda café who offer £1 kids meals, all day, everyday and half price adult meals after 3pm.

If you are looking for ideas at home, Christmas brings opportunities for crafts, baking and watching festive favourites on the TV. As always, Hobbycraft have a range of projects ideas for adults and children, for any budget. They also run online and in person workshops, more information can be found here: [Hobbycraft Online and In-Store Craft Workshops | Hobbycraft \(classbento.co.uk\)](#)



Hobbycraft offer home delivery and there are stores in Worcester and Droitwich. Here are some of their project and activity ideas:

[20 Christmas Decor Projects to Make for Under £20 | Hobbycraft](#)

[25 Christmas Projects to Make for Under £10 | Hobbycraft](#)

[5 Clay Christmas Tree Decorations to Make | Hobbycraft](#)

Baking and making tasty treats can also be a great way to spend gloomy Sundays in the winter. BBC have put together a list of ideas for children and British festive favourites, you may want to share with your guests:

[Christmas kitchen - BBC Good Food](#)

[29 Christmas baking projects for kids | BBC Good Food](#)

[Christmas for kids recipes | BBC Good Food](#)



Perhaps you would also like to learn more about Christmas in Ukraine and prepare some traditional dishes, there are some good ideas to get you started here:

[12 Ukrainian Christmas Dishes – “Speak Ukrainian” \(speakua.com\)](#)

[Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner – Recipes and Customs | Ukrainian recipes \(ukrainian-recipes.com\)](#)

Finally, if you're worn out from all the festivities, there are lots of great films and TV programmes to watch with all the family.

Channel 5 show a Christmas film every day and have already started! If you've missed any, or want to browse what they have, you need to create an account and can view them here: [My5 browse - Movies \(channel5.com\)](#)

If you have a TV license, BBC offer a range on iPlayer, The Gruffalo is always a favourite!

[BBC iPlayer - That Christmas Feeling...](#)

[BBC iPlayer - Family Christmas Treats.](#)

Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney Plus also offer a variety of films and shows. Here are a couple of articles with recommendations:

[45 Best Kids' Christmas Movies on Netflix to Stream 2023](#)

[\(goodhousekeeping.com\)](#)

[The 20 best Christmas movies – and where to watch them | Stuff](#)



Scheme Updates

Since the beginning of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, the context in which we are working changes regularly. You may be interested in updates as it develops with the changing needs of our guests. Your guests may also have questions about the future. Please keep a close eye on the government website for up-to-date information and releases.

[Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guides - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Gas safety certificates and boiler services

For those of you who have been hosting for a longer period of time, you may be required to show an up-to-date gas safety certificate and boiler service document. Please ensure you have these documents ready.

Next Steps and hosting again

Your guests may be thinking about their next steps in the UK, many of our district's guests have already moved into private accommodation or social housing.

In some cases, we look for another host for guests, if you know of someone who is interested in hosting, please let us know and we can get in touch with them. We are also in the process of updating records, so if your guest is moving out soon and you are thinking about hosting again, we can make a note of this.

Guests can find private rental properties by contacting local letting agents or looking at sites such as [Rightmove.co.uk](https://www.rightmove.co.uk) or [spareroom.co.uk](https://www.spareroom.co.uk). We may be able to offer support with deposits for guests. If your guests are thinking about renting privately then encourage them to get in touch with our housing options team who can offer them advice.

Guests can also rent a home from a social landlord. This is usually a housing association which offers homes to people that meet the qualifying criteria at a reduced monthly rent. The two main housing associations in Wychavon are Platform and Rooftop Housing.

There is a lot of demand for social housing so guests will have to bid for properties against other people. Our housing team can help explain to them how the process works in more detail. Ukrainian guests are considered a high priority which will increase their chances of getting a social home to rent but we cannot guarantee they will be successful.

If your guests are thinking of renting a social home in Wychavon then they will need to apply to join our social housing register. You can support them to do this by visiting www.housingforyou.co.uk

If your guests need help finding new accommodation then please email housing.needs@wychavon.gov.uk or call our housing options team on 01386 565000 (option 5).

Please update us as soon as possible if there are any changes with your guest's accommodation- in particular, if they are moving to social housing or private accommodation, we need to be informed of the move out date.