



The Green Space at Braunstone Town Case Study Diana



Diana's Story:

Before the war started, Diana worked as a hairdresser and advertising manager in Ukraine. But in 2022, she was forced to flee the violence in her home country, and arrived in the UK carrying just one rucksack.

The first year was a blur that brought all the challenges of relocation – trying to learn a new language, make friends, and find work. Moving to Leicester in 2023, Diana overheard a neighbour, Iveta, speaking Russian, and the two quickly became close friends.

Iveta was involved with the community garden, and Diana soon joined her. She quickly got stuck in, planting daffodils and bulbs in the winter, and watching them bloom come spring.

She finds the garden is a place of comfort and enjoys the calm that comes from the feeling of the landscape around her.

The garden has become a vital hub. It allows Diana to practice her English and connect with volunteers, including those who share her native language.

She's inspired by Liga, the organiser, who she describes as "positive and unstoppable." Diana relies on the community's support; she uses the community fridge to help feed her family. Through Buzzing Roots, Diana has found a new foundation in Leicester, finding a network of support and connection while tending to the garden.

