

# Bradford City of Sanctuary



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2021

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Hello, and welcome to the March edition of our quarterly newsletter. We know it has been yet another challenging few months for so many people across the district. Despite these challenges we have also seen remarkable strength, compassion and resilience right across Bradford, helping to keep the vital sense of hope for the future.



We hope you enjoy this Month's edition as we look forward to a bright and busy year ahead.

## HELP INTO VOLUNTEERING

2021 has seen two very successful Help into Volunteering sessions delivered online for The Bradford African Community, and The BRAVE group at Refugee Action. A huge thank you to Steve and Lorraine at Volunteering Bradford for their support with this program. If you are interested to hear more, or would like to book a session, do get in touch with us **HERE**.



# Welcome to Bradford

## *A Guide to Life in Bradford*

The Welcome to Bradford website is here at last. Just go to <https://welcomebradford.org> to find the information that new migrants need on arrival in our city - all in one place. It has been created by Solidaritech, Bradford City of Sanctuary and Refugee Action, with the backing of Bradford Council's Innovation Fund. Content and design have been developed in regular consultation with a knowledgeable and experienced group of new migrants to Bradford.

There are sections on Health, Education, Housing, Money, Work, Transport, Immigration, Staying Safe, Caring For Your Family, Living in Your Neighbourhood. There's also a section called Just Arrived? Here, people can quickly answer the first questions that come up, such as where is my nearest supermarket, GP, school, park, English class?

Where can I find a friendly face? Also, what do I do if there is an urgent problem with health, safety, housing, food, clothing? The website is designed primarily for a mobile phone, which we know most people will be using.

The instant maps are really helpful. There are links to nearly 300 relevant organisations, and there is the best possible translate facility.

So far, the site has been launched online with support workers in the city, with the Beacon CHAT group and at a BIASAN monthly meeting. Last month's viewing figures show 400 visits. But this is just the beginning, as the aim is for all new migrants to find out about the site and its usefulness as early as possible on coming to Bradford. So we need to distribute information about the site to schools, GP surgeries, community centres and libraries, for example. We also plan to introduce further particular groups of people to the site. This will include people in asylum housing, in collaboration with Mears, and, as a trial, in a school with a large number of new migrant families.

The site itself will never be finished, of course. There is still work to be done on photos for example, deliberately postponed till activity in the city, like everywhere, looks more normal. Updating the site has been planned for and we are recruiting a small number of volunteer experts by experience to be the trained 'W2B Update Team'. There is plenty of opportunity and capacity for additional links to the site, so suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. Just go to 'Leave feedback' at the bottom of a page or email us at:

**[suggestions@welcomebradford.org](mailto:suggestions@welcomebradford.org)**

# Landmark Trust

Migration Yorkshire kindly organised a Zoom gathering back in September about the Landmark Trust's exciting aspirations to deliver heritage craft training for those with refugee status and those seeking asylum, at Calverley Old Hall. Here is a recent update on the project:

I now have some dates for our taster days this year. I have pushed these back as far as I can to make sure that we can go ahead safely. The dates are as follows: Thursday 29th July and Saturday 31st July. The crafts we will be exploring will include: working with lime mortars and plaster, bricklaying, plaster/stone carving, stained glass. These will be practical sessions, so participants need to be willing to get stuck in to some creative and messy work. We will provide aprons, protective gloves, masks, and all the tools they will require. We will issue more info about PPE nearer the time.

In addition to these days, we will also offer a day for women only on Thursday 24th June. This session will be led by local textile artist and weaver Agnis Smallwood.

I have 16 places available on each day and I will be running more days like this in 2022. Following on from these taster days I will plan a Sector Based Work Academy for spring 2022. Based on completion of the SBWA and a successful interview, at least two paid apprenticeships will be available from September 2022.

You can read more [HERE](#)

Best wishes,  
The Landmark Trust



# BRADFORD REFUGEE FORUM

*Working together for* *Update*  
*Refugees and Asylum Seekers*

Bradford Refugee Forum continue to support refugees and asylum seekers across Bradford, linking people with opportunities. We loved co-hosting the Intercultured Festival at the end of last year, running all kinds of online activities and workshops, such as poetry, art and more. Our very own Carl White hosted a Sports Panel, discussing six refugee led projects providing cricket, fitness, football & netball in inner city Bradford – which was a great evening.

A huge congratulations to Mussarat Rahman of Biasan for organising the festival, and we look forward to similar events in the future. We missed our annual Christmas party this year, but have been busy with a number of other projects. We've distributed hand sanitizers to several groups, and plan to have some resources to give out soon, along with other activities in the pipeline. Keep an eye on our website for further developments: [www.bradfordrefugees.org.uk](http://www.bradfordrefugees.org.uk). We're looking forward to the Unify festival in April, which Bradford Refugee Forum are pleased to be involved in alongside the University of Bradford, Bradford City of Sanctuary, Biasan, Beacon and more. Brilliant things happen when we work together!

**You can read more about Bradford Refugee Forum [HERE](#)**

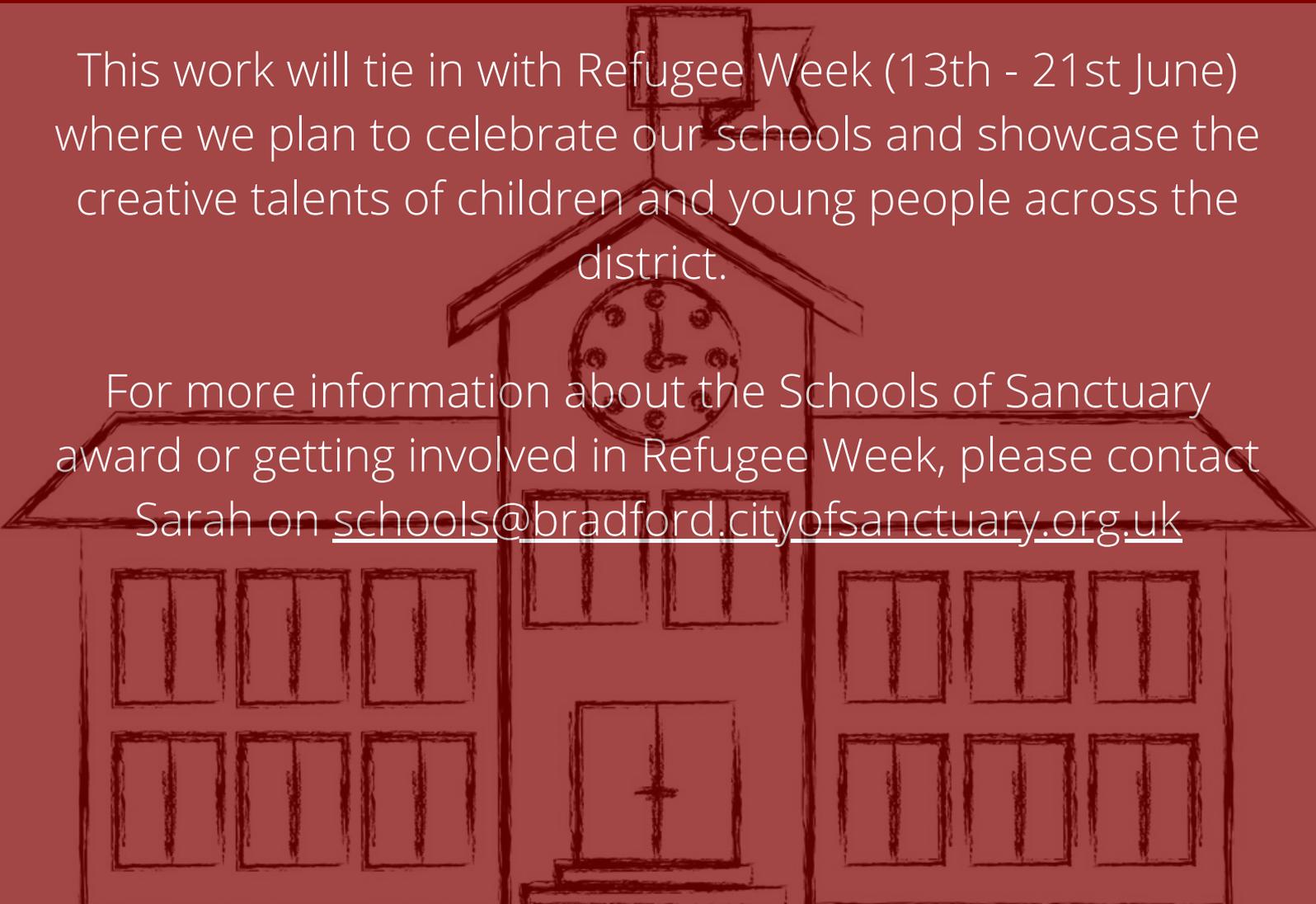
# Schools of Sanctuary

After a period of what feels like hibernation for the Schools of Sanctuary project, work is back underway to develop the project further.

Our schools have shown without doubt that they are the heart of sanctuary in our communities. We are in the process of gathering stories and case studies to give some insight into the last twelve months and the lengths to which schools have gone to ensure students have been supported and kept safe at such a difficult time.

This work will tie in with Refugee Week (13th - 21st June) where we plan to celebrate our schools and showcase the creative talents of children and young people across the district.

For more information about the Schools of Sanctuary award or getting involved in Refugee Week, please contact Sarah on [schools@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org.uk](mailto:schools@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org.uk)



# B.R.E.W BRADFORD REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT WEBINAR



We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed and attended the Bradford Refugee Employment Webinar on the 9th March. It was a great opportunity to hear from each other about the work that continues to happen in this field throughout these challenging times, and I found this very inspiring.

You can view the recording of the Webinar **HERE**:

A huge thank you to our speakers :

Nohreen Niwaz, Geraldine Clark, Wahid Rashid, Seye Onabolu  
and Barnaby Dathan

If you would like to send us a short quote or statement about the BREW session, it would be very gratefully received. We would love to continue this wider conversation and will keep you informed of any developments.



UNIVERSITY of  
BRADFORD

*Update*

The University of Bradford is thrilled to announce that from September 2021, applicants who are awarded a Sanctuary Scholarship will receive a £4,000 per year study grant as well as tuition fees being remitted (i.e. no fees). Full information is available [here](#). This is a competitive scholarship, with 10 places available each academic year. Applications open on 1st May 2021.

What does the Sanctuary Scholarship include?

**Tuition Fee Grant:** Successful students will be offered a tuition fee-remitted (i.e. no fees) place at university until such time as they are awarded status that entitles them to access student finance (if at all).

**A Travel and Course Costs Grant:** Successful students will be offered a £4,000 a year (per year if applicable) grant to help with travel and course costs.

**Personal Support:** In addition to fee remission, support will be available for students to enable them to identify and overcome barriers to achievement on their degree programme and for their future careers.

Read the press release [here](#).

12 - 16 APRIL 2021

CULTIVATE • COLLABORATE • INNOVATE

UNIFY  
FESTIVAL  
2021

Together with colleagues from Bradford Refugee Forum, BIASAN and Stand and Be Counted Theatre Co, we have been collaborating with our friends at Bradford University to plan an online event titled Bradford, a Place of Sanctuary and Peace Building, scheduled for 2.00 - 3.30 on Weds 14th April - see details [\*\*here\*\*](#).

This will form part of 5 days of events at what it is hoped will become an annual festival, entitled UNIfy.

You will hear about Bradford's history of peace activism, meet some who have sought sanctuary in the city and hear how they have made Bradford their home.

You will also learn about the amazingly diverse and creative range of projects that seek to support sanctuary seekers here.

Book your place via Eventbrite [\*\*here\*\*](#).

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