



Be Supportive



Be Respectful



Be Bold

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

YOUR AUTUMN VOLUNTEER AND DONATIONS NEWSLETTER



Photo: Volunteers and colleagues at the volunteer celebration event.

Welcome back to your newsletter. I hope you have all had a great summer and managed to enjoy some of the sunshine we had, even though it did not last long!

This quarter we have had two celebration events. One was for the two year anniversary for the Owt for Nowt shop (see page 12) and the second was the volunteer's celebration event (see page 9). Our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gudrun Carlisle also attended both events. We wanted to celebrate all the hard work you do as a volunteer and to say a big thank you for all your support. It was nice to see many volunteers get together and celebrate their achievements.

As always, I hope you find this update full of useful information to inspire and support you while you volunteer with us.

Thanks,  
Shaheen, Volunteer Services Manager





# NEWSLETTER

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Our numbers since June 2024:

**114**

Owt for Nowt  
visits

**47**

Different donations  
received

**94**

Families / people  
supported

## Syed is Volunteer of the Month!



# VOLUNTEER *of the* MONTH

*Nomination courtesy of Mohammad Al-Mamoon, HACS 4 Men manager.*

We are thrilled to recognise Syed Hassan as our Volunteer of the Month. Syed has been with us for six months, and in that short time, he has grown immensely in confidence. His positive attitude and dedication have made him an invaluable part of our team.

Syed plays a key role in running our weekly drop-in sessions for the people in our service. There have been occasions when we were overwhelmed with other crises, and thanks to Syed's support, we were able to keep the sessions going. His calm and professional approach has earned him the trust of the people who attend regularly. Many come back week after week, knowing that Syed's friendly, familiar face will be there to greet them.

Syed's professionalism and helpful nature shines through in everything he does, and we are lucky to have him as part of our team. Thank you, Syed, for your dedication and hard work!



“ I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to volunteer with your organisation. It has been a truly rewarding experience to be part of your efforts in supporting those in need. The work you do is incredibly important, and I feel privileged to have contributed in any small way. This experience has not only been fulfilling on a personal level but has also deepened my understanding of the challenges faced by vulnerable individuals. Thank you for trusting me to be a part of your mission and for all the support you provided throughout my time volunteering.

— Syed



## Horton Academy Training Courses



It is really important that you complete your core training in your first six months of volunteering with us. The courses can be accessed remotely online. It is our responsibility to ensure that you are able to carry out the roles you have been recruited to do.

If you are looking for something to keep you occupied and you have access to a PC, tablet or smartphone, then please log in and complete the modules listed below. If you have any questions or need help with logging in, then please contact Shaheen on **07525 667874**.

Mandatory courses for volunteers are:

- **Professional Boundaries**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Health and Safety**
- **Data Protection**
- **Basic Personal Safety**
- **Equality and Diversity**

You can log in to Horton Academy at home (if this is your preferred way of completing training) via the link below using your name e.g. josephb and password:

**<https://hortonhousing.learningpool.com/login/index.php>**



## Exciting events and opportunities to get involved in!



### **Bradford Intercultured Festival**

**(Monday 21 October - Saturday 2 November)**

The Intercultured Festival celebrates and showcases the traditions, art forms and culinary delights of migrant and refugee communities in Bradford. The annual festival has been running since 2020. A range of film, poetry, music and food events are taking place, including a Sudanese cooking class, lantern making, a drumming circle, and a cacao ceremony.

Visit the website for a full programme of festival events and to book tickets:

**<https://www.intercultured.co.uk/2024-festival>**

### **Adventures in the Electroverse at the Piece Hall, Halifax**

**(Friday 4 October - Sunday 3 November)**

A new art exhibition by Yorkshire electronic music pioneer Martyn Ware in partnership with Monitor Audio is being held at The Gallery on the top floor of the Piece Hall in October.

'Adventures in the Electroverse' is a fully immersive, multi-sensory art and 3D sound installation linked to Martyn's podcast 'Electronically Yours with Martyn Ware' in which he connects with artists of music, art, film, comedy, TV and creativity.

More information about the exhibition can be found here:

**<https://www.thepiecehall.co.uk/event/adventures-in-the-electroverse/>**

### **Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival**

**(Friday 15 November to Sunday 24 November)**

The festival features new and experimental music with a range of concerts, installations, exhibitions, talks and workshops. For more information, visit: **<https://hcmf.co.uk/>**

## Exciting events and opportunities to get involved in! (continued)



### Volunteers wanted for Bradford 2025

Bradford 2025 are looking for more than 3,500 volunteers to help them deliver the year as UK City of Culture.

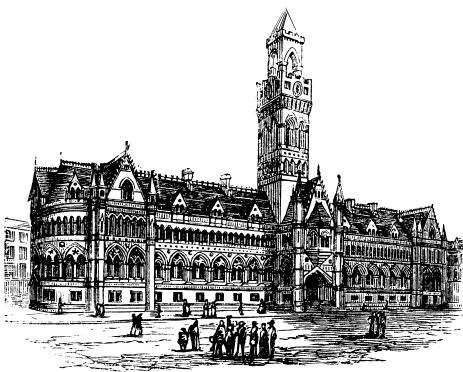
Registration is now open if you or somebody you know would like to be a volunteer. There are several ways you can get involved. This could be serving as an ambassador for one of Bradford's neighbourhoods, helping at events by meeting and greeting the public, or helping out behind the scenes. Travel and food expenses will be covered and full training will be given.

There is the opportunity to undertake training in everything from Sight Assisted Guidance, First Aid Training, to an accredited City and Guilds level 2 qualification in Customer Service.

There are also corporate volunteering opportunities through Participate Projects.

For more information or to sign up as a Bradford 2025 volunteer, visit:

<https://bradford2025.co.uk/take-part/volunteer/>



Keep up to date on social media!



If you're not already on social media, why not sign up and follow us to keep up to date with the latest volunteering opportunities, news and events and get to know other Horton volunteers?



Like us on Facebook

Horton Housing Association volunteers: [@hortonvolunteer](#)  
 Horton Housing Association: [@hortonhousingassociation](#)



Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter)

Horton Housing Association volunteers: [@HHAVol](#)  
 Horton Housing Association: [@HortonHousing](#)



Follow us on Instagram

Horton Housing Association: [@hortonhousing](#)



We successfully recruited five volunteers this quarter. We would like to welcome:

**Shaymaa Ahmed** - sewing class volunteer at Horton Housing's Training Centre.

**Gillian Simpson** - keyworker support volunteer at Horton Housing's Training Centre.

**Roy Rhodes** - gardening volunteer at our Fairmount scheme in Shipley.

Roy said: "I enjoy doing it because I used to do the garden with my dad when I was younger and I always wanted to do that sort of work. It keeps me busy and stops me from using drugs, and it gives me something to focus on."

**Steven Naylor** - gaming and activities volunteer at Fairmount.

**Fenn Carlisle** - volunteers with our Property Services team.



## Celebration event

Colleagues and volunteers got together on Wednesday 18 September to celebrate the achievements of our volunteers over the past year.

Gudrun Carlisle, CEO, gave a speech highlighting the importance of volunteering to the organisation. In the past year, there has been an average of 40 volunteers at any one time, contributing 6,006 hours, which has had an economic benefit of more than £60,000.

We received 241 donations and supported 447 families with donated goods.

Gudrun praised the volunteers who give their skills, time and expertise for free and thanked the volunteer team for their hard work in co-ordinating all their activities.

“We couldn’t support as many people as we do, or as well as we do without volunteers,” she said.

After the speech everyone took part in a ‘Wonderwall’ activity, painting paper bricks that would make up a wall at the Owt for Nowt shop in Edmund Street, Bradford.

Volunteers were presented with certificates of appreciation before enjoying biryani and mini desserts which had been kindly donated by British Asian restaurant MyLahore.



### Celebration event (continued)



Celebration event (continued)



### Owt for Nowt shop's second anniversary

The Owt for Nowt shop held a celebration event in August to mark the second anniversary since it opened. Attendees included members of our Senior Management Team, Heads of Services, other Horton colleagues, and current and former volunteers. It was a good opportunity for everyone to have a look around, chat with others and celebrate everything the shop has achieved. Everyone helped themselves to biryani, sweet treats and a slice of cake. All enjoyed the event.



## Induction sessions

We recently held two inductions for our new volunteers. The sessions give a background of Horton including the organisation's vision, mission, and new values. Relevant policies and procedures are also covered in the induction, including professional boundaries, safeguarding, whistleblowing, and compliments, comments and complaints. The induction also showcases the benefits of being a volunteer, what is expected from them, and what Horton provides in return.

Everyone who attended engaged well in the sessions and it was a good opportunity for the volunteers to meet each other. One of the volunteers also kindly brought in some cake and chocolate treats that she baked herself, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



## Our latest roles

Become a volunteer and

### Join our team today

Our volunteers play a vital role at Horton Housing by helping us to deliver good quality services.



**Please note that the roles require an enhanced DBS Check, of which we will cover the cost.**

## Roles in Bradford

### Activities Support

You will assist with the activity support group at our male-only accommodation service. You will engage with group activities including arts and crafts, coffee mornings, community trips, and much more. The role will require you to attend once a week.

### Female Befriender

The Befriender role involves giving support and companionship to people who are socially isolated or experiencing mental health challenges. Befrienders are matched with people in our scheme based on your interests and experiences. You will arrange to meet up with the person you are matched with once-a-week. This may include trips to the park, cinema or telephone conversations. As a Befriender you will need to be a good listener and communicator, friendly, approachable, empathetic, and non-judgemental.

Please note that due to the nature of this service, this is a female-only role.

### Activities Support

You will assist staff at our Housing and Community Support (HACS) 4 All based in Keighley with organising activities and taking part in weekly support sessions at the scheme. This role also requires you to help staff with administrative tasks including answering the phone, photocopying, and sending letters.

## Our latest roles (continued)



### Roles in Kirklees

#### Work Coach

Work Coaches give advice and support with finding jobs. You will help to identify a person's strengths and weaknesses to help them become job ready. The role involves working one-to-one with people to find suitable job opportunities based on the person's skills, interests, experience and qualifications.

#### Befriender

The Befriender role involves giving support and companionship to people who are socially isolated or experiencing mental health challenges. Befrienders are matched with people in our scheme based on your interests and experiences. You will arrange to meet up with the person you are matched with once a week. This may include trips to the park, cinema or telephone conversations. As a Befriender you will need to be a good listener and communicator, friendly, approachable, empathetic and non-judgemental.

#### Activities Support and Administrative Assistant

The role involves providing administration support for Horton's Substance, Tenancy and Resettlement Service (STARS). You will also help staff to facilitate group activities and the occasional day trip out with people in the scheme.

### Roles in Calderdale

#### Early Intervention and Prevention Assistant

You will call people who have been referred to our Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service (YPASS) and offer support to them as they wait to be allocated a support worker. YPASS supports people who are aged between 16 and 25, and are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

You will be a listening ear to the young person being referred and encourage the people we support to attend activities held at the scheme. The role also involves uploading referrals to a secure online database, logging notes and completing forms.

For more information or to apply, please contact YPASS Volunteer Coordinator Tanya on **07809 203876**.

## Get in touch



We would love to know what you think about your volunteer newsletter!

Please get in touch via the details below to give any feedback, or if you have any news stories or suggestions for future issues.

Get in touch!

Email: [volunteer.applications@hortonhousing.co.uk](mailto:volunteer.applications@hortonhousing.co.uk)

Phone: Shaheen Akhtar on **07525 667874** / Kristina Batty on **07525 667902** / or Shabana Shaukat on **07525 667884**.

Write to us:

**Volunteer Services Manager**  
**16 - 20 Edmund Street**  
**Bradford**  
**BD5 0BH**

For the latest volunteering opportunities, please visit our website: <https://hortonhousing.co.uk/>



**Have a story to tell? We'd love to hear from you. Get in touch today.**