

Welcome to the **Community!**

Oxted & Surrounding Areas



The Oxted & Warlingham
Ukraine Support Group



Welcome!

To our Ukrainian guests, we are happy you have arrived in the UK. We offer you a warm welcome.

To our local friends hosting Ukrainian guests, we are there for you too. Please stay in touch if you wish.

Despite the difficult circumstances in Ukraine, we would like to help you feel secure and supported while you are with us.

Our group is based in and around Oxted, Surrey. Other towns nearby include Hurst Green, Woldingham, Warlingham and several villages such as Limpsfield and Tandridge. This pack includes information about all of these places.

Each of the local towns has a variety of shops including hairdressers, cafes, newsagents, supermarkets and more. Some projects have been specifically set up to help Ukrainians meet each other. There are coffee mornings (two in Oxted, one in Woldingham), English language classes and other projects under development. In addition, many existing activities would be happy to welcome people from Ukraine.

If you have any questions, ideas, or just want to say hello so that we know where to contact you, either you or your hosts can find us at: oxted4ua@gmail.com

We will always try to help!

The Oxted & Warlingham Support Group

This welcome pack has been compiled by the Oxted and Warlingham Ukraine Support Group, with financial support from the Caterham Ukrainian support fund. We hope that you and your host families find it helpful and that you will be happy staying in our neighbourhood. The pack adds to information in the UK government welcome pack – also in Ukrainian and Russian languages, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

Contents

Introduction	04
Education & Learning	05
Employment & Work	10
Physical and Emotional Health	12
Sports & Leisure	17
Churches.....	19
Other Useful Information	21
Transport.....	21
Libraries.....	21
Citizens Advice.....	22
Local Government.....	22
Places to Visit	23

Caterham Ukrainian Support

The Ukraine Support Team in Caterham is offering English lessons for children, Sewing Circle and a coffee morning on Wednesday mornings. Also, family friendly day activities and small grant information and advice. There is also a Drop off point for community donations at The Westway Centre in Caterham.

Introduction

Ukrainian guests we have met so far tell us that they would like to be able to meet other people from Ukraine as soon as possible. We hope that some of the initiatives mentioned in this pack will help.

The three following coffee mornings and afternoon are specifically intended to allow Ukrainian guests to meet one another.

Wednesdays from 2pm–3.30pm Tea and Cakes in the Oxted Community Hall

(next to St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Oxted, RH8 9NB)

Contact: Natasha Copp, parish administrator

Tel: 01883 714263 / Email: stmaryoxted.stpetertandridge@gmail.com

Thursdays – 8.30 am to 10.30 am St Paul's Church

Woldingham CR3 7EN

Contact: Claire Dunn

Tel: 07771 608536 / Email: dunnnorris@googlemail.com

Fridays – 9am–11am All Saints Church Parish Room

12 Chichele Road, Oxted RH8 0AG

(behind the church, up the path from Chichele Road)

Contact: Anna Burrage

Tel: 01883 723204 / Email: annaburrage@googlemail.com

Ukrainian guests are also welcome at:

Fridays – 9.30am–11.30am (Coffee, cakes and conversation) St Mary's Meeting Place

Oxted Community Hall (next to St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Oxted, RH8 9NB)

Contact: Parish office 01883 714263



Education & Learning

The UK has a strong state-funded school system that provides free education for all. However, parents typically pay for stationery, uniforms, PE kits, meals, school trips, and extracurricular activities. There may be funding available for at least some of those costs.

In addition, there are a number of independent schools in the area around Oxted, including Woldingham (girls only) and Caterham Schools. Independent schools charge school fees. However, there are a small number of places likely to be available at these schools specifically for people displaced from Ukraine.

For very young children playgroups can be free, but nursery schools usually charge, although funding may be available (depending on income) for children aged 3 years+.

Schools administered by churches are open to children who are not of that or any religious faith.

For more information about the UK/England education system, please visit:
<https://www.expatica.com/uk/education/children-education/the-uk-education-system-106601/>

Playgroups and Nurseries (ages 2-4)

Little Oaks, Hurst Green

Tel: 07444 850621 (during session times); answerphone: 07444 850621
Website: www.littleoakshurstgreen.co.uk

Oxted Pre-school

Tel: 07444 850621 (during session times); answerphone: 07444 850621

Poppets Playgroup – Mondays Term Time 1:30–3pm (£3 to adults donated to charity)

Oxted Community Hall (next to St Mary's Church, Church Lane)
Contact: Natasha Copp
Tel: 07932 644 530 / Email: natashacopp@hotmail.com

St Mary's Monkeys Toddler and Baby Group – Fridays 9:30–11am

Oxted Community Hall (next to St Mary's Church, Church Lane)
Contact: Natasha Copp, parish administrator
Tel: 01883 71263 / Email: stmaryoxted.stpetertandridge@gmail.com

123 Group (nursery and pre-school, Woldingham)

Contact: https://m.facebook.com/groups/1634907253442258?group_view_referrer=search

Woldingham Village Nursery

Contact: Karen Chevereaux
website: www.woldinghamnursery.co.uk

Primary Schools – Ages 5–11

Holland Junior School, Hurst Green

Head teacher: Gill Robertson

Tel: 01883 715801

website: www.holland.surrey.sch.uk

Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery

Head teacher: Sarah George

Tel: 01883 712171

website: www.hurstgreenschool.org

Limpsfield Church of England Infant School

Head teacher: Cheryl George

Tel: 01883 723183

website: www.limpsfield.surrey.sch.uk

St Peter's Church of England Infant School, Tandridge

Head teacher: Lena Greenaway

Tel: 01883 712439

website: www.stpeters-oxted.surrey.sch.uk

Warlingham Village Primary School

Head of school: Anna Hallett

Tel: 01883 622 747

website: warlinghamvillage.org

St Mary's Church of England Primary School Oxted

Head teacher: Sarah Lewis

Tel: 01883 712817

website: www.stmarysprimary.org

Woodlea Primary School, Woldingham

Head teacher: Dr James Canniford

Tel: 01883 652358

website: woodleatlt.co.uk



Secondary schools (ages 11–18)

Oxted School (secondary)

Head of school: Russell Bond
website: www.oxtedschool.org
Tel: 01883 723973

St Francis (Catholic), Caterham

Head teacher: Maria Wheeler
Tel: 01883 342 0005
website: www.stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk
This is the nearest Catholic secondary school.

Warlingham Secondary School and 6th Form College

Head teacher: Paul Foster
Tel: 01883 624067
website: warlinghamtlt.co.uk

Woldingham School (independent, girls 11–18)

Headteacher: Dr James Whitehead
Tel: 01883 349431
website: www.woldinghamschool.co.uk

Caterham School (independent, 11–18)

Headteacher: Ceri Jones
01883 343028
<https://www.caterhamschool.co.uk/about/>

Secondary schools with specialist training*

Limpsfield Grange School

For girls 11–16 with autistic spectrum conditions
Headteacher: Sarah Wild
Tel: 01883 730578
website: www.limpsfieldgrange.co.uk

Moor House School, Hurst Green

Day and residential school, speech and language therapy
Principal: Helen Middleton
Tel: 01883 712271
website: www.moorhouseschool.co.uk

By law, all schools must have at least one department that specialises in supporting children with extra educational needs. This can include, but not limited to, Autism/Asperger's, learning difficulties, and disability. We also have schools that provide education services for children with extra needs, in our area, we have Limpsfield and Moor House School that provides this service.

OXTED & WARLINGHAM UKRAINE SUPPORT GROUP

COMING SOON: ENGLISH LESSONS FOR UKRAINIAN ADULTS

MONDAYS – 7:00 – 9:00PM
ALL SAINTS PARISH ROOM,
12 CHICHELE ROAD, RH8 0AG

English language classes are available for Ukrainian adults staying in the Oxted area. Experienced teachers will provide either group or individual lessons on Monday evenings.

For more information or to register interest, please email
theaccessibilityproject@mail.com



English Language Lessons for Adults

We are assuming that children will find school places quickly, so that they will rapidly learn English, particularly from new friends at school. Our focus is, therefore, on adults wishing to learn or improve their English language skills. Ukrainians we have met so far tell us that they are keen to learn enough English for a successful employment interview.

English language classes in Oxted:

Parish Room, All Saints Church, Oxted RH8 0AG
(behind the church, up the path from Chichele Road)
Classes held in person and on Zoom in and in person.
Contact: Abi Chapman / Tel: 07368 926050
Email: theaccessibilityproject@mail.com

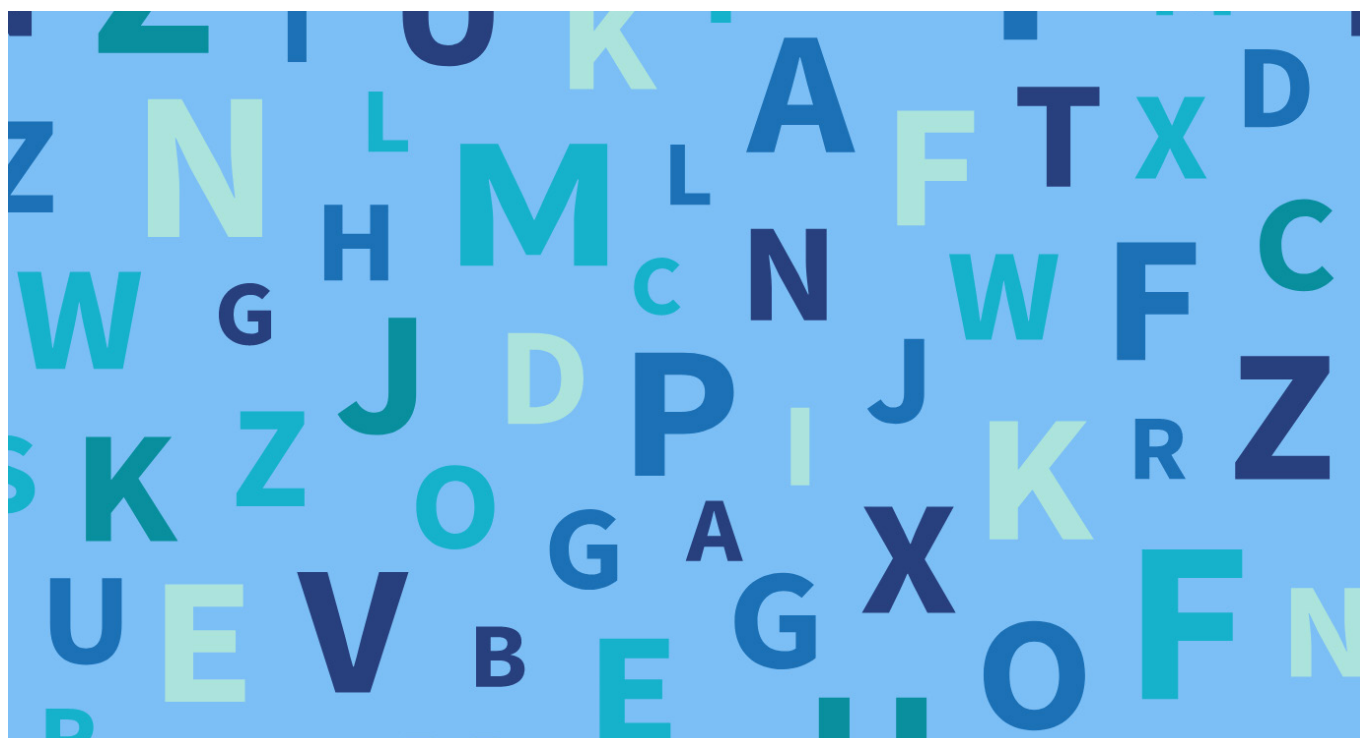
There are also free ONLINE English lessons specially for Ukrainians, organised by Surrey County Council. To enrol or for more information:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/english-for-ukrainians>

For those who may be vulnerable due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic and easing of restrictions, or who do not feel comfortable leaving their hosts home, we can also set up separate one-to-one zoom classes.

We also have volunteers who are willing to help with transporting Ukrainian guests to and from English Lessons in Oxted.

If you have any questions, please contact The Accessibility Project at theaccessibilityproject@mail.com / 07368 926050



Employment and Work

Latest government information offering guidance about employment:

As the UK government continues to support those fleeing the situation in Ukraine, a new support pack has been published providing information for Ukrainians arriving in the UK. It includes information on DWP and the support and services we offer to those in need.

If you google: **DWP support for Ukrainians arriving in the UK (1).pdf (English version)** you will find a document on how the DWP can support you.

(Under development): Interim link here: <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Resident/Crime-Emergencies/Ukraine/DWP-support-for-Ukrainians-arriving-in-the-UK-English.pdf>

There are many informal ways of finding employment – advertisements in newspapers or cards in shop windows—depending on what kind of job is being sought. Job Centres are government offices, run by the Department for Work and Pensions. You can go there to register for certain benefits while looking for employment, and for getting a National Insurance number. Jobs are also advertised in local newspapers and online by a number of employers and employment agencies.

Job Centre Plus

15 London Road, Redhill , Surrey RH1 1BQ

Tel: 0800 169 0190

Website: <https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/redhill-jobcentre>

Joblist

This is an online directory of work available locally

Email: www.Joblist.com

Oxted and District Job Club

The Job Club offers one-to-one advice. Help can be offered with CVs and job applications and finding employment within specific sectors and companies.

Contact: richard@piskorz.co.uk or info@jobclub.oxted.co.uk

Jobs in Oxted Area





Social Security

If you work, you will need a National Insurance number. Normally, you'll get your National Insurance (NI) number through the post just after you get refugee status. If you haven't received a NI number call the NI number application line free on **0800 141 2079**.

Ask whether they've issued you with a NI number—if they haven't, ask what you need to do to get one. Full details about NI (how to apply; who needs one etc) can be obtained by going to: www.gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number

NI is a key to receiving various government benefits, including when unemployed. NI and income tax are deducted from wages and salaries. You pay NI contributions and income tax from your wage. While the UK has a form of sales tax (Value Added Tax – VAT), all prices in shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants already include VAT.

Opening a UK Bank Account

For many transactions, including receiving government benefits, it is advised to open a UK bank account as soon as possible.

Following Home Office guidance, all major banks will apply flexibility around proof of address and other supporting documentation requirements in the account opening process. The following banks are among those having set up dedicated pages to support Ukrainian nationals:

NatWest Bank

Website: <https://www.natwest.com/ukraine-refugees.html>

Virgin Money UK

Website: <https://uk.virginmoney.com/current-accounts/m-account/ukraine/>

Monzo Bank

Website: <https://monzo.com/blog/2018/05/30/getting-bank-account-refugee>

Physical & Emotional Health

The National Health Service (NHS) offers a range of free services, including local doctors (general practitioners or GPs), emergency care and a variety of hospital services, maternity care, as well as dentistry and chiropody. These are mostly free and where there are charges, these depend on income. There are no charges to see a GP, to access accident or emergency services, or for hospital stays.

For urgent care, it is usual to go to a hospital accident and emergency department (A&E). However, there can be a long wait at busy times. Dial 999 for an ambulance for emergencies only, or 111 for less urgent medical advice if a GP is unavailable. The same emergency number (999) can be used to call police or fire services. For less urgent police matters, dial 101.

Soon after arrival in the UK, Ukrainian guests should register at a GP surgery. All of the local surgeries are aware that people from Ukraine will ask to register with them. It is usual to register at the GP surgery nearest to where you're staying.

GP practices will also arrange free Covid vaccinations.

For further general information about the NHS and how it works – in Ukrainian and Russian – please visit: https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/162/sponsors_and_ukrainian_guests/1152/health_advice_and_services_for_ukrainian_guests

Also, this webpage from the UK government offers guidance about the available health services to those from Ukraine; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrivals-from-ukraine-advice-for-primary-care/arrivals-from-ukraine-advice-for-primary-care>

General practitioner (local doctor) practices

Oxted Health Centre

10 Gresham Road, Oxted, RH8 0BQ, England
Tel: 01883 734000
website: www.oxtedhealthcentre.nhs.uk

Elizabeth House Medical Practice, Warlingham

515 Limpsfield Road, Warlingham, CR6 9LF
Tel: 01883 625262
website: www.elizabethhousemedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Warlingham Green Medical Practice

1 Church Road, Warlingham, CR6 9NW, England
Tel: 01883 625532
website: www.warlinghamgreen.nhs.uk

Hospitals

Edenbridge & District War Memorial Hospital – Open from 8.30 – 18.30

Mill Hill, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5DA

Tel: 01732 863164

website: www.kentcht.nhs.uk

This small hospital is five miles south of Oxted is for minor accidents only

East Surrey Hospital, Redhill

Canada Avenue, Redhill, RH1 5RH, England

Tel: 01737 768511

website: www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk

This large hospital is west of Oxted and has an accident and emergency department

Chemists / Pharmacy

Chemists sell certain medications and treatments, but stronger medicines require a prescription supplied by a general practitioner. Some GP practices have pharmacies on site. There is no charge for prescription medicines for children under 16, pensioners over 60, or pregnant, nor if you are receiving certain benefits. For more information visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions-and-pharmacies/who-can-get-free-prescriptions/>

Paydens, Oxted

22, Station Road East, RH8 0PG

Tel: 01883 712081

Boots, Oxted

48, Station Road East, RH8 0PG

Tel: 01883 712620

Raimins, Hurst Green

224 Pollards Oak Road. RH8 0JP

Tel: 01883 712266

Hobbs Pharmacy, Upper Warlingham

197, Godstone Road, CR3 0EL

Tel: 01883 622095

Karsons Pharmacy, Warlingham

46–48 The Green, Warlingham, CR6 9NA

Tel: 01883 622065

Lloyds Pharmacy, Warlingham

631 Limpsfield Road, Warlingham, CR6 9DY

Tel: 01883 6248892

Dentists

New Lodge Dental Practice, Oxted

6 New Lodge Dr, Oxted, RH8 0AS
Tel: 01883 717977

Piper Associates, Oxted

Tel: 01883 712486
42A, Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0PG

Complete Dentistry, Warlingham

1 Church Road, Warlingham, CR6 9NW
Tel: 01883 71622222

Together Dental, Hamsey Green (near Warlingham)

85A Limpsfield Road, Warlingham, CR6 9RH
Tel: 01883 627764

Mental Health Services

We realise that many people coming to the UK from Ukraine will have suffered an enormous shock. Being separated not only from home, but also from friends and family may well cause anxiety and distress. For children from Ukraine, the nature of the distress may not always be easy to recognise.

The GP (local doctor), with whom guests from Ukraine are registered, should be consulted about mental health issues and emotional distress. GPs are already aware that those from Ukraine may well have emotional issues that need special care.

Our hope is that host families will realise the trauma which war can generate. Hosts have been urged to allow quiet time and space and to listen to their guests patiently when the time for talking happens. Guidance on this is available to host families.

We hope also that being in contact with other Ukrainians will help. Over the coming weeks and months, we will focus on various initiatives and amusements with that goal. The aim is to enable people from Ukraine to be together as much as they wish, while we support them too.

One local initiative, which we hope will help our Ukrainian guests to reduce anxiety and stress, relax and socialise, is open to adults and children. It is:

Art & Crafts – Mondays at 10–12.00am

Run by The Accessibility Project
Parish room of All Saints Church (12, Chichele Road, Oxted, RH8 0AG)
Contact: Abi Chapman.
Tel: 07368 9260590
Email: theaccessibilityproject@mail.com
Website: theaccessibilityproject.uk

Arts & Crafts



Where:

All Saints Parish Rooms
12 Chichele Road, Oxted

When:

Monday Mornings
10:00 – 12:00

Art, Crafts, Making, it's a universal language!

The Accessibility Project invites our local Ukrainian Guests to join us on Monday morning's to come together, chat amongst Ukrainian friends, build new relationships and explore our inner creativity! Open to all ages and levels of ability!

Enquire now:

Tel: 07368 926050 / Email: theaccessibilityproject@mail.com

Website: theaccessibilityproject.uk / Instagram: [@accessibilityprojectuk](https://www.instagram.com/accessibilityprojectuk)

Mental Health Services – Support

Useful contacts offering support for those from Ukraine suffering emotional distress:

SaneUkraine Online

A national free online service providing trauma and resilience support sessions. They are held on Zoom at 5:30pm GMT led by experienced therapists and trauma coaches with Ukrainian translation.

Website: www.saneukraineonline.org

Safe Havens Surrey – 18:00–23:00pm

This is a drop-in service (so, no phone number) staffed by mental health practitioners and two trained Safe Haven workers. The nearest Safe Haven is in Redhill. The service is open daily, 365 days a year from 18:00–23:00, at the Wingfield Resource Centre, St. Anne's Drive Redhill Surrey RH1 1AU

Mind Matters Surrey (an NHS service) – 8:30am–17:30pm

Mind Matters Surrey offers talking therapies for people over 17 years. This, includes individual therapies, guided online self-help and group courses. There is specialist post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment which is open to refugees. Referrals – normally from a GP -- should indicate if a translator is required and this will be sourced in advance of the assessment appointment.

Tel: 0300 330 5450 or text 07786 202565

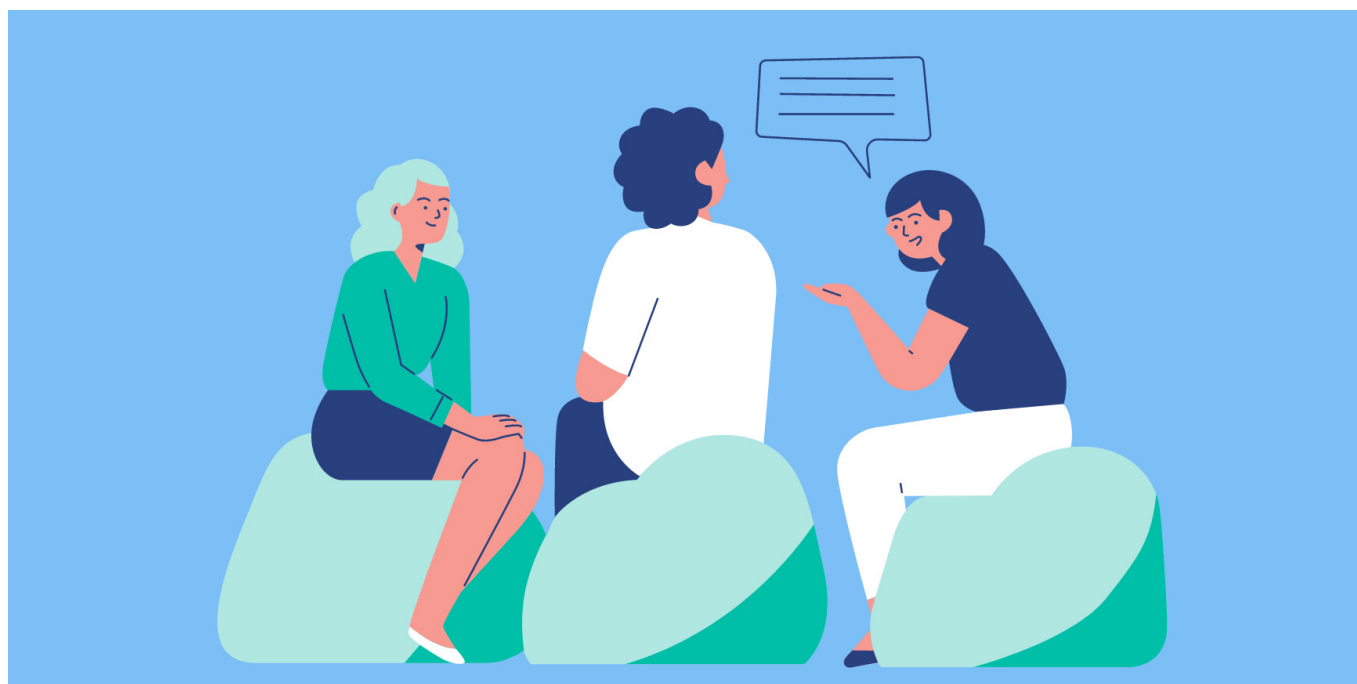
Website (especially for the referral process) <https://www.mindmattersnhs.co.uk>

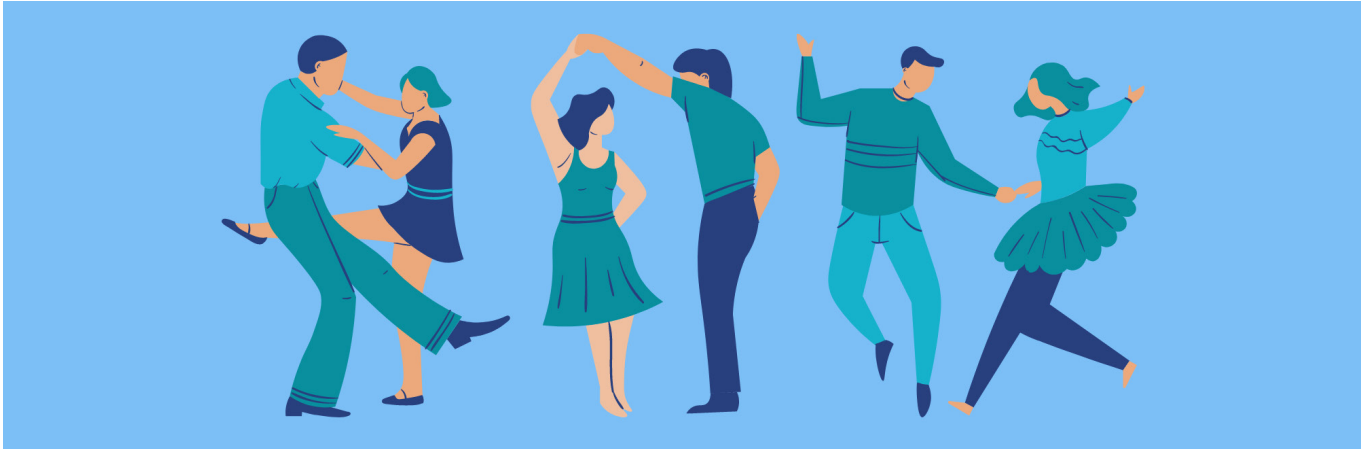
Mindworks Surrey – 8:00–20:00 Monday to Friday / 9:00 – 12:00 Saturdays

A support service for children and young people suffering from, for example, low mood, anxiety, sleep problems, trauma and loss.

Tel: 0300 222 5722

website: www.mindworks-surrey.org





Sports & Leisure

There are numerous sports clubs – tennis, football, cricket, swimming, running etc – in the local area, which can be found online.

Tandridge Leisure Centre

Hoskins Road, OXTED, RH8 9HT

Tel: 01883 716717

website: <https://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/tandridge/>

Hurst Green Running Track

Mill Lane, OXTED, RH8 9DF

website: <http://www.runtrackdir.com/details.asp?track=hurstgreen>

The track is free to use and there are also various kinds of exercise equipment on site, also free.

Dance

There are numerous sports clubs – tennis, football, cricket, swimming, running etc – in the local area, which can be found online.

Go Figure Community Classes

This offers free exercise classes to any locally hosted Ukrainians. Contact Suzy Yale

Tel: 07710 413409

Katie Cox Dance Studio

Katie Cox offers free dance classes locally to any locally hosted Ukrainian children.

Website: <https://www.katiecoxdancestudio.com/>

Contact Katie Cox katie@warlinghamdance.co.uk

Kerry Payne Academy of Dance – Primary Ballet and Musical Theatre

Thursdays 4.15pm–5pm (ages 6 to 8) and Thursdays 5pm–6pm (ages 13–18).

St Aggies Hall, Hurst Green

Tel: 07810 443575 / Email: kerry.ybc@yahoo.com



Scouts, Guides and Youth Group

Scouts (1st Oxted)

Website: www.1stoxtedscouts.com

Scouts (1st Hurst Green)

Contact: chairman@1sthurstgreenscouts.com
website: www.1sthurstgreenscouts.com

Scouts (Warlingham)

Tel: 07951 648132

Woldingham Scouts/Cubs/Beavers (boys and girls):

Contact: James and Susie Brain (1stwoldinghamscouts@gmail.com)

Guides

Information on local groups can be found at: www.girlguidingsurreyeast.org.uk

Youth Group

Oxted Community Hall (next to St Mary's Church, Church Lane)

Every other Thursday 8-9pm.

Contact: Natasha Copp, parish administrator

Tel: 01883 716432

Email: stmaryandstpetertandridge@gmail.com

Churches

Ukrainian Cathedral, Binney Street, London W1K 5BQ

Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Family in exile

Tel: 0207 6291073 or 0207 6291534

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Andrii Malysh

All services in Ukrainian

Churches in Oxted, Warlingham, Oxted, Hurst Green, Limpsfield, Limpsfield Chart and Tandridge:

All Saints, Oxted and St Ambrose, Warlingham (Roman Catholic)

Parish priest: Fr Stephen Hardaker

Tel: 01883 713776 / Website: oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

These two churches are served by the same priest.

All Saints, Warlingham (Church of England)

Team rector: Rev Michelle Edmonds

Tel: 01883 623011 / Website: www.allsaintswarlingham.org.uk

Church of the Peace of God, Oxted (United Reform)

Minister: Vacant (Church Secretary: Stephen Milloy)

Tel: 01883 730406 / Website: www.oxtedurc.org.uk

First Church of Christ Scientist, Oxted (Christian Science)

Contact: clerkcssoxted@gmail.com

Tel: 01883 712568 / Website: www.christianscienceoxted.org.uk

King's Church, Oxted (Evangelical)

Contact: office@kingschurchforyou.org.uk

Website: www.kingschurchforyou.org.uk

Pains Hill Chapel (Evangelical)

Contact: contact@painshillchapel.org.uk

Website: painshillchapel.org.uk

St Andrew's Church, Limpsfield Chart (Church of England)

Minister-in-charge: Rev Paul Perkin

Tel: 01883 412454 / Website: www.lttm.org.uk

St John's Church, Hurst Green (Church of England)

Rector: Rev Canon Anna Eltringham

Tel: 01883 712674 / Website: www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

St Mary's Church, Oxted (Church of England)

Vicar: Rev James Ashton

Tel: 01883 714263 / Website: www.stmarysoxted.uk

St Paul's and St Agatha's, Woldingham (Church of England)

Team vicar: Rev Dr Catherine Dowland-Pillinger

Tel: 01883 652192 / Website: www.woldinghamparish.com

These are two churches in one parish served by the team vicar

St Peter's, Limpsfield (Church of England)

Vicar: Rev Helen Cook

Tel: 01883 712512 / Website: www.stpeterslimpsfield.org

St Peter's, Tandridge (Church of England)

Vicar: Rev James Ashton

Tel: 01883 714263 / Website: www.stpeterstandridge.uk

Warlingham Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Faith Nyota

Tel: 01883 625157 / Website: Warlinghammethodistchurch.org



Other useful information

Transport

Rail:

Trains run from Oxted, Hurst Green, Woldingham and Upper Warlingham stations, all on the same line. They terminate at either London Victoria or London Bridge. Trains also go to places south, like East Grinstead. There are changes to other lines at some stations (notably East Croydon and Clapham Junction).

Maps in stations show all routes in the area and outside it. Train times can be seen at stations or online. Some printed rail network maps are available. Train services are provided by several train companies: take care to travel on the route stated on your ticket! It is often cheaper to book tickets in advance of travelling. Free travel is available for Ukrainian guests for the first 48 hours of arrival in the UK.

Southern Railway

Contact: All enquiries at stations or online

Website: <https://www.southernrailway.com>

Bus:

There are bus services within the local area and to places beyond. Copies of timetables are free from local libraries and are also listed at bus stops. However, the buses are not always very frequent – Hurst Green to Redhill is the most frequent and runs every half an hour. (Buses to Limpsfield Chart run infrequently. Not all buses on the Oxted to Westerham route stop at Limpsfield Chart.)

Buses4U is a bus service where passengers phone (usually a week in advance of a journey) to be picked up anywhere in the district. Phone 01883 701270 (www.buses4U.org.uk)

Southdown Buses

Tel: 01342 719619 / Website: www.southdown.net

Libraries

Anyone with an address in the UK can apply for free membership of a local library. Simply go to the enquiries desk at a library near you with proof of where you live. Details of the libraries can be found on www.surreycc.gov.uk and click on “Find your nearest library”. Most libraries have computers for free use.

Oxted Library

12 Gresham Rd, Oxted RH8 0BQ

Tel: 0345 600 9009

Warlingham Community Library

Shelton Avenue, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9NF

Tel: 0345 600 9009.

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice (CA) is a nationwide network offering free help on a range of legal, housing financial and other issues. Each office is staffed by trained volunteers who will refer inquirers to others if they themselves are unable to help. They are particularly useful in helping with matters concerning housing and can help with applications for various benefits.

Oxted & District Citizens Advice Bureau

Tel: 03444 111444 / Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Local Government

There are three types of local authority: parish council, district council and county council. All have councillors elected by residents.

County councils are the highest tier responsible for main roads; schools; libraries; social services for adults and children; street lighting; and recycling centres. You live within the Surrey County Council area.

District councils provide housing, leisure facilities and environmental services. They maintain some roads; decide on planning matters; and arrange for refuse and waste collection. You live in the Tandridge District Council area. That is where guests from Ukraine should make first contact and register.

Parish councils are the lowest tier and have few powers and tend to oversee (but not decide) matters like planning, while also maintaining footpaths and providing litter bins and bus shelters. Depending where your home is, you are covered by the parish councils of Oxted or Limpsfield.

Surrey County Council

Tel: see website for various departments' phone numbers
website: www.surreycc.org.uk

Tandridge District Council

Tel: 01883 722000 / Website: www.tandridge.gov.uk

Limpsfield Parish Council

Tel: 07514 011355 / Website: limpsfield.org

Oxted Parish Council

Contact: see website for details
website: www.oxted-pc.org

Tandridge District Council

Tel: 01883 722000 / Website: www.tandridge.gov.uk

Limpsfield Parish Council

Tel: 07514 011355 / Website: limpsfield.org

Places to Visit

The towns of Redhill, Reigate, Westerham, Sevenoaks, and Croydon are all within a few miles of Oxted, Hurst Green, Woldingham, and Warlingham. Croydon and Hurst Green can be reached by train. Redhill and also Hurst Green can be reached by bus (410) which passes through Oxted. Buses 594 and 595 run to Westerham. Reigate requires a change of bus at Redhill and Sevenoaks a change of bus at Westerham.

All places have a fairly wide variety of shops, cafes and eating places and all, except Westerham, have cinemas. Croydon, Redhill and Sevenoaks also have theatres, often offering entertainment for children. Croydon, which is a London council, is by far the largest town with many big stores.

Places of historical interest to visit locally

There are many places in the local area worth visiting, notably Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill, and General Wolfe's house, both in Westerham. National Trust also owns Knole Park in Sevenoaks – full of wild deer – and Knole House, which dates from the 1450s. These are owned by a charity, the National Trust, and charge an entrance fee (entry is free to the grounds if one walks in). Titsey Place in Oxted charges for entry to the house and garden but it is surrounded by extensive walks which are free.

Oxted, Woldingham and Hurst Green, in particular, are surrounded by open countryside, with numerous walks, woods and paths, reachable without driving. The local area also has town parks, like Master Park in Oxted.

London

London is only 20 miles from Oxted and Hurst Green (less from Woldingham and Upper Warlingham) and easily reached by direct train services (see Transport). London has an endless supply of entertainment and interest. Buckingham Palace, St Paul's Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament and many very large museums are on many tourists' itineraries. Day tickets (travel cards), which cover train, bus and tube travel, are available, as well as day single and return train tickets.

All the major London art galleries and museums are free. There are no formalities, except possibly a baggage security check, so if you go, please enjoy your visit.

There are also many smaller museums, where there may be charges, as there are for some very well-known attractions like the Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. (There is no entrance fee for Westminster (Catholic) Cathedral.) Of course, in London, there are numerous cinemas and many famous theatres and concert venues, as well as cafes and restaurants.

You can always check about entry fees to any venue online (or just to see what's available). Looking at a guidebook is helpful or going online. Local librarians are always helpful but we are sure that your hosts will also want to help, too.



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