

REFUGEE WEEK FESTIVAL 2026 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

(Issue date 19/5/26)

Refugee week is 15-21 June 2026

These are some of the ideas that are being planned in-and-around Derby...

The flagship event for this year's refugee week will be...

HELLO DERBY - A FESTIVAL OF WELCOME on Saturday 20 June from 11am to 3pm at Derby Market Hall

“Hello Derby - a Festival of Welcome” returns for the fourth time, as part of Derby Refugee Week Festival. This will again be a free, drop-in event, everyone welcome.

All the details are at:

<https://derby.cityofsanctuary.org/2026/04/22/hello-derby-a-festival-of-welcome-is-back>

If you'd like to be part of the planning team for this event, please contact Matt McGuinness (mattmcguinness@hotmail.com or 07794946241)

Connecting Solidarities' Exhibition at Artcore

The exhibition is the result of a collaboration between the University of Derby and the Derby Bosnia and Herzegovina Community Association (DBHCA) as part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded research project “Connecting Solidarities”.

The exhibition will feature interviews on lived experiences, photographs, visual maps, videos, and an artwork by the artist Lejla Kevric that tell the history of the DBHCA, its current work to support refugees in Derby, and its interconnections with the wider refugee sector.

This work will be displayed in the run-up to Refugee Week between 8 and 22 May at Artcore.

Contact is Giulia Levi (g.levi@derby.ac.uk)

Football tournament at The Racecourse on Wednesday 10 June

Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity in partnership with Derby County Community Trust will be hosting a Refugee Week Asylum Seeker/Refugee football tournament at The Racecourse, Derby on Wednesday 10th June.

Contact is Charlie Stevens (charliestevens@btinternet.com)

Third Edition of the 'Derby Refugee Conference' on 12 June

Join us for an insightful, full-day in-person event bringing together researchers, organisations, and individuals with lived experience, to discuss contemporary issues facing displaced people and those seeking sanctuary locally, nationally and internationally. Now in its third edition, this event will also be an opportunity to learn about the latest research, community engagement and civic initiatives undertaken by University of Derby staff with refugees and refugee communities. Further information and book your place at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/derbyshire-refugee-conference-2026-tickets-1988863482214>

Contact is Alessio D'Angelo (a.dangelo@derby.ac.uk)

Meet Your Neighbour Party on Saturday 13 June

Derby Theatre is planning a large free outdoor Meet Your Neighbour party with Maison Foo, to celebrate all the people who have been coming to their Sanctuary Cafes and performing at the Sanctuary Scratch events.

There will be music, performances, food, dancing and a huge welcoming spirit!

Contact is Sam Rushton (s.rushton3@derby.ac.uk)

“Better Together” at Belper Memorial Gardens on Saturday 13 June

At the beginning of Refugee Week, Unite Community has booked Belper Memorial Gardens to celebrate all the good things that people do in and around the area.

As the murdered MP, Jo Cox, said "We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us"

Contact is Keith Venables (venables_keith@yahoo.co.uk)

Sanctuary Sunday at Derby Cathedral on Sunday 14 June

Sanctuary Sunday on 14th June will be marked at the Cathedral Eucharist at 10.45am with special prayers and an address by the Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal OBE, theologian and Methodist Minister and Cofounder of the first City of Sanctuary in the UK.

Afterwards everyone is invited to a shared lunch in the Cathedral nave at 12.30pm when Inderjit will share further thoughts on “Hospitality and Sanctuary for All. Challenging Hostility with Hospitality”

The service will also be live streamed. Further details <https://www.derbycathedral.org>

Derby Employment & Skills Hub on Tuesday 15 June from 10.30am to 12.30pm

Derby City Council’s Derby Employment & Skills Hub will be providing information on supporting individuals into employment through the Connect to Work programme.

At The Derby Bosnia Herzegovina Community Association, 99 Curzon Street, Derby DE1 1LN on Tuesday 15 June from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Contact is Pratibha Hindocha (Pratibha.Hindocha@derby.gov.uk)

Steps Towards Tomorrow Workshop on Tuesday 16 June

Derby Refugee Forum, in collaboration with Think Artist, will host a Steps Towards Tomorrow workshop. Led by Armstrong Agoreyo, this 3-hour creative session invites participants to create functional footwear from upcycled materials, using shoemaking as a metaphor for personal journeys, resilience, and hope for the future.

Contact is Selma Todorovac (s.todorovac@derbyrefugeeforum.org)

Coping with Difficult Conversations on Wednesday 17 June at 7pm

Organised by Unite Community at Friends Meeting House, Belper.

This one and half hour session will be an interactive training event with plenty of time to try out ways of dealing with challenging situations.

Contact is Keith Venables (venables_keith@yahoo.co.uk)

BBQ at Susanna Wesley House on Friday 19 June from 10am until 3pm

To celebrate Refugee Week and also Susanna Wesley House being 10 years old this year, we are hosting a BBQ on Friday 19th June. We are open from 10am until 3pm and lunch will be served at 1pm. There will also be music, dancing, and cake! Everyone is welcome.

Susanna Wesley House is located at 8 Liversage Square, Derby, DE1 2LT.

Contact is Jo Howie (jo@derbymethodists.org.uk)

Please email any changes or additions to gfreeman@redcross.org.uk

Organised by the Derby City of Sanctuary team