



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

YOUR WINTER VOLUNTEER AND DONATIONS NEWSLETTER



In December, we hosted a special celebration event to thank our volunteers for their incredible contribution, effort, and commitment to Horton Housing over the past year. The event also marked our proud reaccreditation of the Investing in Volunteers award.

Volunteers and colleagues gathered at Fountains Church in Bradford, where the day began with a speech from our CEO, Gudrun Carlisle. Gudrun praised the dedication of every volunteer and highlighted the vital role they play at Horton Housing. She also extended her thanks to the Volunteer Services Team for their hard work and for organising such a wonderful celebration.

As a token of appreciation, all volunteers received biscuits, chocolates, and a thank you card.

In recognition of their outstanding service, Tracey and Simon were presented with hampers, both have been volunteering for an incredible nine years! Colleagues in attendance also received chocolates and a card as a gesture of thanks from the Volunteer Services Team.

(Article continues on page 2)

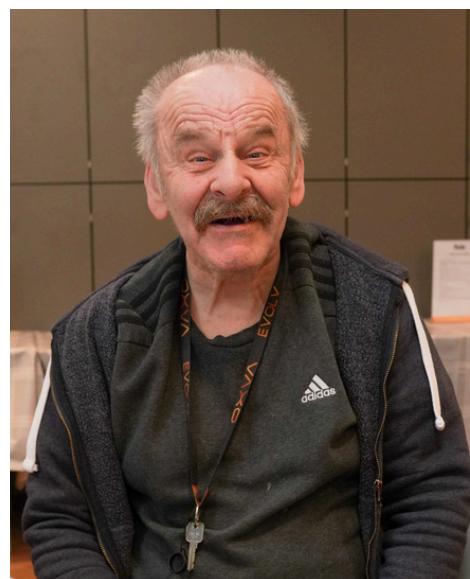
Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for your hard work, dedication and commitment throughout the year. You truly make a difference to the work we do, and we are so grateful for your support.

We hope everyone who celebrated enjoyed the festive break and had a lovely Christmas. Wishing you all the very best for the New Year and we look forward to continuing to work with you all. Happy New Year!

Shaheen, Kristina & Shabana
Volunteer Services Team

Creativity was in full swing as attendees enjoyed colouring pages and making their own bookmarks. Festive fun continued with games like Christmas Tree Ring Toss and Pin the Tail on the Reindeer, with prizes awarded to winners and runners-up. Guests also had a great time posing with props at the photo station.

A tasty lunch followed, topped off with delicious desserts donated by local British Asian restaurant MyLahore. The celebration concluded with a lively raffle and plenty of prizes.





Volunteer impact over the past year

We have an average of **40 volunteers** at any given time.

Collectively, they have contributed **2,285 hours** of volunteering.

This equates to an economic benefit of **over £34,000**.

We received **220 donations** and supported **526 families** with donated goods.





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Our numbers since October 2025:

57

Number of volunteers
(22 Board Members
and 35 volunteers)

82

Owt for Nowt
visits

34

Different donations
received

75

Families / people
supported

 **Aisha is Volunteer of the Season!**

VOLUNTEER *of the* SEASON



Aisha volunteers with the Volunteer Services Team. She was nominated by Kristina Batty, Volunteer coordinator, Volunteer Services Team.

Kristina said: "I would like to nominate Aisha for the Volunteer of the Season.

Aisha is kind and friendly. She supports colleagues and volunteers, and keeps everyone laughing with her witty sense of humour.

Aisha is a selfless person who will help anyone in any situation. When Aisha started volunteering a few years ago, she spoke very little English but always had a smile on her face and the will to learn.

She originally came to us wanting to learn English and gain some work experience. Doing so, Aisha has gone from strength to strength during her time with us.

She is now fluent in English and has secured a job at Bradford New College.

Aisha's commitment to the volunteer services always amazes me. She has a very busy life between work and her family, but she remains dedicated to giving her time weekly at the Owt for Nowt shop. During this time she has played a big role in both shop moves and the endless sorting of donated items."

Aisha said: "So happy working with you all, and thank you for supporting me with everything. I love you all, you are a good team."

**Congratulations, Aisha!**

As Volunteer of the Season, Aisha received a hamper full of goodies.

 **Mich and Hafsa are Volunteer Mentors of the Season!**

VOLUNTEER MENTORS *of the* **SEASON**



We have two winners this season. These are...

Mich Matheson

Spring Street manager

Mich was nominated by Mohsen, who said: "Mich is nice and has been very supportive. The whole team is great, but Mich has helped me to settle in well."

Mohsen is the first volunteer at Spring Street and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) were impressed with how much support Mohsen had received from the whole team, but particularly from Mich who has gone above and beyond to help Mohsen settle in.

Mich said: "I'm overwhelmed and surprised to receive Volunteer Mentor of the Season. We have a bank of valued volunteers at Horton who bring many benefits to the services, so we were inspired to reach out to the Volunteer Services Team for our scheme. Mohsen is a great addition for us at Spring Street, and is a reliable and helpful member of the team."

A big thank you to the Volunteer Services Team! Working with them throughout the volunteer recruitment made it an easy process."



Congratulations, Mich!

As Volunteer Mentors of the Season, Mich received a gift voucher.
(photo: Mich receiving the gift voucher from Services Director, Ann Kendall)

🎉 Mich and Hafsa are Volunteer Mentors of the Season!

VOLUNTEER MENTORS *of the* SEASON



Hafsa Sheikh

Numeracy and literacy tutor at Horton Housing's Training Centre (HHTC)

Hafsa was nominated by Training Centre volunteer, Asma, who said: "This is my first time doing anything like volunteering and Hafsa has helped me a lot."

SLT noted that HHTC has a number of volunteers, and Hafsa has worked really hard to support the volunteers to understand their roles and gain confidence.

Hafsa said: "It feels amazing to be the Mentor of the Season. Helping and supporting our volunteers in having a great role and experience in working with us. Our volunteers were also our previous students, so giving them this opportunity makes me feel proud and seeing them grow."

Congratulations, Hafsa!

As Volunteer Mentors of the Season, Hafsa received a gift voucher.

(photo: Hafsa receiving the gift voucher from Services Director, Ann Kendall)



VOLUNTEER MENTORS *of the* SEASON



Other nominations we received for Volunteer Mentor of the Season were:

- **Anissa Kadiri**, Key worker, HHTC - nominated by Haifa and Jenan.
- **Kristina Batty**, Volunteer services coordinator - anonymous nomination.
- **Chris Slingsby**, Maintenance operative, Property Services - nominated by Moulid.
- **Rosemary McIntosh**, Support worker, New Communities - nominated by Hajira
- **Tina Camponi**, Education and Training Lead, Training Centre - nominated by Hajira.
- **Tanya Phillips**, Volunteer coordinator, Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service (YPASS) - nominated by Chamini.

A huge congratulations to everyone who was nominated and thank you for all the fantastic work you do in supporting our volunteers!



CONGRATULATIONS

Your success stories



Mo

Mo started as a volunteer for HACS 4 All and she has successfully gained employment as a part-time Project Worker in the service.

Mo said: "Joining volunteering is about me looking for work and as that was taking a long time, I thought I'd volunteer and give my time instead of doing nothing. Supporting people has been my mission, this is what makes me happy. Getting feedback from those I've supported makes me happy."

Mo's quote is 'to be kind to people, even to strangers.'

Congratulations, Mo on behalf of the Volunteer Services Team and the organisation!



MEET *our latest* RECRUITS

We successfully recruited 14 new volunteers. A warm welcome to...



Natalia Guarnizo

Support volunteer for the young people at the Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service (YPASS)

"I decided to volunteer because I want to contribute something positive to the community that welcomed me and grow personally while helping others.

I'm motivated by knowing that, through the book club, I can guide people in discovering stories, learning, and feeling supported; and in the kitchen, I can help create a warm space where people share, support each other, and feel welcome. I truly enjoy both activities because they allow me to connect with others, learn new things every day, and feel that my time has a real impact on people's lives."



Mould Farah

Maintenance support volunteer, Property Services

Jenan Alashkar

Classroom support volunteer, Horton Housing's Training Centre (HHTC)

"I volunteer to improve my English language skills, integrate into the community, search for job opportunities, and build my self-confidence."

Asma Qadir

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) support volunteer, HHTC

"I am volunteering because I like to help other students and better my understanding. I also enjoy helping."



MEET *our latest* RECRUITS

Mohammed Mohsen Hussain

Activity support volunteer, Spring Street

“Horton is great at helping people in need and I wanted to be a part of that. I also want to expand my knowledge in housing. I have made a start on the training and it’s amazing to see the courses that are available.”



Haifa AL Haj Ali

Classroom support volunteer, HHTC

“I volunteer in the hope of improving my language skills so I can support my children, find job opportunities, and better integrate into the community.”

Reem Nassif

ESOL Support volunteer, HHTC

“I wanted to become a volunteer to help myself to become more fluent in English, to gain work experience, to be able to apply for jobs, and also to help others integrate into a new country. In addition, I wanted to be able to communicate with people and engage in different activities.”

Fouzia Mahi

Classroom support volunteer, HHTC

“I wanted to become a volunteer because I studied English first and gained experience in learning English in the UK, therefore I want to help absolute beginners to learn and develop their language skills as well as integrate in a new community.”



MEET *our latest* RECRUITS

Amena Saeed

Peer support volunteer, Horton Intervention and Prevention Service (HIPS)

Simon Taylor

Gardening volunteer, Fairmount

Waqas Iqbal

Support volunteer for people in the service, Group Living Service (GLS) Park House

Jamie Marshall

Maintenance support volunteer, Property Services

Kirsty Ansong

Activities support volunteer, GLS Wren House

Dave Whelan

Podcast support volunteer



Photo: some of our new volunteers attending a recent volunteer induction.

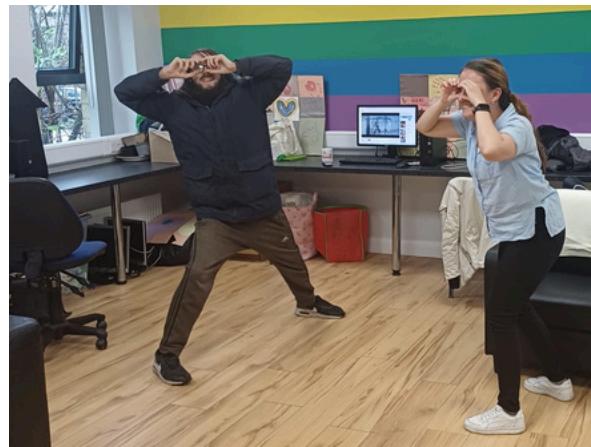
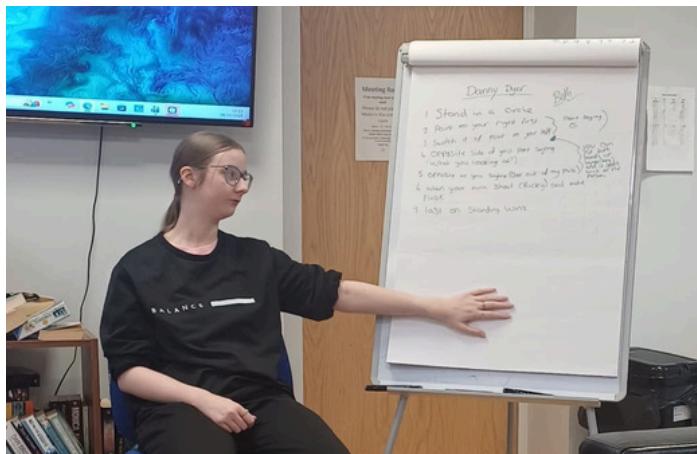
Latest activities of our YPASS volunteers

Let the performance begin!

YPASS launched their Performing Arts Group (PAG) to explore and empower our creative abilities. The group loved the 'pass the prop' activity!

They used music to explore movement and expression, noting how their bodies wanted to move in different ways depending on rhythm and tempo. The James Bond theme song, The Pirates of the Caribbean theme song and The Eye of the Tiger were just a few of the pieces that they played with.

YPASS volunteer, Beth was excited to facilitate an activity that got everybody up and moving around the space.



Latest activities of our YPASS volunteers

Artwork by YPASS volunteers at local exhibition

YPASS were recently invited to an arts exhibition in the local community. Everybody Arts and St Augustine's merged together to create a wonderful and super emotive show. A couple of our YPASS volunteers had their pieces featured too! Check out the pictures...



Latest activities of our YPASS volunteers

Creating Autumnal crafts

The group enjoyed collecting autumn leaves and working them into crafts with our volunteers, Beth and Laura!



Warm this Winter donations appeal

Horton Housing Association's annual donations campaign, 'Warm this Winter' launched again near the end of last year.

We are asking the public for donations of used warm clothing in good condition, including coats, jumpers, fleeces, hats, scarves, gloves and socks. We are also asking for donations of unused toiletries. All donations will be collected, sorted and handed out to our services by our amazing team of volunteers.

Financial donations are also welcome and will be used to buy winter clothing and toiletries for the appeal.

Our services see first-hand how donations transform lives.

Here's what some of our team and people we support have said:

"Thank you for the support received when I visited the Owt for Nowt shop. We were able to pick up a nice green leather sofa and two dining chairs. We also appreciated the volunteers who were so kind to facilitate the delivery of the furniture. Thanks for making this all possible, these donations have made all the difference."

"I just wanted to say thank you for the work you do at the Owt for Nowt shop. I came with a young person, who I work with, who has two young children and has just recently moved into an empty property.

The shop provided her with two sets of drawers, a tv, an air fryer, a table, and many children's toys and clothes. This means she can start to create her new flat into their home.

The young person commented on how the Owt for Nowt shop felt like a nice welcoming environment and she is grateful for everything as it has been a big help to her."

Gudrun Haskins Carlisle, Horton Housing's Chief Executive Officer, said: "Many people in our services face the winter without adequate clothing, so we're asking the public for your support. If you have any winter coats, scarves, jumpers, gloves or other warm items you no longer need, kindly consider donating to us."

Each item donated helps someone stay warm, safe, healthy and comfortable during the coldest months. To find out more about donating items, please email donations@hortonhousing.co.uk

To donate money, visit <https://donate.supportedgiving.com/horton-housing-association> or scan the QR code above.



Exciting events and opportunities to get involved in!



Turner Prize 2025 exhibition

Cartwright Hall, Bradford (on display now until 22nd February 2026).

The Turner Prize showcases exciting new developments in British art. Cartwright Hall in Bradford is currently exhibiting art from shortlisted artists and the winner of the Turner Prize 2025, Nnena Kalu. The Turner Prize 2025 exhibition is on display until Sunday 22nd February 2026. Booking a timeslot to view the exhibition is required— please note that the event is free to attend. For more information and to book tickets, visit:

<https://bradford2025.co.uk/event/turner-prize/>



Anne Lister Festival 2026

Monday 30th March – Monday 6th April 2026.

The festival is an annual celebration of the life and legacy of the 19th century landowner, entrepreneur, and diarist Anne Lister. The full programme of events for the festival is expected to be released later in January.

In previous years, activities have included talks, tours, exhibitions, workshops, performances and community events to celebrate the life of Anne Lister. Events usually take place in venues across Halifax, including Shibden Hall (where Anne Lister resided), The Piece Hall, and Bankfield Museum.

Visit the Anne Lister Festival website:

<https://www.annelisterofhalifax.co.uk/>



Upcoming events

18th February - 20th March 2026 (dates may vary)

Wishing everyone who is observing Ramadan and celebrating Eid al-Fitr an enjoyable and peaceful time.



5th April 2026

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 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 most of these roles require an enhanced DBS Check, of which we will cover the cost.

Roles in Bradford

Befrienders

You will provide regular social contact to someone who may be experiencing social isolation or other vulnerabilities. As a Befriender, you will listen actively and empathetically, be friendly and offer a safe space for conversation.

You will encourage the person to develop their confidence and independence, sometimes supporting the person to engage in social activities or access services. This role is based at our male-only accommodation service in Shipley.

Knitting / sewing group volunteer tutor

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

Activities support volunteer

You will assist colleagues with organising and engaging in group activities, including: arts and crafts, coffee mornings, community trips, and much more. The role will require you to attend the scheme once-a-week.

Our latest volunteer roles (continued)

Roles in Bradford (continued)

Communications assistant volunteer

You will work alongside the Communications Team at Horton Housing's head office for a minimum of 5 hours-per-week. Tasks include supporting internal and external communications, creating content for the website and promotional materials, and assisting with event promotion.



Roles in Calderdale

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

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.

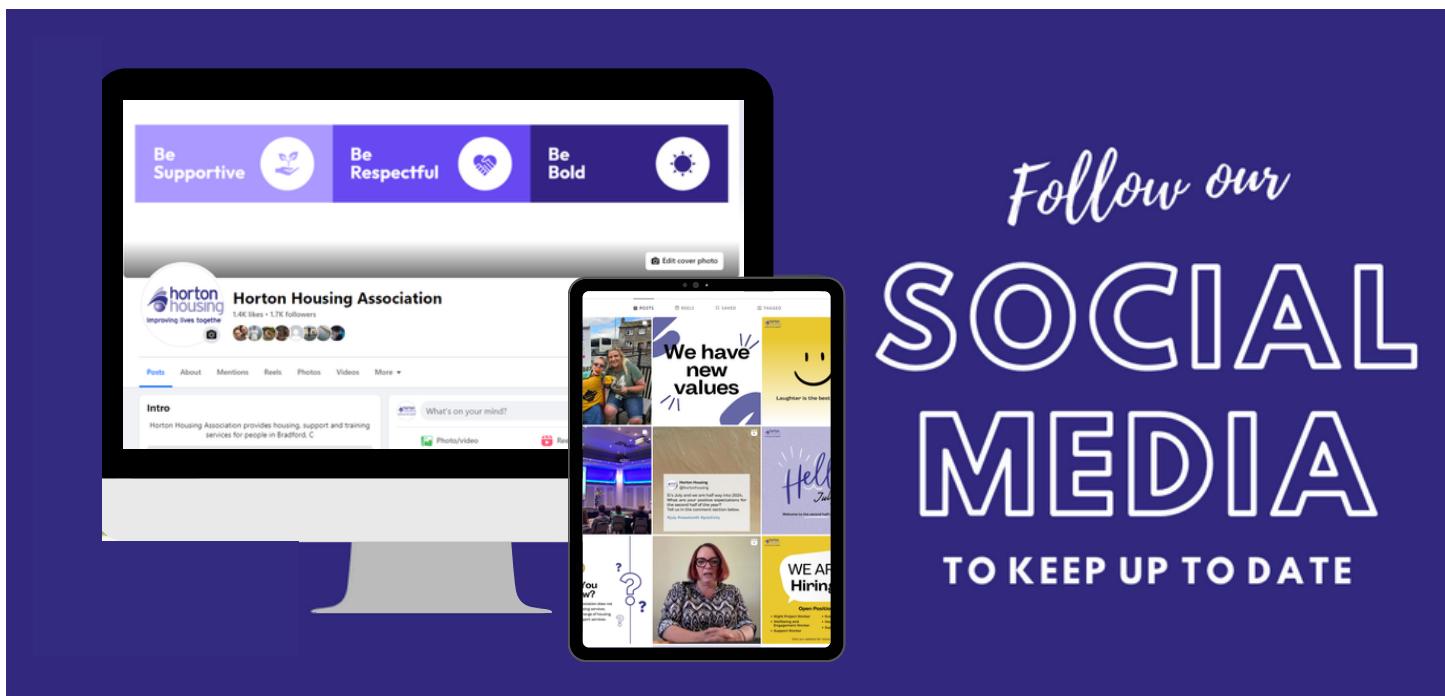
Yoga instructor volunteer

You will deliver in-house yoga sessions in our communal space. You will engage and encourage group members, and adapt sessions to correspond to people's abilities. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of facilitating yoga sessions and a yoga-related accreditation.

Early Intervention and Prevention Assistant volunteer

You will engage and offer support to young people who have been referred to our Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service, while the young person waits to be allocated a support worker. The role involves: In-person and telephone befriending, encouraging people to attend sessions in the scheme and in the local community. You will also assist with referrals by uploading documents to a secure, online database, logging notes and completing forms.

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](https://www.facebook.com/hortonvolunteer)

Horton Housing Association:
[@hortonhousingassociation](https://www.facebook.com/hortonhousingassociation)

Follow us on Instagram



Horton Housing Association:
[@hortonhousing](https://www.instagram.com/hortonhousing)

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

Visit: https://bit.ly/HHA_news or scan this QR code.



SCAN ME

Get in touch



Please...

**GET IN
TOUCH**
WITH ANY FEEDBACK

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: **01274 743480**

Write to us:

**Volunteer Services Manager
Fieldhead Business Centre
18-24 St Martins Avenue
Bradford
BD7 1LG**

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.

