

**COURAGE!  
COURAGE!  
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COURAGE!**

15-21 JUNE 2026



**Refugee  
Week**

**REFUGEE WEEK**

**NORWICH**



Illustration © Quentin Blake



## COORDINATORS



# New Routes Integration

## FUNDER



**NORWICH**  
City Council

## KEY PARTNERS



The Bridge Plus+  
Bridging communities in Norfolk

**Norwich**   
City Of Sanctuary

**English+** 



**UEA**  
University of East Anglia

 **University of Sanctuary**



# WELCOME

The word **courage** comes from the Latin *cor*, meaning 'heart'. Inspired by the lives, journeys, and experiences of people seeking sanctuary, **Refugee Week 2026** invites us to reflect on what it means to act with **courage** in our everyday lives and communities.

Refugee Week is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity, and resilience of refugees and migrants. Each June, around World Refugee Day on Saturday 20 June, communities across Norwich come together through art, music, storytelling, food, learning, and shared experiences to celebrate the people who enrich our city with their strength, talent, and hope.

This year's theme, *Courage*, recognises the bravery it takes to begin again, to speak up, to reach out, and to stand alongside one another in solidarity. It is a celebration not only of the courage shown by people seeking sanctuary, but also of the courage found in kindness, connection, creativity, and community.

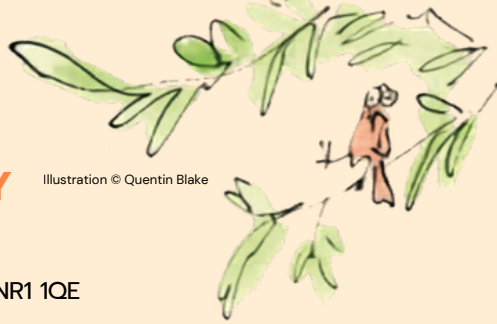
Throughout Refugee Week Norwich 2026, organisations, artists, community groups, schools, volunteers, and local residents will come together to create spaces of welcome, understanding, and celebration across the city. From family activities and performances to exhibitions, workshops, community meals, and wellbeing events, the programme offers opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect, learn, and celebrate together.



# NEW ROUTES LAUNCH PARTY

Illustration © Quentin Blake

THURSDAY 11TH JUNE, 6:00PM - 8:00PM  
DRAGON HALL, 115-123 KING STREET, NORWICH, NR1 1QE



## **RSVP VIA EVENTBRITE FOR INVITEES - REFRESHMENTS AND DRINKS PROVIDED**

Join us for a special evening to open Refugee Week Norwich 2026 - a celebration of courage, creativity and community that sets the tone for the whole week ahead. Dragon Hall, one of Norwich's most beautiful and historic venues, hosts an evening bringing together our partners, community members, artists, volunteers and supporters. The evening opens with a warm welcome and reflections on this year's theme of Courage, drawing on the experiences and stories of refugee and migrant communities across Norwich and Norfolk. Guests will meet the organisations behind the week's programme, hear from community voices, and celebrate the strength, resilience and determination of Global Majority People seeking sanctuary in our community.

## **KATH GRIFFITHS AWARD PRESENTATION**

A special presentation during the evening recognising outstanding contributions to welcome, inclusion and community solidarity in Norwich and Norfolk. The award is named in honour of Kath Griffiths, whose compassion, leadership and tireless commitment were instrumental in developing Norwich as a welcoming City of Sanctuary. It celebrates individuals whose work reflects the spirit of Refugee Week and this year's theme of Courage - recognising those who create welcome, foster belonging, and stand alongside others with kindness, solidarity and hope.



# SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY DAY OF WELCOME

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE, 9:00AM - 2:15PM  
ONLINE EVENT

**FREE TO ATTEND AT:**

**[HTTPS://SCHOOLS.CITYOFSANCTUARY.ORG/RESOURCES/  
A-DAY-OF-WELCOME](https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/resources/a-day-of-welcome)**

A celebration of welcome, inclusion and belonging led by local Schools of Sanctuary. The event highlights the work of schools supporting sanctuary, diversity and community connection across Norwich and Norfolk through creative activities, learning and shared experiences.

## **9:00 AM - 9:35 AM - STORYTIME WITH MICHAEL ROSEN**

Join much loved author and poet Michael Rosen, as he reads his latest picture book 'The Big Journey' - the heartwarming sequel to 'The Big Dreaming' - which sees Big Bear and Little Bear set out on a Big Journey to find a new home.

## **11:00 AM - 11:45 AM - MEET AND GREET WITH DINA AND AYMAN**

Come along and meet Dina and Ayman. They will share some aspects of their cultural heritage and reflect on their experiences of seeking sanctuary. Through stories and conversation, your pupils will build understanding and empathy while we celebrate our diverse communities and multicultural country. Dina is an author of books for children and adults, whose writing often draws on her own experiences of seeking sanctuary. Ayman is a Syrian actor, filmmaker and creative who arrived in the UK hidden inside a suitcase

## **1:30 PM - 2:15 PM - THE CHEAT BOOK WITH RAMZEE**

In this Day of Welcome and Empathy Festival collaboration, author-illustrator Ramzee will bring to life the laugh-out-loud 'The Cheat Book' series. Drawing on his experiences as a cartoonist, storyteller, and coming to the UK as a refugee, this interactive session will have your pupils drawing, thinking, and getting their empathy on!

# DISCOVER NORWICH'S STORIES: A MULTILINGUAL AUDIO TRAIL

MONDAY 15TH JUNE

**ACCESS AT [HTTPS://WWW.NORWICHTALESANDTRAILS.CO.UK/](https://www.norwichtalesandtrails.co.uk/)**

Celebrate Refugee Week by experiencing Norwich through a beautiful new lens! Launching on June 15, this unique audio trail enhances a scenic walking route through the city centre, revealing the rich history behind Norwich's iconic buildings and spaces.

This truly special project has been co-created and recorded by Norfolk school pupils and their families who have migrated from abroad. To ensure everyone feels welcome, the children have translated and narrated the stories into a diverse range of languages spoken across our county today. By sharing their voices and heritage, the pupils designed this project to champion the core principles of welcome and safety that are already so deeply rooted in Norwich and Norfolk.

This initiative is a proud collaboration between Norwich Tales and Trails and Norfolk County Council's REDI Team (who support migrant families and lead the Schools of Sanctuary project).

Illustration © Quentin Blake



## LOCATING THE RURAL - ART, FILM AND POETRY

MONDAY 15TH JUNE, 12.00PM - 4.00PM  
ANTEROS ARTS FOUNDATION

### **FREE TO ATTEND - DROP IN OR PRE-BOOK - ALL WELCOME**

Delivered by Dr Hannah Owens from the University of Warwick and funded by the Council for British Research in the Levant, an interactive workshop and film screening exploring what home, community and courage mean to refugee and host communities - drawing on the research project Locating the Rural in International Aid. Through participatory workshops with communities in northern Jordan, the project asks: what does rural mean to you? Artwork, photography and a short documentary film bring together everyday voices that speak to resilience, belonging and the courage it takes to build new futures. The afternoon includes a community map, a documentary screening with Q&A, and an interactive poetry workshop. Canapés will be served by the Syrian Sunflower, a refugee-led catering company.

## BICYCLE LINKS MURAL PAINTING - WHEEL NEED YOU!

MONDAY 15TH JUNE, TUESDAY 16TH JUNE, WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE., 10:00AM - 6:00 PM  
SATURDAY 20TH OF JUNE. 10:00 AM - 5PM  
BICYCLE LINKS, 135/137 KING STREET, NORWICH, NR1 1QH

### **FREE - OPEN TO ALL AGES AND ABILITIES**

Help bring a brand-new community mural to life. Joey La Meche will create the design and the community will paint it together - almost like a giant paint-by-numbers - celebrating bikes, tools, community connection and the diversity of people who make Bicycle Links what it is.



Illustration © Quentin Blake

Illustration © Quentin Blake



## INTERNATIONAL ACOUSTIC JAM

MONDAY 15TH JUNE, 5.00PM - 6.30PM  
GRAPES HILL COMMUNITY GARDEN

**FREE TO ATTEND – NO BOOKING REQUIRED**

An informal evening of music and connection in the garden. Bring a song, an instrument, or simply come along and enjoy performances with others from across the community. The evening will include a shared singing of Citizens Shanty by the Commoners Choir.

## STRANGERS WALKING TOUR

TUESDAY 16TH JUNE, 10.30AM  
MEET OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM OF NORWICH, BRIDEWELL ALLEY, NR2 1AQ



**FREE - RSVP AT [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK/E/NORWICH-STRANGERS-AND-HUGUENOTS-WALKING-TOUR-TICKETS-1990101922422](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/norwich-strangers-and-huguenots-walking-tour-tickets-1990101922422)**

Explore Norwich through stories of migration, belonging and sanctuary on this guided walking tour, delivered by Paul Dickson, uncovering the city's long and rich history of welcoming people from around the world.

## NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST WELLBEING WALK

TUESDAY 16TH JUNE, 11.00AM – 1.00PM  
SWEET BRIAR MARSHES, NORWICH

A guided wellbeing walk through the beautiful Sweet Briar Marshes - an extraordinary green space on Norwich's doorstep. Hosted in partnership with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the walk offers a gentle and restorative opportunity to connect with nature, conversation and community during Refugee Week.



## THE BRIDGE PLUS+ COMMUNITY LUNCH

TUESDAY 16TH JUNE, 12.30PM - 1.45PM

**FREE - DONATIONS WELCOME - RSVP TO [OFFICE@BRIDGEPLUS.ORG.UK](mailto:OFFICE@BRIDGEPLUS.ORG.UK)  
BY 29 MAY - VENUE FULLY ACCESSIBLE**

Come along to sample cuisines from around the world and learn more about the work of The Bridge Plus+. This welcoming community lunch creates opportunities for conversation, connection and shared experiences during Refugee Week.

## NEW ROUTES COMMUNITY LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE, 1.00PM - 3.00PM  
ST MARTIN AT PALACE PLAIN CHURCH, NORWICH

A welcoming community lunch hosted by New Routes Integration, bringing people together through food, conversation and connection. The lunch will include a presentation of migrant stories and lived experiences, celebrating resilience, courage and community.

## BOARD GAMES IN THE GARDEN

WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE, 4.00PM – 6.00PM  
GRAPES HILL COMMUNITY GARDEN

**FREE TO ATTEND**

A relaxed afternoon of outdoor games and family fun, including giant Connect 4, Jenga, Hook a Duck and more. A welcoming space to meet others, enjoy time together and celebrate community connection.

## HOPE HAPPENS HERE - JOIN THE MILLION ACTS OF HOPE MOVEMENT

THURSDAY 18TH JUNE, 9.00AM - 5.00PM  
THE FORUM, NORWICH (DISPLAY RUNS 15-21 JUNE)

Small acts of care often go unnoticed, but they help build the foundation of a compassionate community. The Hope Happens Here campaign has collected messages of solidarity on Orange Heart cards from across Norwich and beyond. The hearts are displayed at The Forum as a vibrant celebration of welcome, hope and shared humanity. Join Norwich City of Sanctuary and New Routes Integration on Thursday 18 June to view the display, share your own message of hope, and celebrate the spirit of welcome across Norfolk. The display also contributes to the national A Million Acts of Hope movement.

## STRANGERS WALKING TOUR

THURSDAY 18TH JUNE, 10.30AM  
MEET OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM OF NORWICH, BRIDEWELL ALLEY, NR2 1AQ

**FREE - RSVP AT [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK/E/NORWICH-STRANGERS-AND-HUGUENOTS-WALKING-TOUR-TICKETS-1990102112992?AFF=ERELLIVMLT](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/norwich-strangers-and-huguenots-walking-tour-tickets-1990102112992?aff=ERELLIVMLT)**

Explore Norwich through stories of migration, belonging and sanctuary on this guided walking tour, delivered by Paul Dickson, uncovering the city's long and rich history of welcoming people from around the world.



# EVERYBODY TO KENMURE STREET - FILM SCREENING WITH Q&A PANEL

THURSDAY 18TH JUNE, 6.00PM  
CINEMA CITY, NORWICH

**TICKETS - MEMBERS £5.50 / GENERAL £8.50 / UNWAGED £5.99**

A powerful screening of *Everybody to Kenmure Street* - the story of how a Glasgow community came together to stop a Home Office deportation raid in their neighbourhood. The screening will be followed by a Q&A panel hosted by Ruth Stokes exploring what courage, solidarity and community action look like here in Norwich today, with guests including Seema Syeda, migrants' rights campaigner at The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.



Illustration © Quentin Blake

## DROP-IN COFFEE MORNING WITH ART WORKSHOP

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE, 10.00AM - 12.00PM  
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, TELEGRAPH LANE WEST, NORWICH, NR1 4JA

### **ALL WELCOME - NO BOOKING REQUIRED**

A welcoming drop-in session with refreshments, creative activities and opportunities to connect with others in the community through conversation and art.

## COMMUNITY LUNCH & SHORT TALK

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE, 12.30PM  
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, TELEGRAPH LANE WEST, NORWICH, NR1 4JA

A community lunch cooked by group members, accompanied by a short talk about work carried out by a local community artist and a related exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre. The session will also include poems and publicity linked to a forthcoming book by a local poet documenting the Cooking Group project developed alongside a local asylum hotel.

## UKRAINIAN ART EXHIBITION AND WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE, 2.00PM  
ST MARTIN-AT-PALACE PLAIN CHURCH, PALACE PLAIN, NORWICH

A celebration of Ukrainian artistic heritage and creativity, brought to life by migrant artists making their home in Norfolk. This special event invites you to take part in traditional Ukrainian craft workshops, exploring the rich visual traditions of embroidery, pattern-making, and folk art. Live portrait sessions led by Ukrainian artists will offer visitors a unique and personal creative experience. The exhibition showcases the work of migrant artists whose creativity speaks to themes of identity, resilience, and belonging – and whose art continues to carry the culture and spirit of their homeland.



Illustration © Quentin Blake

# TOGETHER IN HOPE: CELEBRATING REFUGEE WEEK 2026

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE, 5.00PM - 7.30PM

Illustration © Quentin Blake



**SEE EVENTBRITE FOR VENUE DETAILS -  
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK/E/1989963405113?](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1989963405113?aff=ODDTDCREATOR)  
**AFF=ODDTDCREATOR****

Join us for a shared community meal followed by a performance from the Common Lot. A collaboration between The Zainab Project CIC, The Sanctuary Ambassadors Project, The Common Lot and Mile Cross Phoenix Centre – an opportunity to come together through food, storytelling, music and conversation as part of Refugee Week celebrations.

## GARDENS OF SANCTUARY - INTERNATIONAL PICNIC

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE, 12.00PM - 2.00PM  
WATERLOO PARK, BY THE BANDSTAND

**BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC - CAKE AND COLD DRINKS PROVIDED**

Join Gardens of Sanctuary for an international picnic at Waterloo Park, celebrating community, food and the spirit of Refugee Week with games and live music.

## WELCOMING WHITLINGHAM WELLBEING WALK (AND BARBECUE!)

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE, 1.00PM - 2.30PM  
WHITLINGHAM, NORWICH

A relaxed outdoor gathering bringing people together through food, conversation and connection in the beautiful natural surroundings of Whitlingham. Activities will include a wellbeing walk hosted with Norfolk & Waveney Mind, a community barbecue and Ben & Jerry's ice cream.



Illustration © Quentin Blake

## **BE BRAVE, BE CURIOUS, BE CREATIVE! REFUGEE WEEK FAMILY DAY**

SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 9.30AM - 2.00PM  
NORWICH THEATRE CAR PARK, NORWICH THEATRE ROYAL, THEATRE STREET,  
NORWICH NR2 1RL

**FREE ENTRY - DROP IN ANYTIME - ALL AGES WELCOME - BUGGY  
PARK AVAILABLE – PRAYER ROOM AVAILABLE – REFRESHMENTS  
CAN BE PURCHASED AT OUR ON-SITE CAFE**

A free family day full of fun at Norwich Theatre to celebrate Refugee Week 2026!

Norwich Theatre, in partnership with The Bridge Plus+, invites families to come together for a joyful celebration where trying something new is all part of the adventure. The Norwich Theatre car park will transform into a lively hub of circus skills, music-making, arts and crafts - all designed to spark imaginations and help everyone discover their brave side. Whether it's spinning a plate, making some noise, or getting creative with crafts, there's something for everyone to enjoy at their own pace.

We're thrilled to host Strange Fascination Theatre with Wonderdays – a whimsical Wonderland-inspired show packed with puppetry, handmade costumes and plenty of interactive fun. Keep your eyes open as characters pop up between performances to say hello and spread a little magic.

## GRAPES HILL FAMILIES DAY INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE, 11.00AM - 3.00PM  
GRAPES HILL COMMUNITY GARDEN

A family-friendly international celebration bringing communities together through food, music, creativity, dance and shared cultural experiences. The day will include performances from different cultures and activities celebrating community connection, inclusion and belonging.

## NEW ROUTES - PADDLEBOARDING ACTIVITY

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE, 4.00PM  
LION'S DEN RIVER

### **CLOSED EVENT FOR ASYLUM SEEKER AND REFUGEE FAMILIES**

An outdoor youth activity encouraging confidence, teamwork, wellbeing and connection through paddle boarding and shared experiences on the water.

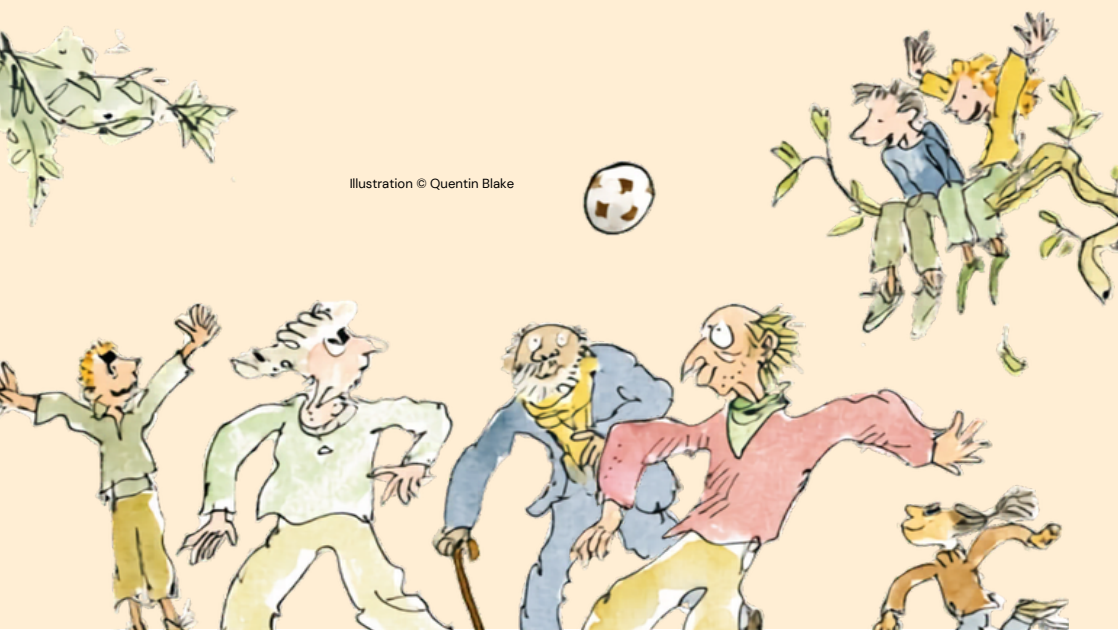


Illustration © Quentin Blake

# EXHIBITIONS

## HIDDEN: WEAVING AND AUDIO INSTALLATION

11 JUNE - 2 JULY 2026  
NORWICH CATHEDRAL, SOUTH TRANSEPT

### CATHEDRAL OPENING HOURS

A collaboration between artist Liz Waugh McManus, Norwich Cathedral and English+. Hidden is a weaving and audio installation created with women from refugee, asylum seeker and migrant backgrounds settling in Norwich. The installation explores cultural memories of home alongside experiences of invisibility and navigating life in a new country with limited language skills.

## STORIES OF DISCOVERY

THROUGHOUT JUNE 2026  
THE MITRÉ CAFÉ, EARLHAM ROAD, NORWICH, NR2 3RF

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY 9.00AM - 4.00PM | SATURDAYS 9.00AM - 2.00PM**

A collaboration between the National Centre for Writing, English+ and East Church. Stories of Discovery shares poems and personal reflections exploring significant moments in people's lives through the theme: 'The first time I...'

## LOCATING THE RURAL ART EXHIBITION

15 - 19 JUNE 2026, 10.00AM - 5.00PM  
ST MARTIN-AT-PALACE PLAIN CHURCH

An exhibition of artwork exploring the lives of communities in rural Jordan, exploring themes of resilience and courage.

# REFUGEE WEEK FILM FESTIVAL

15 – 21 JUNE 2026  
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

## **FOLLOW NEW ROUTES INTEGRATION SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS FOR SCREENINGS**

A programme of films exploring migration, identity, belonging, courage and community, featuring screenings and conversations throughout Refugee Week.

## **COURAGE IN COMMUNITY — PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION**

15 – 26 JUNE 2026, VENUE OPENING HOURS  
UEA ENTERPRISE CENTRE AND NORWICH THEATRE

A photography exhibition exploring what courage means to members of the UEA University of Sanctuary community. The project captures stories, identities and experiences connected to sanctuary, belonging and resilience.

Illustration © Quentin Blake



# TAKE ACTION!

[HTTPS://WWW.REFUGEE-ACTION.ORG.UK/LIFT-THE-BAN/](https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/lift-the-ban/)



## Banned from working – waiting months, even years

Right now, right here in the UK, people seeking refugee status are banned from working while they wait months, and often years, for a decision on their asylum claim.

Instead, many are left to live on just **£7 per day**, struggling to support themselves and their families, whilst the Government wastes the talents of thousands of people.

**We think that's wrong.** We believe that people who have risked everything to find safety should have the best chance of contributing to our society and integrating into our communities. This means giving people seeking asylum the right to work so that they can use their skills and live in dignity.



## TIME TO LIFT THE BAN REPORT

This Time to Lift The Ban coalition report shows how clear the evidence in favour of giving people seeking asylum the right to work is.

One common myth is that employment rights act as a “pull factor” for people who seek safety in the UK. In reality, all available evidence suggests that employment rights play little or no role in determining people’s choice of destination when they are seeking safety, and are largely unknown to people seeking asylum before they arrive here. This Lift the Ban coalition report addresses the above “pull factor” and other myths surrounding the right to work for people seeking asylum.

#MillionActsofHope

A million  
acts of

HOPE

Every act matters.  
Every act adds up.

A million  
acts of  
**hope**

Join the  
hopeful



# REFUGEE WEEK NORWICH 2026 *At a Glance.*

## THURSDAY

11 JUNE

- **New Routes Launch Party**  
6:00–8:00pm · Dragon Hall

## FRIDAY

12 JUNE

- **Schools of Sanctuary Day of Welcome**  
9:00am–2:15pm · Online

## MONDAY

15 JUNE

- **Locating the Rural – Art, Film & Poetry**  
12:00–4:00pm · Anteros Arts Foundation
- **International Acoustic Jam**  
5:00–6:30pm · Grapes Hill Community Garden

## TUESDAY

16 JUNE

- **Strangers Walking Tour**  
10:30am ·
- **Norfolk Wildlife Trust Wellbeing Walk**  
11:00am–1:00pm · Sweet Briar Marshes
- **The Bridge Plus+ Community Lunch**  
12:30–1:45pm

## WEDNESDAY

17 JUNE

- **New Routes Community Lunch**  
1:00–3:00pm · St Martin at Palace Plain
- **Board Games in the Garden**  
4:00–6:00pm · Grapes Hill Community Garden

## THURSDAY

18 JUNE

- **Hope Happens Here – Million Acts of Hope**  
9:00am–5:00pm · The Forum (display 15–21 Jun)
- **Strangers Walking Tour**  
10:30am ·
- **Everybody to Kenmure Street – Film & Q&A**  
6:00pm · Cinema City

## FRIDAY

19 JUNE

- **Drop-in Coffee Morning with Art Workshop**  
10:00am–12:00pm · St Matthew's Church
- **Community Lunch & Short Talk**  
12:30pm · St Matthew's Church
- **Ukrainian Art Exhibition & Workshops**  
2:00pm · St. Martin-at-Palace Plain Church
- **Together in Hope – Refugee Week 2026**  
5:00–7:30pm

## SATURDAY

20 JUNE

- **Refugee Week Family Day – Be Brave, Be Curious, Be Creative!**  
9:30am–2:00pm · Norwich Theatre Car Park
- **Welcoming Whitlingham Wellbeing Walk & Barbecue**  
1:00–2:30pm · Whitlingham
- **Gardens of Sanctuary – International Picnic**  
12:00–2:00pm · Waterloo Park Bandstand

## SUNDAY

21 JUNE

- **Grapes Hill Families Day – International Celebration**  
11:00am–3:00pm · Grapes Hill Community Garden
- **Paddleboarding Activity**  
4:00pm · Lion's Den River · Closed event

*Throughout  
the week.*

- **Bicycle Links Mural – *Wheel Need You!***  
15, 16, 18 & 20 Jun · Bicycle Links
- **Hidden – Weaving & Audio Installation**  
11 Jun – 2 Jul · Norwich Cathedral, South Transept
- **Stories of Discovery**  
Throughout June · The Mitré Café, Earlham Road
- **Locating the Rural – Art Exhibition**  
15–19 Jun · St Martin-at-Palace Plain
- **Courage in Community – Photography Exhibition**  
15 June – 26 June · UEA Enterprise Centre and Norwich Theatre
- **Refugee Week Film Festival**  
15–21 Jun · University of East Anglia