

SMP - UPDATE JANUARY 2023

COFFEE & CONVERSATION Ukrainian community afternoons at SMP

Just a year ago who would have thought 50 Ukrainians would ever travel to SMP on a sunny Wednesday afternoon and mix with 30 members of our community? Certainly not me, but there we are sitting discussing the local Glasgow culture, similarities and differences between traditions of Ukraine and Scotland. Songs have been sung, sweets have been thrown, organs played, many many cakes have been baked, served and consumed with dances led by both groups of people.

I personally view it all with a mixture of positivity and excitement that offers support and friendship to these displaced people, but it is with a background shrouded in darkness, as their homes are pulverised by Putin's tanks and missiles. Their stories are terrifying and their future very uncertain as the war continues and their home in Glasgow (for most, not all) soon floats away and is replaced by solid speculation.

Our twice monthly meetings have grown and adapted over the last few months. We are now at a stage of offering structured, hour-long language classes at various levels of ability. They are extremely well reviewed by our Ukrainian friends and prove a real pull to our guests to attend at SMP. These have become a bedrock of our offering.

Supporting the language sessions are music or story telling from both sides, as outlined above. The Guests also just like chatting and exchanging brief conversations about Glasgow and Scotland. In short, we give them a new environment, away from the 'Ship', in which things are just different, friendly and interesting.

Of course, getting to our church can be a challenge from HMS Ambition and the provision of a coach from Silverfox (crucially facilitated through Cosgrove Care our partners in this community engagement) has made a big difference to attendance.

We plan to continue this format making it clear to all Ukrainians that even as they are rehoused, we will be there to offer all the support SMP can muster.

There are many people from SMP and Cosgrove involved in organising and delivering these afternoons; thank you everyone.

The messages from our Guests leave you in no doubt about the value of holding these sessions:

Anonymised feedback from Guests:

'Thank you very much for a wonderful evening! It was very homey.'

‘An incredible meeting took place. This is something fantastic. Ukrainians are happy and I rejoice with them. It was especially joyful to see the children’s smiles. Thank you very much for organising a wonderful time and opportunity for Ukrainians.’

‘Many thanks for a fantastic meeting for Ukrainians. It was something incredible. Thank you for your support and kind hearts. It is very important and valuable for Ukrainians.’

“First of all, thank you very much. For everything. For your openness, hospitality, and willingness to share with us your culture and habits, as well as for learning about ours. We met great people at your church and had fun together. All of this helped to relieve stress, feel welcomed and clear our minds a bit. Thank you very much for this. I know that some people from the ship are attending English courses which is valuable.”

Nigel Williams
Mags Cargey
22/01/23

COFFEE & CONVERSATION WEDNESDAY 18/1/23
WHAT HAPPENED - TIMINGS, WORKSHOPS & FEEDBACK.

2:15pm - 2:45pm Robert Baird drove Yullia [Ukrainian] to the dock at Braehead to guide our guests boarding the bus.

2:45pm - On this occasion transport - 49 seater coach donated through Cosgrove collected our Ukrainian Guests from the cruise ship AM Ambition.

3:00pm - On arrival all guests and SMP volunteers obtain a name badge from the registration desk
Registration Team
Morven Findlay Janis Davis

3:15pm - 3:20 Welcome to Coffee and Conversation - LARGE HALL
Mags along with a Ukrainian Guest acting as interpreter explained the programme of events.

3:20 - 4:00pm Ukrainian Guests attend workshops of choice

WORKSHOPS 3:20 - 4:00pm

- Conversation English - 3 classes - Total Attendees 22
- Learning about Scotland and Glasgow - 5 Tables Total Attendees - 23
- Children’s Corner - Total Attendees - 9

3:15 - 4:00pm Conversation English Class - BOARD ROOM

Class Teacher - Heather Irons plus, Edith Forester
Attendees - 7

FEEDBACK - Our group did the activity ‘The Secret Parcel Mission’ which involved working our direction to a post office and collecting a parcel. The feedback from the group was positive. They enjoyed it and improved their conversational skill. - Heather

3:15 - 4:00pm Conversation English Class - SMALL HALL

Class Teacher - Hazel Hill, Vitali [Ukrainian] acting as interpreter

Attendees - 9

FEEDBACK - We started with a quick revision of the phonic alphabet. Followed by learning about telling the time., days of the week, months of the year and great conversation followed about birthdays and spelling. Everyone felt they had learned something. - Hazel

3:15 - 4:00 pm Conversation English Class - RECEPTION ROOM

Class Teacher - Brenda Duthie, Cynthia Murdy

Attendees - 6

FEEDBACK - We covered prepositions, verb endings, prefixes colloquialisms. We also made up sentences. Lots of notes were taken and the group asked me to give them homework. Which I did. - Brenda

3:15 - 4:00pm Learning about Scotland and Glasgow - LARGE HALL

Table 1 - Ranald Findlay

Attendees - 5

FEEDBACK - I was very privileged to spend an hour last Wednesday with a group of Ukrainian Ladies discussing the potential issues facing them come April when they will have to leave their current accommodation on the Cruise Liner at Braehead.

With the aid of some postcards I tried to convey that Scotland is, in the main rural, with the population concentrated in the Central Belt with Glasgow in the west and Edinburgh in the east. Out-with that sector the population is in the main rural with the exception of Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness in the North and a group of County Towns in the South.

The obvious issues, of which they are very aware, centre on accommodation, employment and language the last of which is currently being assisted by the classes at Sherbrooke Moss park. In the main the accommodation and employment concerns can only be resolved at governmental level! - Ranald

3:15 - 4:00pm Learning about Scotland and Glasgow - LARGE HALL

Table 2 - Colin Campbell

Attendees - 4

FEEDBACK - I told them something of Scotland and asked them where in the Ukraine they came from what was their family and occupational background, where they thought they were going to be housed and where they wanted to be going. But they don't speak much English and I don't speak any Ukrainian, so communication was difficult. - Colin

3:15 - 4:00pm Learning about Scotland and Glasgow - LARGE HALL

Table 3 - John Thomson, Helen Thomson

Attendees - 4

FEEDBACK - We had some general chat. More specifically, we spoke to two ladies. The older one was very keen to know about the theatrical facilities in Scotland and especially in Glasgow. She is producing a play on the ship. We felt we were able to help them - John

3:15 - 4:00pm Learning about Scotland and Glasgow - LARGE HALL

Table 5 - John Duthie, Hamish McPherson

Attendees - 5

FEEDBACK - I started with a group of 4 or 5 people and we talked about the geography of Scotland, where the majority of people lived and where Scotland was in relation to England, Ireland and Wales. I then decided that the map book I had in my car was better than the photocopied sheets so I went for it and while I was away, my group was reduced to 2 people. Using the car atlas it was easier to see the main road network and the location of the major towns in Scotland. We were then joined by another two people who had not been before but whose language skills were excellent. The husband explained that he had been that morning attending a housing association south of Glasgow where he had been making an application for accommodation. He explained that they were being left on their own to look for a house and he explained that his preference was for accommodation near to Ibrox where their child was attending school. We had a discussion about the districts of Glasgow. The husband and wife with the excellent English then wanting to ask about Loch Ness, and the monster which they had heard about. The other mother and older daughter wanted to know about whether Scottish people preferred looking at hills or water and the conversation moved onto where we would go on holiday etc. We had a conversation about the relative distances and travel times between various towns in Scotland as compared with the Ukraine.

Everyone seems to enjoy talking and knowing more about Scotland. It really was good fun - John

Very positive discussion re “best” areas of Glasgow, and possible areas to move to in Scotland. The job situation was the most problematic for our group. - Hamish

3:15 - 4:00pm Children’s Corner - TOP OF LARGE HALL

Christine Lockhart, Sheila Smith

Attendees - 9

FEEDBACK Ukrainian children are no different from other children when it comes to playing and using their imagination----- drawing, colouring in, cards, football, sword fights, Play Do, building cities with Lego, picking out English words from Peppa Pig books and Dictionaries talking about the World Cup football, Lionel Messi and-very impressively- identifying countries and flags on the Map Table.

I do hope they enjoy themselves---I do ! Christine

4:00pm - Everyone assembled in the large hall

4:00 - 4:05 Mags along with a Ukrainian Guest acting as interpreter explained the purpose of Coffee & Conversation and any entertainment that may take place.

4:00 - 5:15pm Coffee & Conversation

Refreshments as required

Refreshment Team

Lorna, McRoberts, Alan Stewart, Anne McCaig, Christine McMillan.

FEEDBACK: We have enjoyed introducing our Ukrainian guests to some Scottish specialities, to help them with their increasing knowledge of our culture. - Lorna

4:30 - 4:55pm UKRAINIAN E

We were entertained by some of the children who performed a traditional Ukrainian Christmas wishes called Zasivanka and performed by the boys. They told wishes of health, wellness and prosperity for all the attendees. We learned the main idea behind Zasivanka is to create a festive ambience and energy for the whole 2023 year.

FEEDBACK - It was very touching and also a way of saying thanks to the members of the congregation. - Mags

Mags gave a thank you after the performance. The children were given sweets.

NUMBERS INVOLVED

English Classes - 22

Learning about Glasgow & Scotland -23

SMP Volunteers - 18 running workshops & catering

SMP Volunteers 10 involved with giving guidance to our guests

Children - 9

Total attendance 72

SMP Volunteers 28

UKRAINIAN QUESTIONS

We now have a page on our website where our Ukrainian friends can register to keep Intouch when they leave the ship. They can also ask us questions.

Hello kind people! I, a Ukrainian from the ship, was invited to visit your cozy home. You talked about the regions of Scotland. I am being moved to the city of Ballater. I read about this tourist place on the Internet. Could you, through the eyes of a resident of Scotland, describe the city of Ballater? Thank you very much!

We are lucky ones. And happy)

We will be leaving the ship and have a flat. It is 24 minutes from kids' school

UKRAINIAN COFFEE, CONVERSATION & CONNECTION DATES 3:15 - 5:15pm

Wednesday 1st February

Wednesday 15th February

Wednesday 1st March

OTHER UPDATES

Sunday 27th November 2022

Olive Tree Stall: Please express my thanks to all concerned. We sold about £250 of goods.

Grace Buckley

PRESHAL TRUST - Thank you letter on our website

Warm-felt thanks for your generous Christmas gifts.

Alan Nicholson

CEO

Tuesday 13th December 2022

I took the donations from Sunday's gift service to the LHM today. They were hugely grateful.

June, the LHM director thanks everyone.

Marco

SUSAN GRAHAM church & Community Development Worker

The warm welcome project has struggled to get off the ground, but we will continue with it for the time being and hopefully this will start to develop.

My work with Young Church the school and messy church has been going well.

I am encouraged that we are getting regulars along to Young Church

The school has been brilliant, and I am very fortunate to get into every class each term and get to share a bible story, the children are very enthusiastic and listen well, in some of the classes we have had a question time and some of the questions have been really good a lot of children are wanting to know answers to questions about God and Jesus especially in the upper primaries I am getting really deep questions with the children wanting to know about what happens at the end of the world.

Messy Church has been really good, and the bowling club has been a great venue. The numbers of children have increased, and our last messy church of the year was a fantastic event, with 17 children ranging from babies to toddlers and right up through the primaries. Sheila did the story and the children joined in enthusiastically being sheep, angels and rocking the baby Jesus. Hazel and her kitchen team did an amazing buffet, with her granddaughter Kirsty backing and donating a fantastic cake it's hard to believe that Kirsty is still at school and not a qualified baker! and we even had a visit from Santa Clause.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

 **Stated Annual Meeting Sunday 2nd April after church**

 **Plant Sale 13th May 10:00 - 12:00**

COMMUNION DATES

Sunday 29th January
Thursday 6th April (Maundy Thursday)
Sunday 25th June
Sunday 27th August
Sunday 3rd December

SOUP & CHAT DATES 12:00 - 1:30pm

Tuesday 14th February
Tuesday 14th March
Tuesday 16th May
Tuesday 18th June

WOMENS GROUP DATES - Please check website for details

Thursday 2nd February Glasgow Hospice Visit and Cooking Demonstration
Saturday 25 February - Coffee Morning in aid of the Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice
Thursday 2 March 7:30pm evening with our Organist, Tom Ferguson

A.M. CHORUS

Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30am

THE GUILD Formerly Mosspark Parish Church Wednesdays at 1:30pm

167 Ashkirk Drive, Bellahouston, Glasgow G52 1LA.

SMP ONLINE BOOK CLUB - Email mcargey@mac.com

About: A fun place to share books we have read and a place where we find out about good books to read, without having to leave the house, unless we wish to.
We are a group of people who will recommend books we have enjoyed and ones we feel we should read, having never had the time or inclination until now!

All notices in full on our website.

WEBSITE QR CODE

