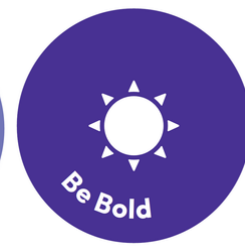




**horton  
housing**  
Improving lives together



# ***MAKING A DIFFERENCE***

YOUR SUMMER VOLUNTEER AND DONATIONS NEWSLETTER



Photo: Our trip to Clapham in the Yorkshire Dales for Volunteers' Week. Read more on page 10.

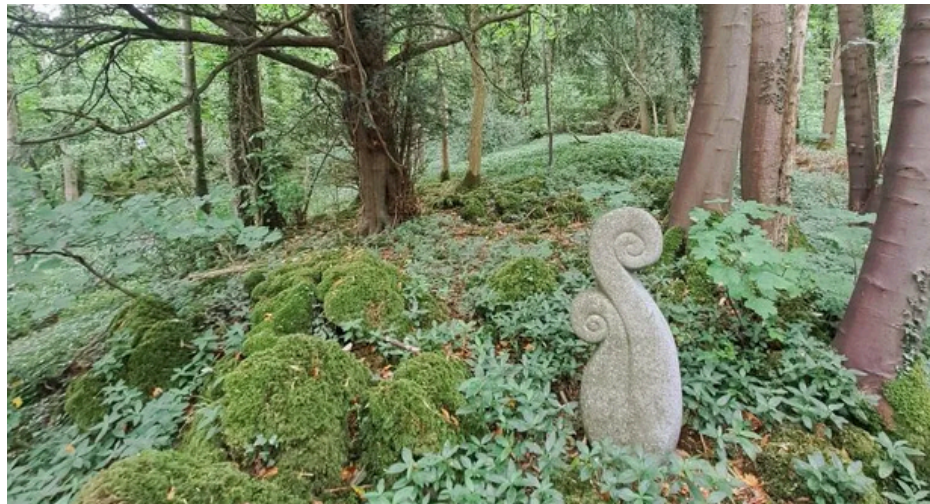
Welcome back to your newsletter! I hope you're all enjoying the beautiful weather. With the sun shining and the longer days, it's the perfect time to get outside and enjoy the weather. However, as temperatures continue to rise, please ensure to remain well hydrated and take necessary precautions to protect yourself from sun exposure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you. Your time, energy and commitment makes a difference to the work we do. Thank you for volunteering at Horton and we hope you enjoy your experience.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. If you have any updates, stories or suggestions you would like to share, please get in touch with us.

Thank you,  
Shaheen, Volunteer Services Manager.





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# NEWSLETTER

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Our numbers since April 2025:

77

Owt for Nowt  
visits

35

Different donations  
received

61

Families / people  
supported



## Fenn is Volunteer of the Season!



# VOLUNTEER *of the* SEASON

Nominated by Sean King, Maintenance Manager in Property Services.



Photo: Fenn (second from the right) with some of the Property Services team.

I honestly cannot speak highly enough of Fenn, especially for such a young lad. He has made a really positive impact on our team since arriving and is always showing his enthusiasm and willingness to help on any project regardless.

Despite his young age, he is always eager to get stuck in, whether it's on removals, flooring, decorating, or simply just lending a hand where needed.

He is genuinely a valued member of our team as demonstrated by all the positive feedback I get from all the guys, as well as them all asking if they can have him for the day when he is in. While helping us one day a week, he has also completed his plastering course which is an achievement in itself.

This nomination is to recognise his effort, consistency and the positive energy he brings to our team. Great work, Fenn!

**New for the next edition!**



Starting in the Autumn newsletter, we will be recognising Horton colleagues who support, or mentor volunteers.

This is an opportunity for you to nominate a Horton colleague who has provided you with fantastic support or guidance, which has enabled you to succeed in your role. Nominations can also be made by Horton colleagues, or members of the Volunteer service team.

Please send details of who you would like to nominate and why to [\*\*volunteer.applications@hortonhousing.co.uk\*\*](mailto:volunteer.applications@hortonhousing.co.uk)

The Senior Leadership Team will choose the Volunteer Mentor of the Season from the nominations received.





# MEET *our latest* RECRUITS

We successfully recruited nine new volunteers. A warm welcome to...

- **Moyosore Amidu** - Activities support volunteer at HACS 4 All
- **Beriwane Abdulla** - Activities support volunteer for STEP Forward at Horton Housing's Training Centre (HHTC). Meet Beriwane on the next page.
- **Michael Ogbaji** - IT support volunteer at HHTC
- **Rehmat Ali** - Van driver's mate volunteer for Volunteer Services
- **Sabihah Khatoon** - Activities support volunteer at HACS 4 Women
- **Shazia Zia** - ESOL and maths class support volunteer at Wren House, Group Living Service
- **Heather Nelson** - Admin and support volunteer at HACS 4 Men
- **Adil Shah** - just recruited as a volunteer and soon to be given a volunteer role within one of our schemes.

Photo, from left to right: Adil, Moyosore and Beriwane.







# MEET *our latest* RECRUITS

## Beriwane, STEP Forward volunteer



My name is Beriwane, I am from Iraq, I am married and have four young boys. I joined Step Forward in April 2024.

The STEP Forward programme was recommended to me by a friend, and I thought I'd give it a go. I really enjoyed it, I made new friends from different countries, learnt so many things from both sides; students and teachers, and this helped me a lot as I had my baby at the start of the programme. This didn't stop me from improving my skills, in fact I was able to bring him with me to class.

As I have a background in teaching, as well as gaining language, digital literacy and financial literacy skills, I have started volunteering in Step Forward classes wanting to give some of my time to help others. I help with the digital classes as well as wellbeing and women led sessions. I feel like I can further develop my skills as I have built an excellent relationship with the Step Forward team. Now I am starting a teaching assistant course in Bradford College.

## Riding the YPASS Wave

by Steven Pollard, Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service (YPASS) volunteer

This is a true story about volunteering, helping, learning and how it started and what it means to give a little time back to be there for people who started off as strangers. It is like starting out at a new club, being the newby in a team, but you are not going to see what you can achieve, you are going to see if you can help, assist in someone else's achievements, which is far more empowering.

My story starts back in 2024 when I was unemployed. I was signed on with Together Housing's employment team, I had just completed my IAG (Information Advice and Guidance) and my counselling courses and I was looking for jobs in those fields when it was suggested that I do some volunteering work to help me get some experience to go alongside the training to improve the CV. Tanya from Horton Housing was known to us through the LAB courses run by 'The Proper Job' theatre Group.

So, it was decided that I would contact Horton Housing's YPASS scheme to see if I could volunteer.

In September, I contacted Tanya and arranged to join the team assisting her in the group sessions at YPASS. It started with the Friday afternoon 'Cook and Eat' group, where on my first visit I met some old friends from one of the LAB courses. This helped me settle in very easily. I met some great people and had some great laughs. The people I met were very friendly (this includes Horton colleagues as well) and we got along great. We then decided that on a Wednesday we would start a 'Walk and Talk' group where we'd go to a local venue and just chat as we walked along. First Shibden park, then the Bankfield Museum, then The People's Park. These were excellent sessions. More groups popped up as the weeks went by, Gardening Club, and we can't forget the Book Club where one of the residents bakes for us, OH! those cookies are exceptional.

I was gobsmacked when I was awarded with the title of 'Volunteer of the Season'. I wasn't doing this for self-achievement, my perception had changed from when I started, I am now doing this and getting a lot of pleasure out of what people were achieving and succeeding in doing. The progress wasn't mine, it was theirs. There are more groups planned, Yoga (keep fit), Performing arts. I know these residents can achieve great things when they try.

During June 2025 things changed, I've got myself a job which means I won't be able to attend as much as what I like to do. But I'm not leaving, I will continue to volunteer as much as I can because YPASS is part of me, as much as I am a part of YPASS. If I can help by being there, whether it's to share a joke, play a game or just to talk, it is worth every second. The YPASS team and the people they work with are all incredible and they are achieving real goals every day. This place and volunteering has opened my eyes and my heart to what's out there and what can be achieved when you give a little time to help others.





## St George's Day celebration

We held a gathering at Edmund Street on 23 April to celebrate St George's Day.

The sun was out so we made the most of the lovely, warm weather by gathering in the garden and decking the area with the St George flag, bunting and balloons.

We spoke about the origins of St George and attendees filled in a questionnaire about

volunteering at Horton and gave their feedback. Initial plans about the upcoming Volunteers' Week in June was also discussed as well as the Investors in Volunteers reaccreditation.

We then tucked into delicious buffet food and had fun playing skittles and a bean bag can toss game. Everyone enjoyed the event.

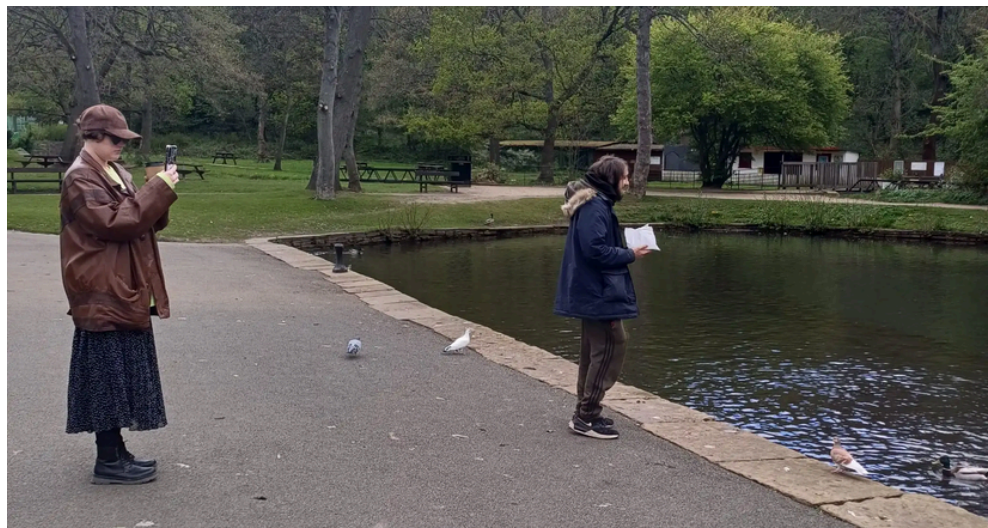




## Trip to Shibden Park

YPASS visited Shibden Hall and Park, located in the Shibden valley near Halifax, in April. The Hall was the home of Anne Lister in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, who is the focus of the BBC drama series 'Gentleman Jack' written and directed by Sally Wainwright. The series explores Anne's life and the lives of those who lived in the Hall and estate.

We explored the beautifully restored historic grounds which has cascades, pools, tunnels, terraced and fruit gardens. Hidden within the depths of Shibden Park is a small, wooded area known as Cunnery Wood. This local nature reserve is part of the estate and is rich in wildlife. We had a gorgeous time there and the weather was beautiful.





## Volunteers' Week 2025



For Volunteers' Week in June, we gave all our volunteers a thank you card, a personalised mug, a key ring and some chocolates.

To celebrate all their incredible work, our volunteers were treated to a special trip to Clapham in the Yorkshire Dales.

When we arrived in Clapham, we were guided around a nature trail, where we could admire the interesting sculptures and the redwood trees, and spot rabbits jumping through the fields. We found a clearing between the trees, where we learnt how to light a fire with flint and steel, cotton wool, and Vaseline, and we used our new skills to start a warm and smokey campfire. We boiled water over the fire to make plenty of cups of tea, coffee, and mochas, before tucking into our packed lunches. One of our guides, Rosie, taught us how to whittle sticks to make shapes, and we gave it a go, making wands, a cricket bat, and mushrooms, before moving on to a natural lip balm and epsom salt workshop. We were able to create our own lip balms using natural ingredients and added essential oils for fragrance, and mixed bags of epsom salt with dried flowers and herbs to enjoy in a relaxing bath once we got home from our day out in the woods.



## Volunteers' Week 2025 (continued)

Everyone enjoyed their day out, which we finished by toasting marshmallows, fruit, and corn on the cobs over the fire. It was refreshing to spend time in nature, and we all came away with new skills and our own homemade craft projects to take home.





Volunteers' Week 2025 (continued)





## Horton achieves Volunteering Quality Award extension

We are pleased to announce that we have successfully achieved an extension of The People Can's Volunteer Quality Award for another year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to us achieving this award.

The People Can Volunteering Quality Standard is a recognised award in Bradford for volunteer-involving organisations. It acknowledges good practice in volunteer management and is awarded to organisations that demonstrate their volunteering programmes meet specific criteria.

More information about the People Can Volunteering Standard can be found on their website: <https://cabad.org.uk/volunteering-standard/>



## 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!



## BD:Festival 2025

The BD:Festival takes place in Bradford city centre on **Friday 25** and **Saturday 26 July**.

It is a free, family-friendly event which features performances, music, crafts, food stalls, and a variety of activities. Some of the events are listed below.

- Zee and the City - a show featuring masterful storytelling and puppetry. Join four-metre puppet, Zee on a joyful journey through Bradford's past, present and future as she looks to find a home for nature in the city.
- Luke Jerram: A Good Yarn - a huge ball of yarn measuring three metres has been made from fabric and clothing donations across Bradford District. The ball of yarn will be rolled through the streets of Bradford in July. Please note that yarn rolls will be weather dependent.



For more information, visit: <https://bradford2025.co.uk/programme/bd-festival-2025/>

## 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 the Volunteer Services Team on **01274 743480** or email **Volunteer.applications@hortonhousing.co.uk**

Mandatory courses for volunteers are:

- **Professional Boundaries**
- **Safeguarding and Protection**
- **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!



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

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

Horton Housing Association: [@HortonHousing](#)



### Follow us on Instagram

Horton Housing Association: [@hortonhousing](#)

Subscribe to our mailing list to receive the latest Horton news and our newsletters in your inbox.

Visit: [\*\*https://bit.ly/HHA\\_news\*\*](https://bit.ly/HHA_news) or scan this QR code.



SCAN ME



## 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: **01274 743480**

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.**