

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

YOUR SPRING VOLUNTEER AND DONATIONS NEWSLETTER



Photo: liV workshop at Edmund Street.

First and foremost, I hope that those of you who were celebrating Ramadan had a peaceful and fulfilling time, and that it wasn't too difficult for you. For those who celebrated Eid, I hope you had a wonderful day filled with joy and blessings. Please feel free to share any pictures with us. It's finally great to see the sun shining, and now that the clocks have changed, we can look forward to longer, brighter days ahead.

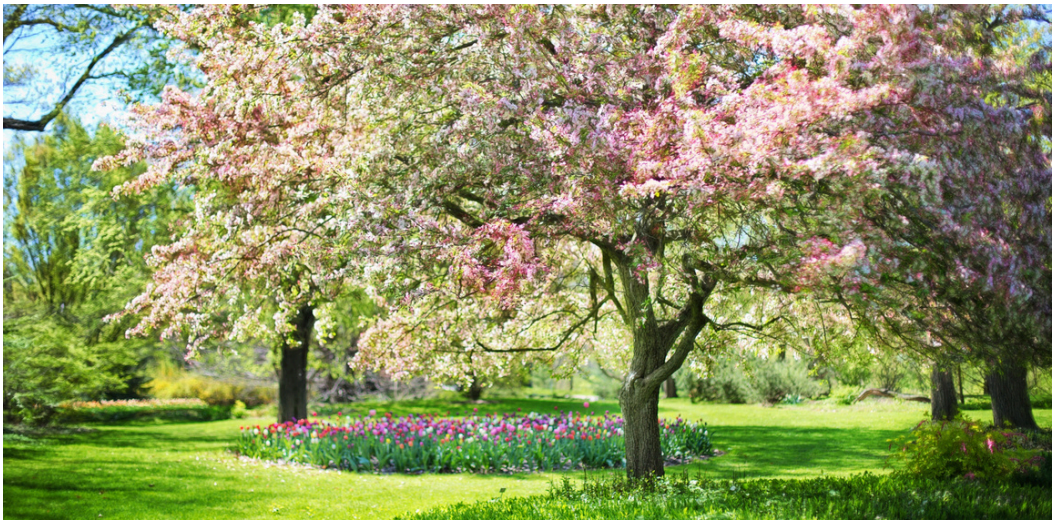
As always, I hope this update provides you with valuable information to inspire and support you in your volunteer work with us.

Finally, I would like to wish a very Happy Easter to those celebrating. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and if you would like to share anything for the next newsletter, please get in touch.

Thanks,

Shaheen, Volunteer Services Manager

This year in September, we will be renewing our Investing in Volunteers (liV) accreditation, which is the UK's quality standard for good practice in volunteer management. In relation to this accreditation, the assessor, Dane held a workshop. The workshop took place in September 2024 at Edmund Street, and was attended by the Senior Management Team (SMT), colleagues and volunteers. The session was informal with plenty of interaction throughout. The workshop lasted around two hours, and included introductions from participants, a presentation on liV, and small group discussions focused on different Quality Areas from the Self-Assessment. These discussion were followed by a feedback session with opportunities for the groups to ask questions.



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Our numbers since January 2025:

89

Owt for Nowt
visits

56

Different donations
received

78

Families / people
supported

Stephen is Volunteer of the Month!



VOLUNTEER *of the* MONTH

When Stephen started volunteering at Horton's Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service (YPASS) last year, he was very excited to share his wealth of knowledge and skills. Stephen has a real can-do attitude and loves to offer a hand wherever he can! Stephen started to help out at Cook and Eat and really enjoys sharing useful DIY tips.

Recently, one of our young people that YPASS Housing Support Worker Imelda works with moved into a property with their child. Imelda noticed that there were a few things that could be improved in the property and asked Stephen if he could do some home improvements. Imelda was concerned that some of the furniture was not secure in the child's room and the washing machine had not been plumbed in. Stephen was delighted that he was asked to support, and they very quickly made arrangements to attend the property to make the improvements.

Following the work done, Stephen shared with Imelda that the experience really bolstered his mental health and that it had made such a difference to him!

Stephen is a valued member of the YPASS team! We are delighted to have him on board with us and he's already booked in for another job!

Thanks, Stephen - what a legend!





We successfully recruited three new volunteers this quarter. Meet...

Ateeqa Farhan - donations sorter volunteer, Volunteer Services

My name is Ateeqa. I feel very lucky to be a member of Horton Housing. The association members, especially the senior leadership of this association are all polite and how they treat people is impressive and appreciated. Here, I learned those things that I had never learned before. I suggest to people who have free time to come out and volunteer and polish their skills, experience and knowledge. I am happy to be a volunteer. Thanks Shaheen, I am really impressed by your morals and what you do.

Mushira Abubakar - Activities support volunteer, HACS 4 Women

Hayley Manning - Cook and Eat volunteer, Fairmount

Hayley has recently been cooking breakfast for the tenants in Fairmount. She gets on great with the tenants and will be helping out in all of Fairmount's Cook and Eat sessions.



Yoga led by YPASS volunteer, Anita

Over the last few months, Anita has voluntarily led yoga classes at YPASS once-a-week as part of the scheme's 'Wellbeing Wednesday' activities.

The group of young people who attended her classes had a great time learning the practice of yoga with the various poses, breathing techniques and meditation - all which benefitted their health and wellbeing.

Anita ran her final yoga class in February. The group thought that Anita was a great instructor and miss her classes.



Bankfield Museum trip

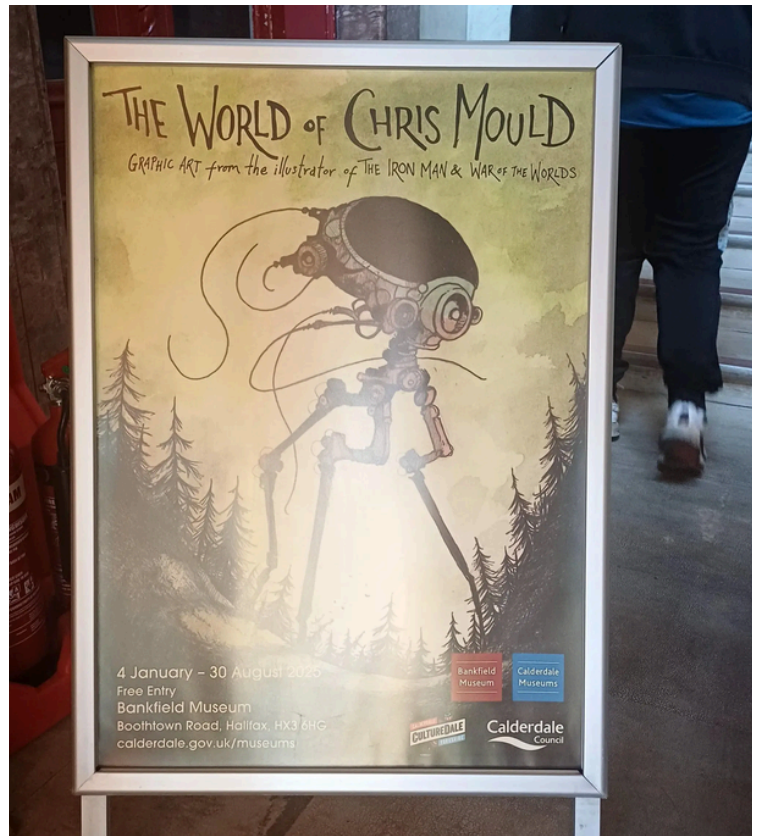
YPASS visited Bankfield Museum in March and what a treat it was! We have been trying to get out and about for some time so when we heard that the weather would be nice, we decided to kill two birds with one stone. Our young people have suggested that we start a 'walk n talk' group - the last photo on the next page shows our first go at it!

Walking the grounds of the museum on a lovely, warm, sunny day was so nice. It reminded us of the importance of going outside and getting fresh air.

"The World of Chris Mould" is now open, featuring a fantastic collection of original artwork by the award-winning local illustrator of The Iron Man, Animal Farm, and War of the Worlds. It also features a colossal model of the Iron Man made by Chris.

In addition, there are the iconic screen costumes from Emma, The King's Speech, Downton Abbey, Gentleman Jack and Pride and Prejudice (including Mr Darcy's wet shirt which sold for £25,000 at a charity auction in March 2024).

For more information about the museum and a listing of the exhibitions, visit this website:
<https://museums.calderdale.gov.uk/whats-on>



Bankfield Museum trip - photos continued.



Raise the wuff!

A dog, owned by a gentleman supported by Bradford Homeless Outreach Partnership (HOP) unexpectedly had some puppies in November 2024. As a goodwill gesture and to offer the HOP team a bit of extra support, the Volunteers Services team provided cosy dog beds and dog food supplies to help make the puppies feel comfortable.



Equans volunteers help transform scheme gardens

A group of corporate volunteers from Equans worked on the outdoor spaces at two of our Bradford-based schemes in March to help get the spaces ready for Spring.

The corporate volunteers put up a greenhouse in the garden of our HACS 4 Men scheme. They also spent time at Fairmount's allotment where they cleared the ground and built planters for the space.

The group enjoyed the activities at both schemes and felt they had benefitted from their volunteering experience. One of the volunteers said:

"Volunteering for the garden refurbishment projects has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Not only did we have the opportunity to help Horton, a fantastic not-for-profit organisation, but it also brought our team together and boosted morale. It was amazing to see how collaboration and a shared purpose created a positive impact, both on the garden and within our team. We're so glad to have been part of something meaningful and to have contributed to such a wonderful cause."

Equans is a provider of technical services, facilities management, regeneration and energy services. Workers from the company are in the process of carrying out internal wall insulation work on 22 of our properties under Chartford Housing (the property and development arm of Horton Housing). This is part of an objective to help improve the energy efficiency of 30 of our properties, an objective given as part of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to Chartford Housing.



Photo:
Equans volunteers with
the greenhouse they built
at HACS 4 Men.

Jeanette Housing Support Worker at HACS 4 Men said:

"The work completed by the volunteers was brilliant. They worked effectively and at a high standard. Even clearing all the rubbish away. Really pleasant friendly guys. The greenhouse and planters will be utilised by all residents within HACS 4 Men.

"This has led to the residents being encouraged to start a gardening club. We had three residents attend the first session and more came forward as they saw the improvements being made to their living environment. Lots of planting was done and they have asked to grow sunflowers, tomatoes, chillies and peppers, so the greenhouse is really coming into its own."



Photos:
Transformation of the
HACS 4 Men garden by
the residents following the
greenhouse construction.



Photos:
Equans volunteers clearing up
Fairmount's allotment.

Exciting events and opportunities to get involved in!



Volunteers wanted for Bradford 2025

Bradford 2025 are looking for volunteers to help them deliver the year as UK City of Culture.

Registration is 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/>



Exciting events and opportunities to get involved in!



Bradford on Foot (part of Bradford 2025)

Download Bradford on Foot - a free walking guide of 25 routes across the Bradford district recommended by local walking groups, historians, artists and others in the community. Walks range from rambles in the countryside to neighbourhood strolls. The guide is available to download from May 2025: <https://bradford2025.co.uk/event/bradford-on-foot/>

A full programme of the events and activities taking place for Bradford 2025 can be found here: <https://bradford2025.co.uk/>

Hebden Bridge Easter Duck Race 2025

This year's Hebden Bridge Easter Duck Race takes place on Easter Monday (21 April 2025). This family-friendly event is a popular local tradition. Watch the main event as the rubber ducks race down the river. The event also includes stalls, rides, games and live music.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.hebdenbridgeduckrace.uk/>

Woven in Kirklees: Innovation in textiles

Woven in Kirklees takes place throughout the month of June. The festival celebrates the textile heritage of Kirklees and the key part the region plays in the textile industry to this day. Festival events include exhibitions, workshops, talks and community projects across the region.

More information about Woven in Kirklees can be found here:

<https://woveninkirklees.co.uk/>

We hope all those who celebrated Eid had an enjoyable and peaceful time.



We would like to wish a very happy Easter to everyone who is celebrating.



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**
- **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>



Our latest volunteer roles



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

Roles in Bradford

Van Driver's Mate volunteer

You will help our drivers with organising and collecting furniture or large item donations around the region. You will need to be physically fit to lift donations, which often includes items of furniture. The Van Driver's Mate will also help to keep accurate records of our collections and deliveries.

Gardener volunteer

The gardener encourages and supports our tenants to spend time outside in an allotment, helping to create a space for relaxation, exercise, gardening and activities. This role is in Shipley. We hope to welcome individuals with a holistic perspective and ideally some community experience, who enjoy working with groups.

Knitting Group volunteer tutor

The knitting group volunteer tutor will use their skills and knowledge to encourage and to teach people basic knitting skills. The knitting group is held every Friday at Horton Housing's Training Centre. The role requires a weekly commitment.

Our latest volunteer roles (continued)



Roles in Calderdale

For more information or to apply for any of our Calderdale roles, please contact YPASS Volunteer Coordinator Tanya on **07809 203876**.

Gardener volunteer

We are looking for a proactive and motivated individual to help us with maintaining the outdoor space. The ideal candidate will have some knowledge of gardening, or a willingness to learn on the go. Duties include: weeding and clearing up the outdoor space and pruning our growing shrubs and plants.

Arts and crafts facilitator volunteer

The ideal candidate will have a passion for arts and crafts to lead a group in creative projects. The role involves researching and planning our arts and crafts sessions. You will encourage members to express their creativity and work together in a social, relaxed atmosphere.

Administrative Assistant volunteer

You will assist the team with administrative tasks including filing, writing emails, organising and scheduling appointments. The volunteer role is based in the office at YPASS.

Roles in Kirklees

Befriender volunteer

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.

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](#)

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**

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.