

Spring Newsletter | March 2022



What's New

Norwich City of Sanctuary continues to work in collaboration with local charities to promote a culture of welcome and solidarity with refugees in our city. Over the past year, New Routes Integration, English+, Norwich International Youth Project and The Bridge Plus+ have adapted to the changes presented by the pandemic by offering a mixture of virtual and face-to-face activities. Among their many fantastic projects, they continue to provide weekly food boxes for refugees and asylum seekers with the Soul Foundation and free, refurbished bikes through their Welcome Wheels project.

Many are asking what they can do for the people of Ukraine. City of Sanctuary UK has this [report](#) on ways to support them. As the current crises in Ukraine and Afghanistan illustrate, people being forced to flee their homes because of war or persecution will persist. This is why our work to make Norwich a welcoming city for all is so important.

Last year we joined a coalition of over 200 national charities – Together with Refugees – to campaign against the new Nationality and Borders Bill, which makes sweeping changes to immigration law. During Refugee Week 2021, we lit up Norwich Castle with an orange love heart, made up of the faces of our supporters (including MP Clive Lewis) demonstrating the positive attitude many in Norwich have towards refugees. Our idea was picked up by the Together with Refugees campaign - who are set on to light up buildings across the UK with orange love hearts on March 21st 2022 when the Bill will be debated in Parliament.

Latest Updates from Our Streams

Arts Stream

Our Arts Stream is busy working with New Routes on events for Refugee Week 2022 including a Welcome Feast and a Walking Tour of the city. We'll share more info with you soon!

Museums Stream

On 22 March, join an online event co-hosted by the Migration Museum and Norfolk Museums Service to explore issues surrounding migration. [Register here.](#)

Local refugees recently produced embroidery squares with English+ which featured in a Textile Treasures exhibition curated by Norfolk Museums Service.

Gardens Stream

Field of Joy, who are working towards becoming a Garden of Sanctuary, hosted young asylum-seekers on a ten-week course on their small-holding last year. Grapes Hill Community Garden, Ketts Heights, Strangers' Hall and Norwich Farmshare have all joined this Stream. To be a part of this or any of our wonderful streams, please email us on: norwich.cityofsanctuary@gmail.com

Faith Stream

NEW!

Our new Faith Stream has been giving talks about our work to the Norwich Interfaith Community and Norwich Diocese. The latter are looking to become a Cathedral of Sanctuary in their 5 year plan, which is fantastic news!

University of Sanctuary

Get involved in UEA Refugee Week 14 – 18 March!! Many events are open to the public. Take a look at the programme [here](#).

It has been a busy period for the UEA's University of Sanctuary initiative. We welcomed a new Academic Lead, Sophie North (Lecturer in Health Sciences) in May 2021 and four new sanctuary scholars in September 2021.

Alongside UEA Support Services, we have also been supporting Chevening scholars from Afghanistan. We will have a further two sanctuary scholarships and two Pre-sessional English Language Scholarships available for the coming new academic year. The Sanctuary Scholarship will see an increase in the bursary amount from £3k to £9k. Information on the scholarships and the application form is now on the [UEA website](#).

How can you help?

- [Donate](#) to Welcome Wheels project which provides free bikes for refugees and asylum seekers.
- Volunteer your time to one of our local partner charities: [New Routes Integration](#), [Norwich International Youth Project](#), [English+](#)
- Norwich City of Sanctuary continues to support organisations to make their workplace a more welcoming place for newcomers. If you are interested in finding out how to apply for a Sanctuary Award, please get in touch via email.

Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary

Increasingly more schools continue to express an interest in the Schools of Sanctuary award. We have 15 Schools of Sanctuary with a further seven working towards the award. Congratulations to Bignold Primary School who successfully achieved their School of Sanctuary award for a second time! Our Awards panel were impressed by their application.

Last year we created a new website for [Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary](https://norfolk.schoolsofsanctuary.org/), thanks to the brilliant and talented Zana Yassin. In December, teachers from our Schools of Sanctuary team delivered the annual SoS lecture to the trainee teachers on the UEA's Primary PGCE programme. This is one strand of the UEA's work to improve teacher education with regards to sanctuary issues.

Many local teachers took part in our pilot of the [UNHCR's online teacher CPD course](https://www.unhcr.org/uk/en/teaching-for-refugees/), Teaching for Refugees, designed to prepare teachers to teach about refugees and to better support any families in their school community who have refugee status.

A Day of Welcome



Just over 100 schools took part in our Schools of Sanctuary's day of solidarity and learning in 2021, reaching approx. 25,000 pupils. This year's Day of Welcome will take place on **Friday 17th June 2022**. The historical inspiration for our new resources will be the Kindertransport - stories of the thousands of Jewish children who fled persecution by Nazi Germany and sought sanctuary ahead of World War Two. Find out more and **register your school to participate [here](https://www.schoolsofsanctuary.org/)**.

Dates for the Diary

14-18 March 22 UEA Refugee Week

17 June 22 A Day of Welcome

20-26 June 2022 REFUGEE WEEK!

Sanctuary Award Winners to date

Norwich Theatre * The University of East Anglia*
Norwich Arts Centre* Frank's Bar* The Octagon
Chapel* Norfolk Museums Service* Avenue Junior
School* Notre Dame High School* Jane Austin
College* Bignold Primary School* Magdalen Gates
Primary School* Wensum Junior School*
Framlingham Earl High School* Hellesdon High
School* Hethersett Woodside Infant and Nursery
School* Preston Primary School* Saxlingham
Nethergate Primary School* Angel Road Infant
School* Garboldisham Primary* Ashleigh Primary
School* Taverham Junior School* Recreation Road
Infants School* Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers*

Working Toward Our Sanctuary Award

Nelson Infants School* Neatherd High School*
Coltishall Primary School* Norfolk Libraries Service*
The Common Lot Theatre company* The Sainsbury
Centre for Visual Arts* City College Norwich* Field
of Joy* The Garage* Sheringham Little Theatre*
Norwich Puppet Theatre* Bicycle Links*